

Obituaries

CECELIA MARIE KENYON

Cecelia Kenyon (Cele to her friends and colleagues) was a southern intellectual, an old-fashioned liberal, who revered the United States Constitution and the generation of men who made it, and who took it as her greatest privilege to devote her life and formidable intellect to the study of the birth of the American Republic.

Appointed to the Smith College faculty the year before she received her doctorate from Radcliffe College in 1949, she quickly established her reputation with the seminal essay 'Men of Little Faith: The Anti-Federalists on the Nature of Representative Government,' first published in 1955. This essay, surely the most quoted of any on American political theory, was later expanded to form the 100-page introduction to *The Anti-Federalists*, a volume she edited published in 1966.

A teacher and speaker of great distinction, Ms. Kenyon was invited to address the House of Representatives on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the First Continental Congress, and Congress at a program marking the anniversary in 1976 of the birthday of Thomas Jefferson. Always a believer in the Enlightenment principles of freedom of expression and rational debate, Cecelia Kenyon made those values and the Founding Fathers who embraced them come alive for generations of Smith students.

A tiny woman of enormous dignity, whose eyes flashed fire in her passionate discussion of ideas, Cecelia Kenyon was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1965, remaining a member until her death at the age of 68 on January 22, 1990.

Jill Ker Conway

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