

Karl J. Pelzer Is Dead; Professor Was Expert On Land Use in Asia

Karl J. Pelzer, professor emeritus of geography at Yale University, died Sunday at the age of 71 at his home in North Haven, Conn.

Dr. Pelzer, an authority on land use and the demographics of tropical regions, especially Southeast Asia, was a member of the Yale faculty from 1947 until his retirement in 1977. He was also the director of Southeast Asian studies.

He was born in Oberpleis, Germany, and graduated from the University of Bonn, receiving his doctorate there in 1935, the year he came to the United States. He taught at the University of California at Berkeley and at Johns Hopkins University. During World War II he was with the Office of War Information.

From 1945 to 1947 he worked for the Department of Agriculture, in its office of foreign agricultural relations, and he was part of a unit that toured Japan, the Philippines and the East Indies to study the effects of war on agriculture.

Dr. Pelzer was the author of "Population and Land Utilization" and "Pioneer Settlement in the Asiatic Tropics."

Surviving are his wife, the former Elizabeth Clark; two daughters, Christine White of Brighton, England, and Ingrid Burg of Albuquerque, N.M., and two grandchildren.

A memorial service is planned, but the date has not yet been set.

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