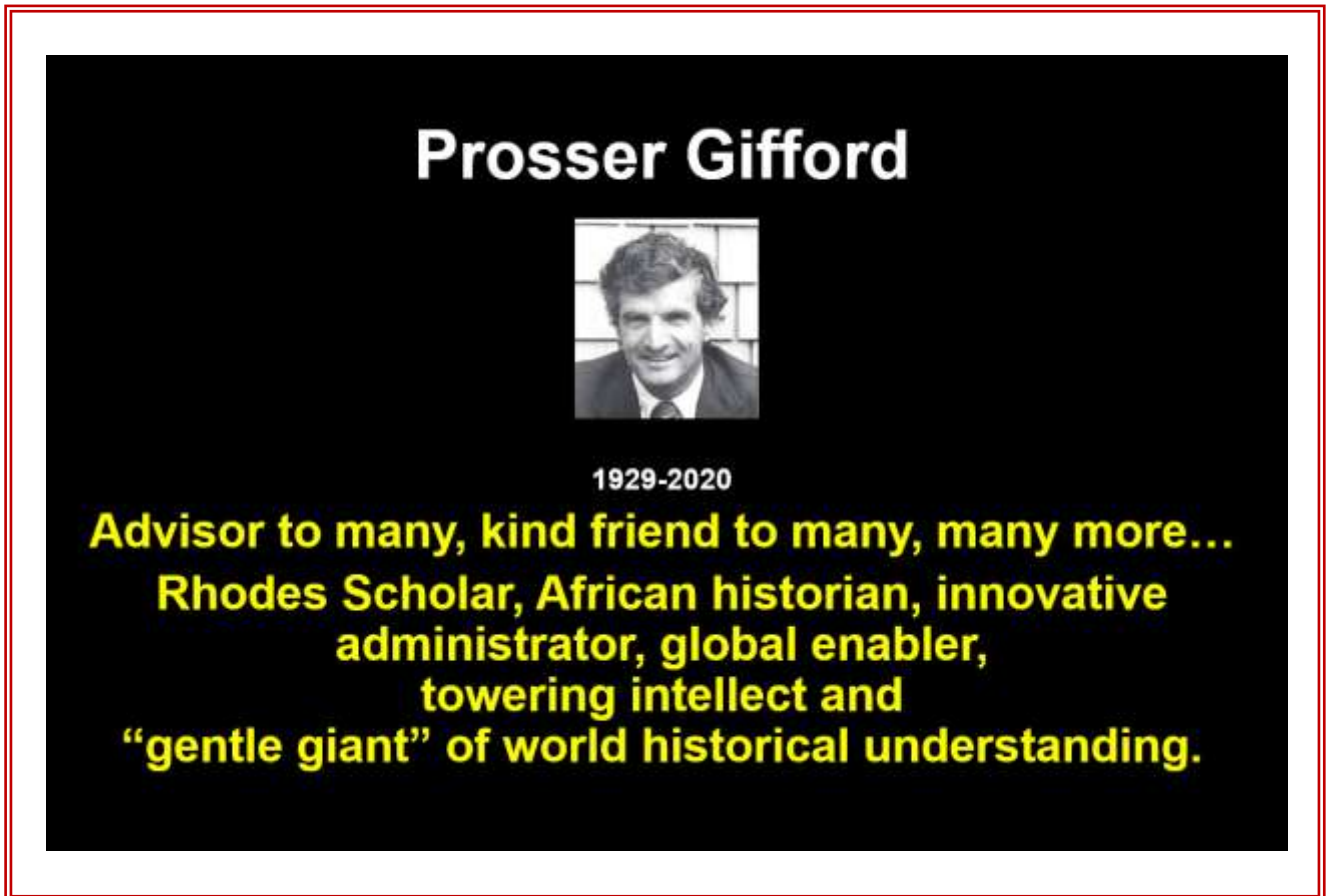


The Rhodes Family Will Miss a Compassionate “Gentle Giant” of World Historical Understanding


Tim Weiskel
(New Hampshire, Balliol, '69)

It is with sadness and a heavy heart that we learned of the death earlier this month of **Prosser Gifford (Connecticut, Merton '51)** at the age of 91. His accomplishments were many and his friends and associates world-wide formed a *de facto* global network of care and concern about the major issues and conflicts facing the human community.



Kind words have been composed by [neighbors](#), fellow members of [Merton College](#) and in [The New York Times](#), but words alone cannot reflect the sense of loss and sadness among those from all continents whose lives he touched while he and his wife, Deedee, served for decades at Yale University, Amherst College, the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C.

Prosser's long-standing advice to students rings more true than ever in an age of global pandemic lockdown:




Prosser Gifford

Advice to students:
“Interrupt your education – with excursions into reality – as often as possible....”

Prosser Gifford

His generous and expansive outlook will be remembered by historians and educators from all over the world as they strive to articulate new narratives for World History that can enable us to survive as a human community with a new understanding of our common circumstance on the only life-supporting planet in the known universe.

A new impulse for the study of World History...



In an effort to redress the abuses and mistaken veneration of figures in the colonial past some have felt drawn to tear down statues and deface monuments.

It would seem appropriate as well to re-assess the enduring legacies of policies and habits of mind of these figures that continue to fuel unsustainable delusions of expansion and conquest in our finite world.