



Figure 1 Craufurd D. W. Goodwin: A portrait of the historian of economics as a young man

Source Duke University Archives

Craufurd D. W. Goodwin (1934–2017)

Kevin D. Hoover

On April 20, 2017, the history of economics lost a towering figure, Craufurd Goodwin, one of the last surviving members of the generation that professionalized the history of economics with the establishment of *History of Political Economy* (HOPE), the first specialized journal in the field, and the founding of the History of Economics Society. This special issue is dedicated to his memory.

Early Life

Craufurd David Wycliffe Goodwin was born in Montreal, Canada, on May 23, 1934, to Roma Stewart Goodwin and George Gonville Goodwin. Of Scots and English stock, Craufurd was a descendant of John Wycliffe, the fourteenth-century English dissident theologian. Craufurd's father was a banker, and his mother was the first woman licensed to practice law in the Canadian Maritimes. He attended public and private schools in Montreal, and was graduated with honors from McGill University in 1955. In the same year, he entered Duke University as a doctoral student in economics, receiving his PhD in 1958 with a dissertation on Canadian economic thought supervised by Joseph Spengler (see Dimand, this issue). In June of that year, he married Nancy Sanders, the daughter of Charles

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History of Political Economy 51:1 DOI 10.1215/00182702-7316205
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Richard Sanders, a Duke English professor and a leading Carlyle scholar (see Weintraub, this issue).

Academic and Administrator

Over the next four years, Craufurd moved to various temporary positions at Duke, the University of Windsor (Ontario), the Australian National University, and York University (Toronto). Finally, in 1962 he joined Duke's Economics Department as an assistant professor.

From the start, Craufurd mixed scholarship and academic administration (see Weintraub, this issue). At Duke in the 1959–60 academic year he served as the executive secretary of Duke's Commonwealth Studies Center. When he returned to Duke in 1962, Craufurd became assistant to the provost. As he progressed through the academic ranks, he took on more substantial administrative roles: secretary of the university, assistant provost, director of international studies, vice-provost for international studies and director of international programs, which—somewhat surprisingly—included responsibility for the university libraries and Duke University Press, dean of the Graduate School, and vice provost for research. He was promoted to tenured associate professor in 1963 and to full professor in 1972. In 1974, he was named the James B. Duke Professor of Economics. He was also a Guggenheim Fellow (1967–68) and a Smuts Fellow at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

On leave from Duke from 1971 to 1976, Craufurd served as program officer in charge for European and international affairs at the Ford Foundation, where he worked with McGeorge Bundy among others (see Nacht, this issue). Before and after his time at the Ford Foundation, he consulted for other foundations involved in educational philanthropy and research support. He retained a deep understanding for the rest of his career about fund-raising and the material support for scholarship and a deep respect for the goals and aspirations of private foundations.

His administrative experience inside and outside of Duke helped to shape Craufurd into a particularly effective administrator who was able to navigate the complexities of the academic world to promote the intellectual and scholarly values closest to his heart. He believed, far more than is common in large research universities, that teaching—both undergraduate and graduate—was truly central to the life of the university (see Dudenhefer, this issue). He was especially proud of his role in the creation of the program in Graduate Liberal Studies at Duke (see Zapf, this issue).

He came to believe that graduate programs did a poor job in preparing students for their professional lives as university teachers. Working closely with a colleague in the English Department, he developed a program in which experienced professors transmitted the craft knowledge of the academic life to a select group of graduate students. In 1988, this program ultimately resulted in *The Academic's Handbook*—still in print, going into its fourth edition (see Deneef, this issue).

These efforts were not all institutional or corporate: generations of students found in Craufurd an exemplary teacher. He won teaching awards at Duke in 1995–96 and 2001 and from the Southern Economics Association in 2003. His former graduate students remember his kindly mentorship and encouragement, as do the pre- and postdoctoral fellows of the Center for the History of Political Economy at Duke from its founding in 2008 to the beginnings of his final illness in 2016 (see Leonard, this issue).

***HOPE* and HES**

To the history-of-economics discipline, Craufurd will always be most closely identified with this journal—*History of Political Economy*. The origins of *HOPE* can be traced to a conference organized by Donald Winch at the University of Sussex in 1968. Many of the most important contributors to the history of economics attended: Winch, John Hicks, A. W. (“Bob”) Coats, George Shackle, Terence Hutchison, Robert Collison Black, Lionel Robbins, Ronald Meek, and a number of others. Many of these more established figures worried that a specialized journal would end up ghettoizing the history of economics. Craufurd and the younger generation, however, were more concerned that, increasingly, mainstream economics journals had no space for history of economics or, indeed, were actively hostile to it. Yet, some remained unconvinced: Lionel Robbins openly opposed it, saying that he would advise his pupils not to submit papers to it.

Not for the last time, Craufurd made good use of his administrative and philanthropic connections. Duke University Press, despite considerable doubts about its viability, was loathe to dismiss a proposal for a new journal from the administrator in charge of its budget. Craufurd was able to get initial funding from the National Science Foundation and from the Rockefeller Foundation to manage *HOPE* through its early years. And rather than leaving the marketing of the journal to the press, Craufurd made a direct appeal to scholars and libraries around the world. While *HOPE* defied

expectations and succeeded brilliantly, having reached its fiftieth year, the fear of Robbins and others that the history of economics would become a special niche, not much attended to by economists at large, was not unfounded. But perhaps this was inevitable in any case, as economics—like many other academic fields—has become increasingly the product of an ever finer division of labor and an ever increasing specialization.

Despite his instrumental role in putting the business-end of *HOPE* on a sound footing, Craufurd was not supposed to be its editor. In fact, strictly speaking, Craufurd was *HOPE*'s second editor. The name of his senior Duke colleague Robert Smith stands on the masthead of the first issue in 1969 as its editor. The first issue also carries Smith's obituary. The year 1968 is famous for its social and political upheavals. Duke University had been opened to black students only a few years earlier, and in 1968 a group of black students occupied the Allen Building, the site of the president's office. Smith, as well as Craufurd, were appointed to a committee whose task was to negotiate with the occupying students and to understand and make recommendations with respect to their grievances. The negotiations were highly charged and continued for a full twenty-four hours. On leaving the Allen Building, Smith, who was a long-time chain smoker and not young, collapsed from a heart attack. He died some days later. Thus, Craufurd became editor of *HOPE* not by design but by misadventure—an inauspicious start to what would prove to be a forty-two year tenure as editor.

Craufurd's ambitions for *HOPE* are nicely summed up in the "Avant-Propos," the editorial introduction to volume 1 of the journal. Acknowledging that the acronym "HOPE" is appropriate, conveying "Faith—faith that professional interest and active research would generate the quality and quantity of material needed to sustain" the new journal, the editors (Joseph Spengler and Robert Smith, as well as Craufurd) confess that they "debated the title," fearing "that Political Economy may have a musty flavor, or an aura of antiquarianism, which would be lacking in History of Economic Thought." In the end, however, "HOPE won the argument," as it indicated "the catholicity of [the journal's] interests" and the desire of the editors to address not just "the intricacies of the development of economic analysis . . . but also . . . the relations of theory and analysis to policy, to other disciplines, and to social history generally." As editor, Craufurd remained true to this vision, always encouraging and sometimes prodding historians of economics to take a large view of their subject (see Dudenhefer, this issue).

The founding of *HOPE* was a first step in the professionalization of the history of economics as a distinct field. As important perhaps was the founding of various professional organizations. While historians in the United Kingdom organized an enduring series of conferences around the *History of Economic Thought Newsletter*, first edited by Bob Coats of the University of Nottingham (and later Craufurd's colleague at Duke), a small group of historians, of which Craufurd was a prominent member, founded the History of Economics Society in 1974, as the first international professional association for the field. Craufurd served as the society's president in 1978–79. And he was elected distinguished fellow of the society in 1991. In addition to his work editing *HOPE*, Craufurd was also the academic editor for Cambridge University Press's series Historical Perspectives on Modern Economics. In this role, he shepherded more than thirty distinguished books on the history of economics to publication.

Scholarship

In many ways, Craufurd realized the ambitions that the “Avant-Propos” expressed for *HOPE* in his own scholarship. Two characteristics stand out: First, his approach is wide-ranging—he refuses to define the history of political economy narrowly; rather his vision encompasses everything from the internal intellectual history of economic theory to the interactions of economics with society and politics, to the difficult negotiations with fields such as the fine arts and literature, religion, and the environment, whose self-images are often sharpened by their contrasts with the worldly philosophy of economics (see De Marchi, this issue).

The second characteristic is captured in William Faulkner's well-known dictum: “The past is never dead. It's not even past” (*Requiem for a Nun*, 1951). Craufurd never viewed the history of economics as antiquarianism. Instead, it was a way of understanding how economics' past conditions—and even advances—the practice of economics today. For many years, Craufurd taught an undergraduate history course titled “The Uses of Economics” (see Dudenhefer, this issue). And Craufurd was always looking for how economics was used and, indeed, how the history of economics was used. A good example is the book, *Exhortation and Controls: The Search for a Wage-Price Policy, 1945–71* (Brookings 1975). The book arose from an inquiry from Kermit Gordon, the president of the Brookings Institution and former member of John F. Kennedy's Council of Economic Advisers, and Joseph Pechman, the public-finance economist and

head of the Brookings Economics Program. They wondered whether, in Craufurd's telling, the history of economics could be used as a kind of "critic or commentator or auditor of economic affairs," especially in relation to inflation policy. The volume, which was a coordinated and collected work of a team of economists organized by Craufurd, was widely reviewed well outside of history-of-economics—or even economics—circles, and proved to be influential in the debates over inflation that dominated discussions of economic policy in the 1970s and 1980s. Economics was, of course, relevant to public policy; but what Craufurd and his coauthors demonstrated was that its *history* was also of considerable use. This was a pioneering approach to the history of economics and one that Craufurd repeated in volumes addressed to economics and national security, public policy in emerging democracies, higher education (especially in an international context), the role of the press, and energy policy (see Nacht, this issue).

Craufurd worried that economics had become overly narrow and specialized, so that its younger practitioners especially tended to know a lot about very narrow parts of the discipline and almost nothing about fields beyond economics. Although it was not a necessary connection, he also noted the way in which economics was often conceived as focused on optimization of individual preferences tended to promote a nearly barbarous ignorance of "non-economic" values—aesthetic, moral, environmental, and political. Among the uses of economics for Craufurd was the service that economics—if it attended to such values—could play in promoting a richer, more rounded, and more humane public life. He was, as a result, always fascinated by "distinguished people, who, although not officially considered economists, were interested in the subject and often saw both problems and solutions more clearly than those who were professed economists" (to quote from his auto-obituary; also see Mata, this issue). His *Art and the Market: Roger Fry on the Commerce in Art* (University of Michigan Press 1998) is the paradigm of his approach. Fry, a charter member of the Bloomsbury group and friend of John Maynard Keynes, was by training a scientist and by vocation an artist and a critic, as well as a self-taught student of economics, who reflected deeply on the role of art in economic life and vice versa (see De Marchi, this issue). From Fry, Craufurd's interests in the Bloomsbury group grew to include articles on Virginia Woolf, Keynes, E. M. Forster, and others. For many years, he taught a popular course on the Bloomsbury group—not the typical offering of an American professor of economics.

His interest in the borderlands of economics was hardly restricted to Bloomsbury. Other forays included relations between economics and environmentalism, especially the work of Aldo Leopold; religion; literature, including Virginia Woolf, E. M. Forster, Frank Norris, and Jonathan Swift; and psychology. Economics and journalism was a special fascination and his last book, *Walter Lippmann: Public Economist* (Harvard University Press 2014), concerned the famous newspaper columnist. That interest was kindled in childhood, Craufurd having reported that his parents hardly took a view on public affairs until they had Lippmann's opinion on the matter as a point of comparison. His final sickness cut short another book project: a series of essays devoted to several of his favorite wise-outsider types. Sadly, only the first of these essays was finished, on the New-Dealer, trust-busting lawyer, judge, and economic commentator, Thurmond Arnold. It is published for the first time in this issue as Craufurd's final article.

Another dimension on which Craufurd sought throughout his career to push into underexplored areas was the focus on peripheral areas in the world of economics. Of course, even though he enjoyed telling how snippy Canadian officials at border crossing could be when they discovered that he had renounced his allegiance to the Queen and taken up American citizenship, he retained a deep interest and affection for Canada and for the Commonwealth. In addition to his doctoral dissertation, he wrote a variety of articles on Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, and Jamaican economic thought (see Dimand, this issue).

The diversity of Craufurd's scholarly interests reflected two things: his avowed eclecticism and his willingness to let his sense of what would be fun direct his intellectual path (see Mata, this issue).

Bloomsbury

Craufurd's interest in the Bloomsbury group is, in one sense, part of his general interest in the interactions of economics with a wider culture and a wider set of values. But it went well beyond that. He was interested in Roger Fry, for example, not simply for his reflections on art and commerce. He also loved his art and, indeed, the art and literature of other members of the Bloomsbury group. He collected it—including paintings and other fine and decorative arts of Fry, Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant, and Dora Carrington and their contemporaries. Craufurd was instrumental in setting up a year-long, interdisciplinary program at Duke during the

2008–9 academic year titled *Vision and Design: A Year of Bloomsbury*, designed to coincide with the one-hundredth anniversary of the beginnings of the Bloomsbury Group. It involved panel discussions, symposia, theatrical performances, a film series, an online book chat, and an art exhibition at Duke’s Nasher Museum of Art, *A Room of Their Own: The Bloomsbury Artists in American Collections*, which presented the work of Bloomsbury artists and their collaborators from museums and private collections, including Craufurd and Nancy Goodwin’s personal collection. Later the exhibition traveled to several other museums across the United States. The first event of the new Center for the History of Political Economy at Duke was held as part of the *Vision and Design* program on February 17, 2009, at the Nasher Museum in conjunction with the exhibition. Once again, it reflected Craufurd’s interest in connecting economics to wider culture. Under the title “John Maynard Keynes of Bloomsbury,” the event included four short talks by Craufurd and his colleagues Roy Weintraub, Bruce Caldwell, and Kevin Hoover. These talks are published for the first time in this issue.

Montrose and Hillsborough

In 1977, Craufurd and Nancy Goodwin purchased a historic property in Hillsborough, North Carolina, called Montrose. It had been the home of William Alexander Graham, a nineteenth-century governor of North Carolina. When the Goodwins arrived, the place needed work. Already a collector of fine art, Craufurd became a collector of period furniture and furnishing and a well-known figure at auctions (see Hoover on Craufurd as collector, in this issue). Carefully and methodically, Craufurd and Nancy restored and refurnished the house. At the same time, Nancy, a master gardener, turned the grounds of Montrose into a celebrated garden, beautifully reflected in her *Montrose: Life in Garden* (with Ippy Patterson, Duke University Press) and *A Year in Our Gardens: Letters by Nancy Goodwin and Allen Lacy* (University of North Carolina Press). In the true Bloomsbury tradition of combining art and handicraft, Craufurd was as at home (and, he himself reported, quite happy) mowing the lawns and fields of Montrose with a tractor as he was at explaining Adam Smith to undergraduates, analyzing Virginia Woolf, or trying to understand the role of economics in defense policy. Always the practical economist, he manned the till at the plant sale at each of Nancy’s semiannual garden open days.

Craufurd developed a deep love for Hillsborough, a town in which a large number of buildings dating back to colonial times have been restored. He was one of the founders of the Preservation Fund, an organization dedicated to the preservation of land and historic buildings in and near Hillsborough. And he spent twelve years on the Orange County Planning Board. One of his personal achievements was spearheading the restoration of the tower clock in the Orange County courthouse.

In 2007, Craufurd and Nancy established The Montrose Foundation, which aims at ensuring the future of the land and the buildings of Montrose.

In Memoriam

Craufurd faced his final illness with an equanimity and grace that did not surprise those who knew him well, but still gave them cause to marvel. This short recounting of his life is too bloodless a sketch to capture the spirit of the man that I and many readers were privileged to have known and sorry to have lost or to convey that spirit for those readers who never knew him. The remainder of this issue attempts to remedy that shortcoming by publishing for the first time Craufurd's final paper, as well as talks on Keynes that were part of the Bloomsbury celebration, and by letting a variety of friends, colleagues, students, and collaborators address in more detail various perspectives on Craufurd Goodwin, the man and the scholar.