

Eric E. Lampard (1922-2023)

In early days, the Stony Brook History Dept. was authorized to hire some eminent, senior historians to build its reputation in the field. A year or so after hiring Jack Main and Bill Taylor, Eric Lampard indicated (probably through Bill Taylor, an old friend and colleague) that he was willing to leave Wisconsin and come east. This was a major gain for the Department, as it gave us a major figure with an international reputation and a circle of colleagues in this country and elsewhere.

Eric Lampard was born in Southampton (England) and began his university studies at the London School of Economics. He was a proud alumnus of LSE – wearing its scarf in bad weather etc. – though he said in later years it had degenerated into little more than a business school. Before he could graduate the war intervened and he served long and honorable service in the Royal Marines. He saw combat in southeast Asia. After he returned to complete his degree from LSE he went on to the University of Wisconsin for his graduate work. After completing his doctorate there, he had teaching posts at Smith College, Wisconsin, and Stony Brook and during the Smith years he and his wife, Marie, bought a house near Northampton which they continued to use and at which they entertained many of us.

To the Stony Brook History Department, Eric brought expertise in urban and (soft) economic history. He was not a student of any given city so much as a general student of the process of urbanization across much of the globe. By what criteria did we determine the level of urbanization: miles of public transportation, the role of utilities, the geographic sprawl into new areas, etc.? The role of industry in this process was also taken into consideration and some of his Stony Brook graduate students worked on industrialization along with a concern for how neighborhood (say, in New York City) fit into the larger picture.

Eric regretted that his birth date placed him under SUNY's mandatory retirement rule, just missing the lifting of this policy a year or two after he retired. He continued to be a guru in his field, widely recognized at international meetings. His *The Rise of the Dairy Industry in Wisconsin, 1820-1920* remains a classic study, both for the depth of its research and for the ways it ties the rural economy into new areas of development.

After the death of Marie in 2020 – a published scholar on Russian art – Eric continued to split his time between the apartment on the upper west side that had come via Marie's family (she being the proud niece of a man who had run for mayor of NY on the Socialist Party ticket) and the house in the Berkshires. Last summer Sophia hosted his 100th birthday with a party that drew friends, colleagues, and (former) students for the event, which he obviously much appreciated.

On a personal note, Eric represented the early and growth days of the Stony Brook Department of history. As a colleague, at department meetings he could be the grave and sober voice of academic experience, and he could also be the indignant defender of academic freedom and privilege, advocating a march to and then a sit-in at the office of the graduate dean. He and I also shared a gossip-bond: some people who had been his classmates in London had become teachers of mine. And though I don't know the extent to which he was aware of this but Eric Lampard was about the most erudite and widely-read member of the department, past or present.

Joel Rosenthal

Colleague, long time neighbor in Port Jefferson, participant in the party around the eclipse that we watched through shades in the Lampard back yard.