

In Memorandum: Robert Fuson

Robert H. Fuson, First President of the Florida Society of Geographers

Robert (Bob) Henderson Fuson, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Geography at the University of South Florida, died October 22, 2004, in Temple Terrace, Florida.

Dr. Fuson, 77, was one of the world's most foremost scholars on Christopher Columbus and a cultural geographer specializing in Latin America. He was also responsible for landmark research about the Mayan civilization and their use of the compass to establish astronomically relevant ceremonial sites.

Author of numerous books, one of Dr. Fuson's most acclaimed was the *Log of Christopher Columbus* that received the Book of the Year award from the Library Journal and the Montroll Special Award from the New York Academy of Science. He has been a resource on Columbus for researchers, educators and the media throughout the world, including appearances on Good Morning America and the A&E Biography series. He also wrote *Legendary Islands of the Ocean Sea* and *Ponce de Leon and the Spanish Discovery of Puerto Rico*. Among his several geography textbooks is *Fundamental Place-Name Geography*, now in its 9th edition. Dr. Fuson was a charter faculty at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida and served as Chairman of the Geography Department for many years.

Born in Bloomington, Indiana, Dr. Fuson received degrees from Indiana University and Florida State University prior to completing his PhD from Louisiana State University.

He was a founding member and first president of the Florida Society of Geographers, and a member of the American Society of Geographers, the Society for the History of Discoveries and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

An Army and Navy veteran of World War II, Dr. Fuson was a lieutenant in the Air Force Reserves during the Korean War and was an intelligence analyst in Washington, DC.