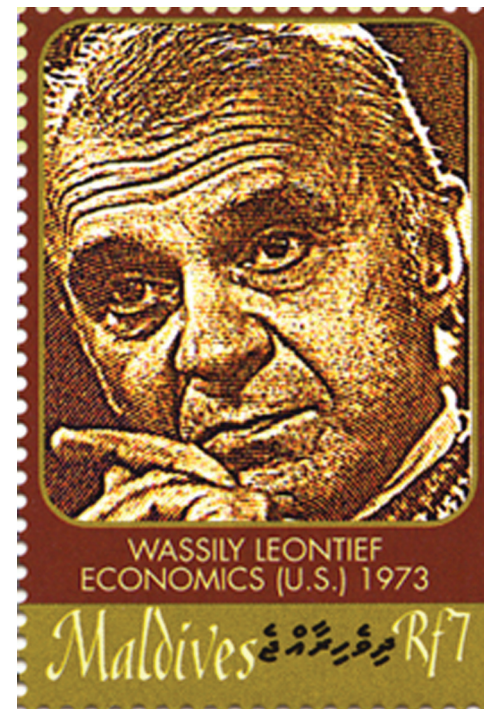
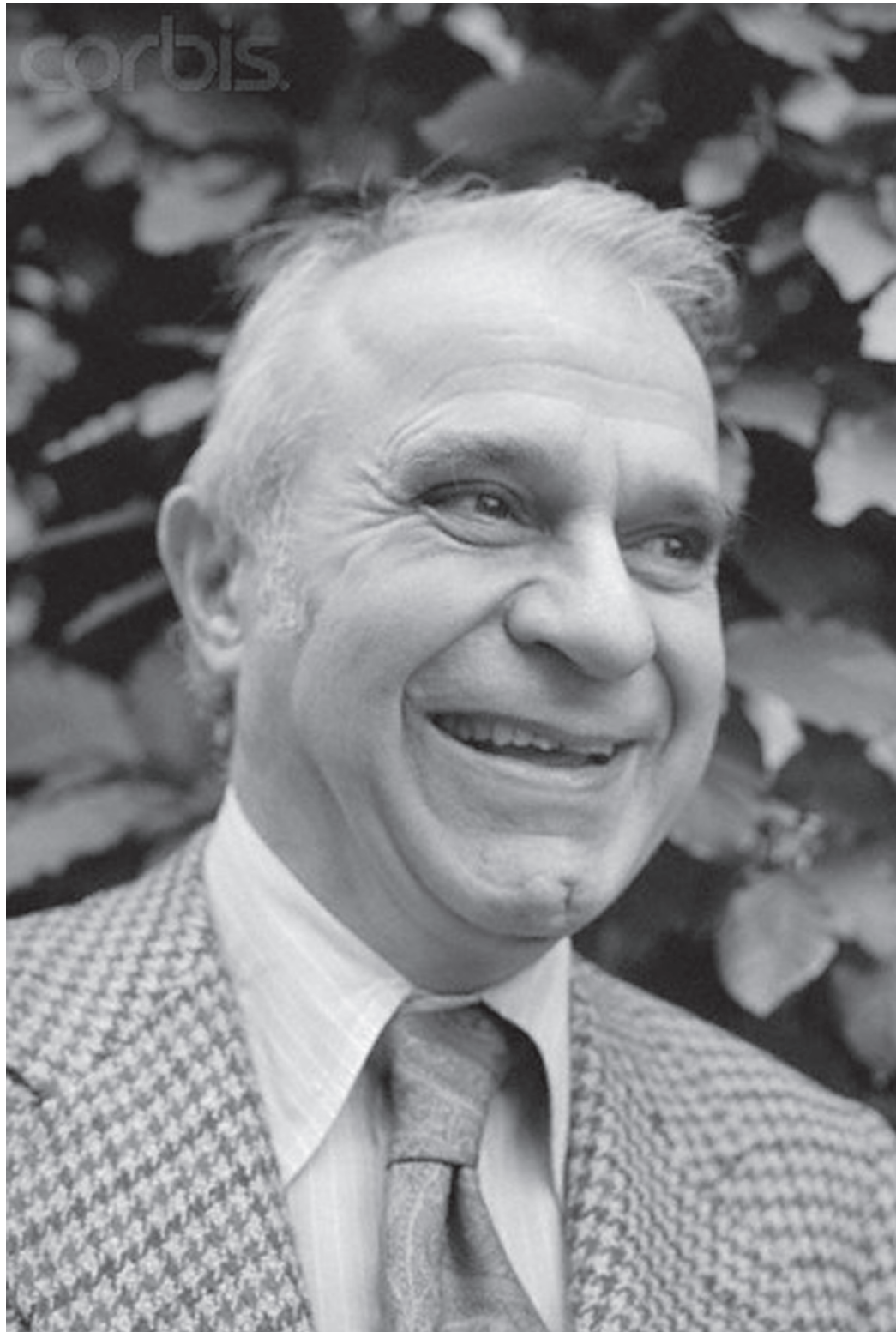


Wassily Leontief

Economist, Nobel Laureate (1905 – 1999)



Leontief was born in St. Petersburg and, in 1921, at age 15 he entered the University of Leningrad, earning his economics degree three years later. “The municipal was happy to encourage his emigration; he had proved an incorrigible, even after periods of solitary confinement, a recidivist advocate of freedom of expression.” (GERARD PIEL). By 1929, Wassily had received his Ph.D. at the University of Berlin and began working for the Kuomintang government in China on the task of laying out the first railroad lines that today knit that country together. In 1931, he moved to New York City and joined the staff of the National Bureau of Economic Research, organized by WESLEY MITCHELL, a professor at Columbia University.

In 1932, he was summoned to Harvard by Joseph Schumpeter and began working on the economic tables, some with nearly 100 sectors, which would earn him his fame. These tables proved invaluable in the industrial effort of World War II, predicting, for instance, that the country needed another ten-million ton annual expansion of its steel industry. By 1970, nearly 100 countries were keeping track of the interindustry flow of goods using Leontief’s tables. He was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, the Légion d’Honneur and, in 1973, the fifth Nobel Prize in Economic Science.

Beginning in 1965, he chaired the Harvard Society of Fellows and in 1967 his book *Essays in Economics* was a National Book Award finalist. In 1975, Leontief joined N.Y.U. as a founder and Director of the Institute for Economic Analysis.

After moving to New York, he and his wife relocated their summer residence to Lakeville, Connecticut, where he indulged his love of fly fishing.

He died in New York City in 1999 at the age of 93. He was survived by Estelle Marks, his wife of 66 years, and his daughter Svetlana, a professor of art history at UC-Berkeley. Leontief was a member of the Century for two decades, having been proposed by ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER, JR. and JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH.