

**KINGSLEY BACON LEEDS**  
**9-7-1907 to 7-4-1980**

Few of us can claim to have known well our Friend, Kingsley Leeds. This applies even to those like Betty Snyder and me, whose friendship with the Leeds goes back more than forty years.

Yet, though few may have fully understood this complex personality, we could discern and treasure many wonderful qualities, his high standard of Quaker values, his keen human and social insights, his courageous struggle for emotional equilibrium. These qualities were apparent even in his later years when clear expression had become increasingly difficult.

Betty Snyder felt greatly blessed to have known Kingsley and Edith in New York during the 1930s. He and I graduated the same year from neighboring Quaker colleges. At Haverford, Kingsley had been greatly inspired by such leading Quaker thinkers as Rufus Jones, Douglas Steere and Thomas Kelly though his Quakerism and pacifism had been inherited from his parents.

As befits a professional librarian, Kingsley read widely to enhance his religious and intellectual insights. His humanitarian and international concerns deepened when he and Edith came to the Library of Congress in 1944. Engaging himself deeply with the issues of war and peace, he soon found it necessary to augment his academic background with practical experience and offered his voluntary services to such agencies as AFSC, FCNL, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the Friends Meeting. In letters to Edith, Edward Snyder and others, Kingsley's willingness to undertake any needed task, however menial, is recorded.

During his early years in Washington, Kingsley was shocked by some of the most cruel events in world history - the Holocaust of the Jewish people, the indiscriminate bombing of civilian populations, and the use of nuclear weapons on Japan. Such inhumanity preyed upon his sensitive mind and conscience, leading to severe emotional stress. This contributed to several mental breakdowns and to long periods of treatment at Saint Elizabeth's and other hospitals. During this time, the enduring care and devotion of Edith and their two daughters helped to sustain him.

On July 4 last, Kingsley died. He will be missed by all Friends who knew him. He inspired us with his noble ideals and values.