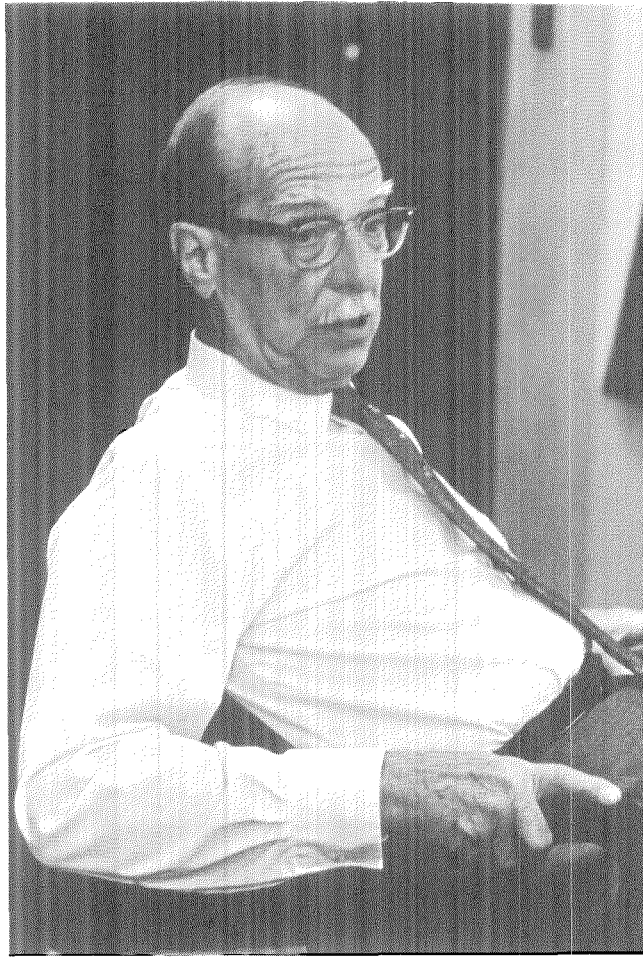


# Retiring This Year



*Foster Strong*

## T. Foster Strong

*associate professor of physics,  
dean of freshmen, emeritus*

Foster Strong came to Caltech in 1933 to get his master's degree in physics and has been here ever since. In July he retires as associate professor of physics and becomes dean of freshmen, emeritus.

Dean Strong describes himself as "one of the last of the Millikan crowd"—those who were drawn here by Millikan's dream and held here by his warmth and enthusiasm. With 32 years of teaching and 23 years as dean behind him, Foster

Strong played a good part in making that dream a reality.

Strong earned his BS in civil engineering at the University of Wisconsin in 1922. For the next 11 years he worked in industry—with the Utah Power and Light Co., the U.S. Gypsum Co., the Certain-teed Products Corp., and the American Trust Co. of San Francisco—before he returned to academic life.

After he got his MS in physics, he stayed at the Institute and two years later started teaching physics here. During World War II he carried a large part of the teaching load in undergraduate physics.

In 1945 Strong was appointed dean of freshmen—a job which was supposed to take two-thirds of his Caltech time, but which (according to his colleagues) took more like 24 hours a day.

Caltech was one of the first schools in the country to have a dean of freshmen. With no precedent set, the job has been largely shaped by Dean Strong. The freshmen he has counseled and his colleagues on the faculty (as dean he has served on 13 to 15 committees a year) consider him conscientious, honest, and thoroughly dedicated to his work and to the Institute.

During his years as dean, Strong has had continued enthusiasm for teaching physics. "No matter how frustrating the problems of the dean's office were," he says, "I could always come away from the classroom feeling refreshed."

When he retires in July, he will still be involved in physics. Years ago he "made up" problems for his physics classes. As his students spread, so did the fame of his Strong Problems. In 1963 a publisher asked him to collect them in a book. Now, he says, he will have time to finish the project.

That is, if he can work it in between trips abroad. The Strong, enthusiastic travelers, have immediate plans to visit the Dalmatian Coast in Yugoslavia and, later, one of their favorite world spots—Morelia, Mexico.

## Paul Bowerman

*professor of modern languages, emeritus*

Paul Bowerman, once a free-lance writer and diplomat, has taught at Caltech for 24 years. He retires in July as professor of modern languages, emeritus.

Bowerman received his AB in English from Dartmouth College in 1920 and then took a teaching assignment at Robert College in Istanbul. The following year he spent traveling through Europe as a free-lance writer. Then, "hooked" on travel and convinced that the foreign service would give him a chance to see more of the world, he joined the State Department in 1923 as a foreign service officer. He spent the next 10 years in Germany, Canada, Yugoslavia, and Greece. (He learned of his impending assignment to open the first U.S. consulate in Iceland in 1929 and, through the help of State Department friends, narrowly escaped a position he still considers a "questionable honor.")

When he left the foreign service, he went back to school and got his MA at the University of Michigan, then came to the West Coast and continued his graduate work at USC, while teaching English there and at Caltech. Because of his background, Bowerman was prepared to teach German and French as well—and soon found himself doing just that. In 1945 he became assistant professor of modern languages at Caltech and in 1947 was made an associate professor.

Bowerman has seen a great expansion—and improvement—in the language program during his 24 years at Caltech. He



*Paul Bowerman*

set up the first language lab here in 1959, and is justifiably proud of the new lab that went into operation this year. In 1966 he introduced an innovative two-year French course, primarily for graduate students, to fulfill the need for speaking as well as writing competency in the language. It was followed by German in 1967 and Russian in 1968. Another change he initiated—giving graduate students the option of taking a subject minor in French or German—will be implemented this fall, with plans to add Russian later.

Bowerman has no definite plans for his retirement, but will take the summer to “test my fitness for so much leisure.” Then, if he can persuade his wife to retire from teaching also, he may begin his globe-trotting again.

## Horace Gilbert

*professor of business economics, emeritus*

A telegram from a man he had never heard of—Robert Millikan—invited Horace Gilbert to Northampton to talk about a teaching job in 1929. Gilbert, who had received his master's in business administration—with distinction—from Harvard, was teaching business policy and economics there. He had scarcely heard of the California Institute of Technology. But a colleague said, “Good heavens, Horace. Millikan is the *Taussig* of physics!” So Gilbert went to Northampton—and to Caltech. He has been on the faculty ever since, and retires in July as professor of business economics, emeritus.

“I couldn't have had a finer group of students at any other school in the country,” he says, “including Harvard Business School.”



*Horace Gilbert*

One of Gilbert's special contributions has been to provide generations of engineering graduate students with a realistic idea of how business operates. Today many of these men are executives in their own or other firms.

Gilbert's knowledge of economics has not been limited to business administration, however. His interest in international affairs and in travel has led him to become knowledgeable on industrial development in various countries and areas of the world—Germany, Soviet Russia, Japan, Southeast Asia, and the developing nations of Africa—and he has made repeated trips to these areas for firsthand observation.

Appropriately enough, Gilbert served for 16 years as chairman of the faculty committee on foreign students, and the Gilbert family befriended decades of foreign students who are now eager to repay their hospitality in countries all over the world.

Gilbert has also been in demand as an adviser to the government. During World War II he was principal production supervisor for the U.S. Air Force, and after the war served as a bombing analyst, U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey, Germany, and was a special consultant on Industrial Mobilization Planning for the Air Material Command. From 1949 to 1951 he was Industrial Economic Adviser on the staff of John McCloy, then U.S. High Commissioner for Germany. He is a longtime member of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City and is currently chairman of the Los Angeles Committee on Foreign Relations.

When he retires, Gilbert says he plans to “work in the garden”—a standby occupation for retirees, but no offhand intention with him. He takes his agricultural activities seriously, and, if he can give his acre some time and attention between travel and consulting, he will no doubt bring off some successful development of his own.