

IN MEMORIAM

KJELD BJERKE

Kjeld Bjerke (Denmark) died on 27 May 1980. He was a faithful and enthusiastic member of IARIW ever since it started in 1947. He had a great interest in the subject matters of the Association, he took an active part in all its biennial meetings and he contributed several times to this *Review*. He was a member of the Council during the periods 1953–61 and 1973–78, and served as Chairman for two years during his first term.

Bjerke was a fine combination of statistician and economist. He was a “producer” of statistics but at the same time he also used them as a “consumer” to explain what was going on in the economic fields of society. He made a professional career within the central statistical authority, Danmarks Statistik, starting during his university years and ending up as chief of the department before retiring.

Bjerke was one of the pioneers of early postwar national accounting. He played an important role in the building up of the Danish national accounts and he participated with zest in the “thrilling” international discussions preceding the establishment of the OEEC’s Simplified System of National Accounts and later on the SNA. He became a well known and appreciated participant in international statistical co-operation on the Nordic, the European and the World level. He was always open to new ideas.

Besides paying great attention to the building up, the compilation and the analyzing of national accounts Bjerke was especially interested in related fields such as income and wage distribution, the terms of trade and consumer prices with special regard to wage regulations. When analyzing statistics and testing hypotheses in such fields he was in his element. He wrote several elucidating papers and articles on these subjects in various national and international journals.

However, his interests and talents were much wider. He wrote some plays that were performed. When on conferences he tried to get some time to examine the flora of the neighbourhood—he was very fond of orchids. He wrote committed articles in the daily press about a variety of social questions. He was well-oriented in literature and music. After retiring he also took up painting and he had some exhibitions.

The friends of Bjerke profited from his rich personality. We have lost a searching spirit, a deeply committed investigator and a creative talent.

Ingvar Ohlsson