

In Memoriam

Norman Holmes Pearson 1909–1975

Professor Norman Holmes Pearson died on November fifth. He who gave so freely of his time will no longer be there to encourage, to advise and to help. He was an institution all to himself: From all over the world scholars in American Studies came to New Haven — to Norman Holmes Pearson and to Yale. And he had time and thought for them all.

For many members of the NAAS his death will be a deep personal loss. He has been teacher and friend for so many of us.

Norman Holmes Pearson was personally involved in Scandinavian affairs. As a colonel in the U.S. Army he was the first American commanding officer to come to Oslo after the German surrender in 1945. For his services to Norway during the war he was awarded the Order of St. Olav. He was also engaged in some of the recent Danish archeological excavations in Greenland, which were made possible partly because of his support.

He could have spared himself more. But his unbounded vitality would not let him lead the passive life of an isolated scholar. The open door in New Haven is now closed. Many will feel the need to thank him for all he has been. But there is no one there. No words are possible.

O. O.