

Equal Rights

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Book Review

"Equal Rights" reader *Carmine Gorga* has just authored "The Economic Process: An Instantaneous Non-Newtonian Picture" (Lanham, Md.: 2002, University Press of America, 388pp. \$69). This is Dr. Gorga's own review:

"This is a hard book for economists. Not only do they have to unlearn much of what they have learned over the years, but they also have to learn much of what we Georgists have tried to teach them.

"Our point of entry can be page 265 where it is concluded that much insufficiency of economic growth is due to hoarding, especially hoarding of land and natural resources. The next chapter attributes to hoarding major effects on inflation. In addition, poverty is mostly attributed to hoarding.

"Although hoarding does not exist as a word in *Progress and Poverty*, do we not see this phenomenon as an unavoidable consequence of imperfections in the taxation system?

"That is the first reason then why I recommend this book to Georgists: it allows us to throw a new light upon our reading of Henry George and in the process, we acquire new ammunition. The second reason is that *The Economic Process* inserts hoarding into the framework of economic theory only by changing the standard model. The new structure is called Concordian economics. With due modifications, we are thrust back to the world of classical economics: namely, the world of production of real goods and services, the world of distribution (of ownership rights), and the world of consumption (or expenditure) of financial resources.

"Those who have assimilated the power of Mason Gaffney's book, *The Corruption of Economics*, need no fur-

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What YOU Can Do About Land Speculation

The estates of many good Georgists will benefit from profits derived from the sale of their homes upon their demise because those profits come from land-value increases -- to be frank, from land speculation (though unintended).

These Georgists have a way out: they can put those land-speculation profits to good use by making a bequest to the Henry George Foundation of America or the Center for the Study of Economics. HGFA/CSE can end land speculation for you. These organizations have already induced many localities to adopt some land value taxation and have performed 17 studies, all proving that land value taxation works, and works well.

In addition, IRS rules could allow your estate to get substantial tax benefits. The IRS! Call or write a lawyer or experienced professional for pertinent information, or just include this statement in your will: "I give \$_____ to the Henry George Foundation of America [or the Center for the Study of Economics], a nonprofit organization at 1422 Chestnut Street (#414), Philadelphia, Pa. 19102."

Specify the programs you feel are best suited to end land speculation.

Under current law, some assets are subject to extremely high tax rates when passed to heirs through an estate.

This can be avoided if bequeathed to CSE.

Request an electronic *Equal Rights*. Just email

equalrights@urbantools.net

Include your name and address so we can remove them from the postal list.

Dian Stitt Arnold 1940-2003

We are honored to share Alodia Arnold's memoriam of her mother.

A true Fairhopian, who claimed to have been born a century too late, has passed on to another level of spiritual understanding. Dian Stitt Arnold passed away peacefully Thursday, January 16, 2003, at her home on Morphy Ave. in Fairhope, Ala. Dian's love of life was reflected in her husband and children as well as her pursuits of Christian Science, Henry Georgism, the betterment of Fairhope, the Organic School, dancing, and last but certainly not least, horses. She will forever be remembered by many as "the horse lady," by those closer to her as "the Feed Store Queen," who, for a time, did everything from grocery shopping to participating in the Fairhope Christmas parade in a pony-drawn cart with her children in tow. She lived life on her own terms; with simplicity, love, great inner strength, a sense of humor, a sense of right, an incredible zeal for any task she undertook and with an ever-ready camera close at hand to document everyday and special events in the lives of the family she loved so well. Dian was respected, loved, and will be sorely missed by all who knew her. She is survived by her husband of 36 wonderful years, Claude Arnold, 6 children, Tom, Willis, Seth, Mignon, Carolyn, and Alodia, and 3 grandchildren, Campbell, Brandon, & Liam.

As a graduate of the Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education and a champion of the Single Tax movement, Dian requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to either the Henry George Foundation of America or the Organic School in Fairhope.

Irene Hickman

It is with great sadness that we report that Irene Hickman, a long and strong supporter of the Single Tax and of this publication, left her earthly body on Nov. 5, 2002. She was in her late eighties.

Dr Hickman was a great innovator and tirelessly public-spirited. We will miss her.

Advertising the Georgist Message

We spend too much money and time talking to ourselves. Meanwhile, the number of our activists is shrinking.

Publicity and articles are good, but they are sporadic and lack that most necessary ingredient - repetition.

Advertising could solve these two problems--but consumer advertising is way too expensive, costing millions of dollars. Advertisements that reach government officials (our chief prospects) and serious readers are not as costly.

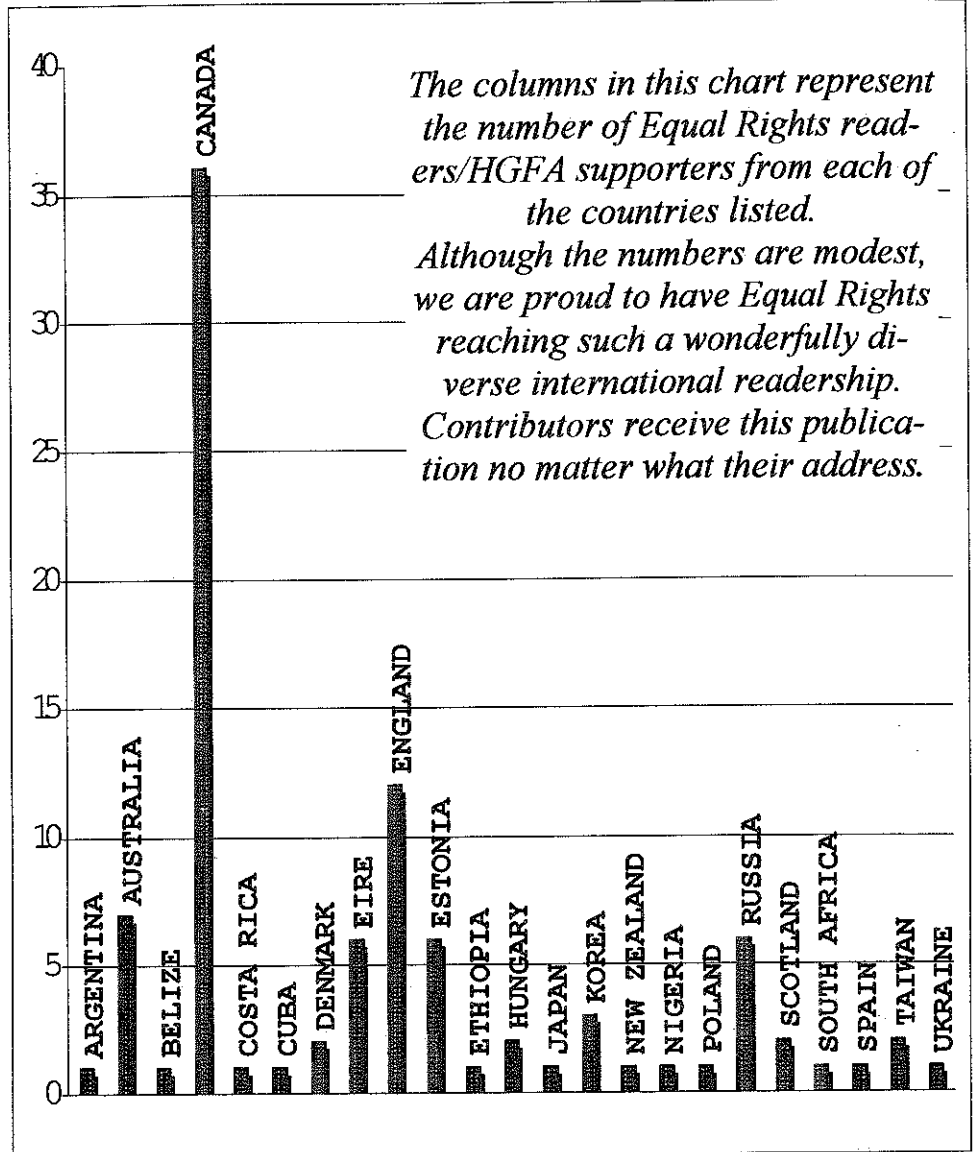
HGFA has no doubt as to what the advertising message should be - the Single Tax, now and forever.

Some suggested ad topics (readers' suggestions are invited):

- ☛ What is the Single Tax?
- ☛ Here's How to Reduce Taxes for Most People
- ☛ Here's How to End Involuntary Poverty
- ☛ Equal Rights Requires the Single Tax
- ☛ Don't Tax Production - Tax Land Values

Imagine getting these messages out beyond our ranks!

Right now, your organization has only a little money to spend on a concerted advertising campaign (although we are satisfied with what these campaigns have already accomplished). We have to spend our money on our first priority - seeing local politicians and getting them to go two-rate LVT. We are the only organization doing that, so far. But advertising is our next priority. Want to join us? We can buy effective advertising at about \$5,000 a



The columns in this chart represent the number of Equal Rights readers/HGFA supporters from each of the countries listed.

Although the numbers are modest, we are proud to have Equal Rights reaching such a wonderfully diverse international readership. Contributors receive this publication no matter what their address.

Book Review

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ther explanations as to why Concor-dian economics is essential to Georgists.

"I acknowledge my debt to Henry George from when I was taught by one of our own: Mitchell Lurio. However, I am not a pure Georgist. I acknowledge other influences in my intellectual life; and, in the field of economic policy, I am convinced of the need for solutions that affect land but also financial capital, labor, and industrial organizations. These solutions are economic rights and responsibilities."

Dr. Carmine Gorga, a Gloucester, MA resident, is President of Polis-tics Inc., a private economic consulting firm, specializing in fisheries development and urban restoration.

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Your Editor's Historical Perspective

I have been 52 years a Georgist. I first took a course at the Henry George School in New York City in 1951. Since then, I have seen many changes take place in our high-minded movement.

In 1951, ordinary citizens were interested in obliterating involuntary poverty (they were interested in the same economic issues that interested Henry George). They believed that there was a solution to poverty - all we had to do was find it. At the School, there were heated discussions after classes about the P&P analysis, and the ordinary people on the street at least knew the name Henry George, even if they knew little else about him. The Henry George School had little trouble in attracting students. The movement had a middle-class outlook.

Over the years, things changed. Obliterating involuntary poverty was no longer so compelling, and almost no one thought that a solution existed. Even economists did not know who Henry George was, much less his ideas. The few remaining Georgists became more white-haired. It became obvious that the purely educationist program was never going to succeed, and in 1968 the educationist Robert Clancy was ousted from the Henry George School.

What replaced the Single Tax? The few remaining Georgists cannot even agree what the proper goal of the Movement should be. Only advertising can save the Movement, but many Georgist organizations cannot even agree on what should be advertised.

Many Georgists today think of Georgism as a national revolutionary movement made up of an amalgam of greenism, socialism, anarchism, land nationalization, and libertarianism (even though Georgists consciously reject those ideas), to which they add the Single Tax. All that is surely self-contradictory, wrong, un-Georgist (except for the Single Tax, of course) and a sure recipe for electoral failure, but it has appeal for those whose attitude is antiestablishmentarian. This Green emphasis has produced exactly no real-world victories at all. For one thing, its focus is too broad - on the whole economy instead of where we can win, which is the local level (where LVT decisions are made). They are concerned about conspiracies against the common man, and on assessments (although almost none of them can affect assessments).

Meanwhile, your organization has extracted 20 real-world victories in the United States for LVT, which even the old middle-class oriented Georgists couldn't match. The Henry George Foundation of America will remain focused on local action and will always remain true to the Single Tax. It is concerned with the real world, the near future. With your help, the HGFA can yet bring the Single Tax to the attention of the American people. *We cannot win without your help.*

In memory of Dian Arnold, the Council of Georgist Organizations has contributed \$100 to The Henry George Foundation of America.

We are honored and grateful to receive this and other gifts made in Dian's name.

From the Editor

→ Our 17 objective empirical studies are more important than our many 2-rate LVT victories, because they substantiate that a building-to-land shift in the property tax is good for local business.

→ Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

→ The growing prevalence of ethical relativism is why we Georgists are so little able to spread the Single Tax these days. We might even be infected by it! Horrors! No Infectious Taxation!

→ "Above all, be of single aim; have a legitimate and useful purpose, and devote yourself unreservedly to it" (James Allen).

→ Why is it so difficult in 2003 to convince local political leaders to simultaneously tax most voters less and stimulate new construction?

→ We regret the passing of Georgist Richard McKinnon of Sun City, AZ.

Should the Government Buy the Land of a Nation And Reduce Taxation?

Should city, state or federal governments issue enough bonds to buy all land-sites at assessed market value, letting lessees use their sites as they wish (within zoning laws)? The land-rent collected by these governments could pay the interest on the bonds. The following advantages would seem to take effect:

☛ The assessed market values are apt to be less than true market values; thus, either the land assessments will be suddenly increased or the land-rent income will be greater than the land-bond interest.

☛ Land sites would be used more fully, resulting in an increase in jobs and prosperity.

☛ Taxes could be reduced on labor and capital even during the time when the land bonds are being paid off because the government-collected land rents will be gradually increasing while the land-bond interest will remain fixed and land rents will increase over time.

☛ When the land-purchase bonds will be fully paid off, the governments will be able to replace even more taxes on production, and after the land-bond payoff, the advantages of the government collection of land rent will be fully in place.

☛ One disadvantage of this land-bond purchase proposal is that non-producers will be getting some of the GNP (but not different than now). Another disadvantage: the government might interfere with private land usage (but it's somewhat doing that now with its zoning power). Also relevant: the present system can obtain a gradual increase in land assessments taxes (but we haven't achieved much of this).

U.S. Georgist Organizations

The U.S. Georgist Movement is fortunate to have several separate organizations dedicated to spreading the Single Tax. Among the active are:

Henry George School offers *Progress and Poverty* courses (no one can be fully trusted in economics who has not read *P&P*). There are schools in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and San Francisco.

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation publishes books and promotes theoretical studies in economics.

Common Ground seeks to establish advocacy chapters in many communities.

Center for the Study of Economics (CSE) does research on implementation of land value taxation, available to anyone who asks for it.

Henry George Foundation of America spreads the two-rate land value tax to many communities (more soon) with the hoped-for result that the Single Tax will thereby eventually become page-one news.

Arden Georgist Guild

Banneker Center for Economic Justice and Prosperity

Henry George Institute

Geonomy Society

People unfamiliar with the Georgist Movement urge us to form one organization (and then they go away), but this would cause intense squabbling over funds and goals. Anyway, each of these organizations naturally guards its own assets so merger is completely unlikely.

Let us spend our time spreading the Single Tax rather than trying to coordinate everyone else.

About Ben Adhem

By Leigh Hunt (1784-1859)

About Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace

And saw within the moonlight in his room
Making it rich like a lily in bloom
An angel writing in a book of gold.

Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,

And to the presence in the room he said,
What writest thou?" The vision raised its head,

And with a look made of all sweet accord,
Answered, "the names of those who love the Lord."

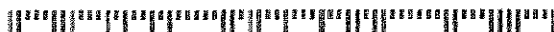
"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so"

Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,
But cheerily still. "I pray thee, then,
Write me as one who loves his fellow men."

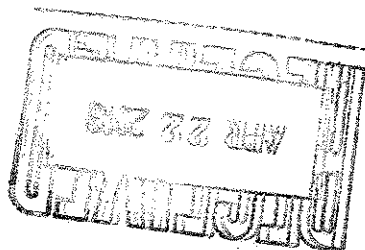
The angel wrote, and vanished. The next night

It came again, with a great wakening light,
And showed the names whom love of God had blessed,

And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.



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