Finn E. Bronner died in his home on January 31, 2003. He is survived by his wife, five children, and three grandchildren. At the time of his death, Finn was a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and a Fellow of the Geological Society of America.

Born in Trondheim, Norway, Finn came to the United States as an age five with his parents. They settled in Pennsylvania, but made enough extended visits back to Norway throughout his childhood to leave him completely bilingual and familiar with and fond of both countries.

He received a Bachelor of Science in geology from New York University in 1933 with minors in French and literature, a membership in Phi Beta Kappa, and a commission in the U.S. Army Reserves. He followed this with a Master’s degree one year later. After spending a year at Norway’s Technical Institute, he embarked upon a doctorate at Columbia University with the expectation of becoming a petroleum geologist.

In 1938, Finn became a geology instructor at Rutgers University. He taught for two years until he was hired by the Corps of Engineers in late 1939 to work out of Los Angeles as an engineering geologist concerned with flood control, groundwater, beach erosion, foundation conditions, and construction materials.

In the summer of 1938, Finn served as geologist and assistant hydrographer on an expedition to survey the coast of northeast Greenland, lead by Arctic explorer Louise A. Boyd.

At the outbreak of World War II, Finn was called to active duty as a second lieutenant with the Army Corps of Engineers. In London, he produced terrain intelligence on Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia for use in the planning of the Allied invasion of North Africa. After the invasion, Finn was transferred to the Allied Force Headquarters in Algiers (and later Caserta, Italy) and produced terrain intelligence in support of the campaign in Tunisia, for the invasions of Sicily, Italy, and France, and for numerous other potential operations, as well as in support of campaigns of the U.S. Fifth Army and British Eighth Army in Italy. In December 1944 he was transferred back to the United States where he acted as liaison between the Pacific Military Intelligence Research Section and all engineer intelligence sciences to determine priority requirements for engineer and terrain intelligence. After the end of the war, Finn was assigned to the Headquarters of the U.S. Forces European Theater in Frankfurt, where he organized and directed a comprehensive geographic and geologic survey of Western Germany.

In the spring of 1947, Finn married Helen Louise Zamora just before they returned to the United States for his discharge.

Later that same year, Finn was recalled to active duty on the Army General Staff as a special analyst in geographical intelligence work.

He was released from active duty in 1949 as a lieutenant colonel, rejoined the Corps of Engineers in Los Angeles as a civilian for a year, and then transferred to the Office of the Chief
of Engineers as a military intelligence research officer, where he was responsible for technical coordination of strategic geographical and geological intelligence activities of several Department of Defense agencies. In order to maneuver his career back toward geology, Finn joined the U.S. Geological Survey in 1956 as military geologist, contributing analyses of geological conditions for strategic use.

Eighteen months later, Finn was recruited by General Electric. He worked on such wide ranging projects as the geopolitical significance of potential Soviet ICBM launch sites, planetary geography and geology, Atlantic Ocean environment in future warfare, development of polar regions, and site selection for Tekrite, the habitat designed to allow scientists to live underwater for extended periods. He participated in two major expeditions during this period: in 1959, he was guest geologist on the Mohole expedition, looking for suitable sites for drilling into Earth’s mantle; in 1963 he participated in the Swansong Expedition to chart the character and course of the Pacific equatorial undercurrent (Cromwell current).

In 1971, Finn left General Electric to serve as Chief of the Terrestrial Sciences Branch in the Environmental Sciences Division of the Army Research Office, where he administered basic research grants in terrestrial sciences. He held this position until his retirement in 1976.

Through much of his career, Finn lectured extensively. He was a lecturer on military geology at the General Staff Intelligence School from 1947 to 1949 and at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point from 1952 through 1957. He also gave innumerable professional, semi-professional, and popular lectures to societies, service clubs, schools, and other groups on the geology of the Southwest, oceanography, lunar geology, engineering geology, medieval fortified churches of northern Europe, the Battle of Brandywine, the history of military mining, and other subjects.

Geology was not just Finn’s profession, it was a passion. Wherever he went, geology piqued his interest, whether it be a wilderness landscape, a rural roadcut, the stone facade of a downtown building, or the marble countertop in a suburban shop. Any specimens brought to him by colleagues or family that he couldn’t recognize sent him gleefully off to unravel the mystery of its origin and geological context. A typical Bronner family vacation included spontaneous stops on the side of the road in the middle of nowhere so he could capture pictures of geological features. His children grew up to view roadcuts more as scenic highlights than simply the side-effects of road construction. Even twenty-seven years after he retired, the daily mail would barely be opened before he would begin perusing a newly arrived geological journal. His father, a professor of dentistry, once commented to him how lucky he was to have the whole world as his laboratory, and Finn never lost appreciation for that fact.

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FINN E. BRONNER**

