

April 22, 2009

Martin Bronfenbrenner (1914-1997) in Japan, 1949-1952

by Aiko Ikee, Waseda University

JEA Codes: T, S **JEL Codes:** B31, A10, A11

Abstract: Japan was occupied by the Allied Powers from September 1945 until April 1952 after the conclusion of WWII. Martin Bronfenbrenner was the sole non-Japanese economist who stayed in Japan more than a few months during this transition period from chaos to a new normalcy. He communicated with Japanese counterparts, criticized Japan's financial policy for reconstruction, engaged in the tax reform and the monitoring of its implementation, and watched over the intra-regional trade in East Asia including Japan. He made great contributions in the shaping and maintaining the solid, intellectual connection with modern Japanese economists by running seminars, meetings at conferences, and working together with them on several projects. In addition, he published a number of writings on Japan's economy and economics, lectured on Japan's economy and its history, and established the "intellectual window" for American economists to look through to Japan. His activities related to Japan must be included in the 75-year-old history of the Japanese Economic Association (JEA), which was established by modern economists in 1934.