

## Severyn Ten Haut Bruyn

On May 26, 2019, retired professor of Sociology at Boston College, Severyn T. Bruyn, passed away peacefully at age 91 with family at home in Newton. He leaves his beloved wife Louise Bruyn, son George Bruyn and his wife June Epperson, daughter Rebecca Bruyn and her wife Cindy Rosenbaum, daughter Susan Collyer and grandchildren Matthew Collyer, Sev Bruyn and Tiffany Brister. Along with Louise, Sev was a longtime member of the Cambridge Meeting of the Society of Friends and a social activist.

A founder of the “participant observation” approach to research in the field of sociology, Bruyn authored ten books and inspired the innovative Leadership for Change program at Boston College. Having taken his B.S., his M.A., and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, he taught at Illinois College in Jacksonville, IL between 1952 and 1966, before joining the Boston College faculty until his retirement in 2000.

His books include *The Human Perspective in Sociology: The Methodology of Participation Observation* (Prentice- Hall, 1966); *The Social Economy: People Transforming Modern Business* (John Wiley, 1977); *The Field of Social Investment* (Cambridge University Press, 1987); *Beyond the Market and the State*, Co-edited with James Meehan (Temple University Press, 1987); *A Future for the American Economy: A Social Market* (Stanford University Press, 1991); and *A Civil Economy: Transforming the Market in the 21st Century* (University of Michigan Press, 2000).

Among his many grants, awards, and recognitions, standouts include a NIMH grant of \$200,000 to support 18 Sociology PhD students (1979); the Alpha Sigma Nu, National Jesuit Honor Society, Social Science Award for *A Future for the American Economy* (1991); the Presidential Divine Award from the Association for Social Economics (2000); and a celebration of his career contributions at a joint meeting of the American Sociological Association and the Society for the Study of Social Problems (2011).

His retirement led to no diminution of activity, but rather to the birth of a riotous creativity that included writing a novel about the future of higher education, painting, learning how to write music on the computer, the setting of famous poems to song, and the composition and production of oratorios, operas, and a musical – *A Song of Evolution; The Modern Orpheus; The Music Makers; The Teachers of Norway; The Majesty of Love; and The Story of God*. Many of Sev’s books and musicals can be found by googling him.