
NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

MAX HAYWARD, 1924–1979

Max Hayward was born in London on July 28, 1924. His father, a sheet-metal worker from Yorkshire, had come to London to find work. Max Hayward began his education in a grammar school in North Finchley and was transferred to Dunstable Grammar School in the suburb of Luton when his father was employed by the Vauxhall Motor Company. The son's secondary education was completed in Liverpool where the family moved when he was fifteen.

While browsing in a secondhand book store as a teen-ager, Max found a large volume on the gypsies written in Russian. Having bought the book, he undertook to teach himself Russian in order to read it. He indeed succeeded.

He was awarded a scholarship at Oxford during World War II where he studied Russian and German. He graduated from Magdalen College and thereafter spent the year of 1946 at Prague's Charles University. In no time at all, he learned to speak fluent and idiomatic Czech.

The term "linguist" seems stilted in describing one of Max Hayward's extraordinary gifts, his ability—almost uncanny—to learn a language rapidly, fully, in perfect pitch, embracing its heartbeat. As another example, some ten years ago it took him only four days to make himself understood in Portuguese. But what we call modern languages were not his only forte. He was always fascinated with classical Greek, and just before his death he was working on an essay concerning problems of translating Homer.

From 1947 to 1949, when he was in his twenties, Max Hayward lived in Moscow, serving as third secretary in the British embassy. Since he seems to have always been an inner-directed, extremely private person, confessional and effusive stylization either amused or irritated him in others, but was alien to his own nature. One can, therefore, only surmise that these early Stalinist postwar years became a formative, if difficult, experience for this compassionate and penetratingly observant man. Having grasped the agony of the Russian intelligentsia, he made it his own concern. In the words of his great friend and collaborator Patricia Blake, "Max acted as the custodian of Russian literature in the West until such time as it could be restored to Russia." He learned to know things Russian and to understand them deeply—a *non sequitur*, alas, to some cognoscenti. The symbiosis with the language and art of his chosen people was prodigious. Yet, it was also a burden. There were difficult, troubled periods in Max Hayward's life.

From 1952 until 1955, Max Hayward was head of the Russian department at Leeds University. He returned to Oxford University in 1955 as a fellow of St. Antony's College, the early outpost of Soviet research in Great Britain, an affiliation he maintained until his death.

His association with American centers of Soviet research was of long duration. He came to the United States in 1959 as a fellow of the Russian Research Center at Harvard University. In the 1960s and 1970s, he was also affiliated with the Russian Institute at Columbia University. In addition, he worked closely and productively for a long time with the Chekhov Press, which is headed by one of his closest friends, Edward Kline of New York. This publishing effort turned out to be a very effective "*tamizdat*" achievement.

Some ten years ago Max purchased a piece of land on the small and beautiful island of Spetsai in the Aegean Sea and built himself a house. He managed to spend

quite some time there, and he loved it. I understand that he left his sunlit home to St. Antony's, thereby building a bridge between the two harbors in his life.

An indefatigable wanderer about this earth and a relentless worker, Max Hayward took time to be generous to his friends—encouraging their work, helping it along, fretting over it. There was for them a great deal to learn that was new and fascinating when visiting his unprepossessing quarters, cluttered with books, at St. Antony's. And what a gifted raconteur he was! His wit, humor, and humanity transformed details of life styles and character traits that he had so astutely observed into a spirited chronicle of the Soviet era. He gave much and wanted little for himself.

Fairness and commitment to freedom, decency and scrupulous honesty were Max's qualities.

His legacy consists of translations of books such as Pasternak's *Dr. Zhivago*, Solzhenitsyn's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, and the monumental Nadezhda Mandelstam volumes. He also translated many other important works, too numerous to mention. His legacy consists further of gallant and elegant essays, of introductions to literary studies, anthologies, and translations of new literary works, and of scholarly editorial work. He leaves behind no tomes of his own. He preferred midwifery to any gesture of self-aggrandizement. He was thereby somehow very English. Yet it is such a great pity that Max Hayward did not write a book on Pasternak. Perhaps, his clairvoyant eyes and his vigilant curiosity and also, perhaps, the perfect blend in him of pride and modesty prevented Max from becoming a conventional academic achiever. Nor did he ever manage to protect himself sufficiently from taxing demands placed on him by those who needed his expertise. Max Hayward was above all selfless. And so he served Russian literature as teacher, editor, reader of countless manuscripts, adviser to publishing houses, researcher. I do not know how we will go on without him.

Max Hayward died of cancer on March 18, 1979, in Oxford, England. He is survived by his parents and a younger brother. He had no family of his own, but he had many friends. I grieve for Patricia Blake, George Katkov, Edward Kline, Harry Shukman, and for all the others who loved him. Their loss is hard to bear. There never was anyone like Max Hayward.

VERA S. DUNHAM
Queens College, CUNY

C. BICKFORD O'BRIEN, 1909–1979

The small group of historians of Muscovite Russia suffered a great loss when Bickford O'Brien died on January 13, 1979. We will miss him not only as a diligent fellow scholar but also as a devoted teacher and adviser as well as a man of integrity and compassion.

Bickford O'Brien studied under Robert Kerner at the University of California, Berkeley, specializing in the history of Russia in the seventeenth century. Immediately after finishing his doctorate in 1942, he served for four years in the United States Air Force. In 1947, he began his teaching career at the University of California, Davis, where he served until his retirement twenty-seven years later. During his years at Davis, the campus changed from a branch of the Berkeley College of Agriculture into a large university and the Department of History grew accordingly. O'Brien played a major role in these developments, teaching a wide variety of courses and serving in many capacities, including seven years as chairman of the department.

All the while he continued his research on Muscovite Russia. In 1952, he published his first book, *Russia Under Two Tsars: The Regency of Sophia Alexeevna*, which is still the standard monographic study of that short but tumultuous period.

He next turned his attention to a particularly complex and demanding subject, the history and diplomatic fate of the Ukraine in the mid-seventeenth century. The result, *Muscovy and the Ukraine, 1654–1667*, was published in 1963. The book is admirable for the thoroughness of the author's research in several languages, his freedom from teleological approaches and nationalistic passion, and the clarity with which he unravels the tangled events with which he deals.

In 1961–62, he began extensive archival research on his last project, a study of the career of the great seventeenth-century diplomat and chancellor, A. L. Ordin-Nashchokin. Although he did not live to finish a full biography as he had intended, he published several articles on Nashchokin's ideas, his activities as a diplomat, and the diplomatic background against which he worked. These articles, which make extensive use of documents from Soviet archives, display the best qualities of O'Brien's work—clarity, thoroughness, and common sense.

In recent years, he devoted a great deal of time and energy to the campaign to restore Fort Ross, the former Russian settlement on the northern coast of California. He worked with the Fort Ross Interpretative Association and was general editor of *Fort Ross: Indians, Russians, Americans*, published in 1978.

I respected him as a scholar, but I will remember him most of all as a man. He was a gracious and helpful colleague, a conscientious and supportive teacher, and a concerned and devoted member of his profession. His integrity was indisputable, his concern for others legendary. He was, in short, one of a rare and disappearing species—a true gentleman. He will be sorely missed.

ROBERT O. CRUMMEY
University of California, Davis