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## NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

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GEORGE ALEXANDER LENSEN, 1923–1979

During the thirty years of his professional life, George Lensen became one of the best-known teachers and writers of the period of rapid and effective expansion of Russian and Far Eastern studies in the United States. He was born in Berlin of Russian émigré parents on November 5, 1923 and came to the United States where he became a citizen in 1939. During the next decade he served in the United States Army Intelligence, learning Japanese as a part of his preparation, and completed his studies at Columbia University where he received his Ph.D. in history in 1951. His thirty-year career at Florida State University began in 1949 and he continued to teach Far Eastern history there until his tragic death on January 5, 1979 in an automobile accident which occurred only a few days after his father's death.

Professor Lensen centered his research interests and activities on Russo-Japanese relations, a subject for which he was uniquely suited because of his knowledge of Russian and Japanese, as well as other languages. I remember when, long before actually meeting Lensen, I unexpectedly came on the trail of this busy scholar, who had been a Fulbright research scholar at Hokkaido University in 1953–54. Finding in a bookstore in Hakodate in 1954 a copy of Lensen's recently published *Report from Hokkaido: The Remains of Russian Culture in Northern Japan* (Hakodate, 1954) made it possible to follow his lead to the library and the interesting Russian collection which he had used there and to the local Russian Orthodox church. The research carried on at that time contributed to Lensen's *The Russian Push Toward Japan, 1697–1875* (Princeton, 1959), a pioneering study which was followed by a variety of other works dealing with the succeeding period of Russo-Japanese relations, including *The Russo-Chinese War* (1967), *Japanese Recognition of the U.S.S.R.* (1970), *The Strange Neutrality: Soviet-Japanese Relations during the Second World War, 1941–1945* (1971), and *The Damned Inheritance: The Soviet Union and the Manchurian Crisis, 1924–1935* (1974).

Many of Lensen's publications were issued by himself under the imprimatur of "The Diplomatic Press," and some of these in cooperation with Sophia University of Tokyo, Japan. This enabled him to publish books which other presses might have found difficult to consider. These included diaries such as those of Sir Ernest Satow (1966) and Baron Albert d'Anethan (1967) and books by others, such as J. N. Westwood, *Witnesses of Tsushima* (1970), dealing with the voyage of the Russian Baltic fleet in 1904–5, and Leonid Nikolaevich Kutakov, *Japanese Foreign Policy on the Eve of the Pacific War* (1972). These publications also included two valuable reference books dealing with Russian and Soviet diplomatic and consular officials in the Far East and with Japanese diplomatic and consular officials. Finally, he followed the tradition he had started with *Report from Hokkaido* with two photographic collections of the Russian and Japanese scenes.

At the time of his death, Lensen was engaged in his greatest single enterprise, entitled *Balance of Intrigue: International Rivalry in Korea and Manchuria, 1884–1899*, which had been readily accepted for publication by the University Presses of Florida. This sizable manuscript continued everything which had heretofore characterized Lensen's work: a devotion to basic research in areas which needed closer examination, extensive use of source materials (in this case, including some recently received, after a long patient effort, from Soviet Russia), and the frequent and sometimes extensive quotation of sources in the text of the narrative. The book was intended to span a brief but somewhat neglected period in the study of Russo-Japanese relations.

This final great undertaking, like the many which had gone before, was a tribute to Lensen's long and consistent devotion to learning in the fundamental and profound sense. It reflected his indomitable spirit, restless curiosity, intellectual acumen, and his driving desire to understand the world around him and to communicate his findings and interpretations to students and readers. His memory as a warm, friendly, and generous person will be perpetuated and recalled by those students, colleagues, and friends who knew him best.

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WITOLD S. SWORAKOWSKI, 1903–1979

Born on January 16, 1903, to Polish parents in Suceava, Rumania, Witold S. Sworakowski completed his elementary education and part of his secondary education in that country. After graduation from a gymnasium in Vienna, he studied engineering in Lwów and subsequently jurisprudence in Cernauți. He received his advanced degree in diplomatic history and international law from the Academy of Political Science in Warsaw in 1933. A promising career in Poland's foreign service ended after World War II, when he resigned in protest against the Soviet-directed communization of his country.

Mr. Sworakowski came to the Hoover Institution in 1947 as a Slavic research fellow under a Rockefeller Foundation grant. Five years later, he was appointed an assistant professor and subsequently advanced to a full professorship at Stanford University. His positions in the Hoover Institution included posts as curator for the Polish, West European, and East European collections, assistant director, and finally associate director in charge of library operations. During this last assignment, he doubled the number of bound volumes, which currently have passed the one and a half million mark, and brought in literally hundreds of archival units to augment the collections of primary source materials, which now number more than four thousand.

Apart from his administrative work at the Hoover Institution, Professor Sworakowski taught at Stanford University and also spent a considerable amount of time on research. Author and editor of five books and more than twenty-five scholarly articles, he continued writing until shortly before his death on January 15, 1979.

Witold Sworakowski was a unique individual whose enthusiasm for work affected everyone around him. An intellectual in the European sense of the word, Professor Sworakowski was a man of high principle and great moral courage. Loyalty and devotion to his adopted country, of which he became a citizen in 1953, as well as to the Hoover Institution were absolutes. A skilled diplomat, he knew how to bring divergent views together and how to reconcile opposites. It was a joy to work with this man, whose feeling for history inspired colleagues and students alike. He had an uncanny talent for "outguessing the future," for uncovering primary source materials which he then managed to acquire with tact and dispatch. In these efforts he ranks with such illustrious predecessors as Professors E. D. Adams, Frank Golder, and Ralph H. Lutz, who also served both the Hoover Institution and Stanford University. Ten years ago, the Hoover Institution established the Witold Sworakowski Collection on Poland to honor him and to perpetuate his name.

Aside from teaching, administrative work, collecting books and archives, research, and scholarly writing, Professor Sworakowski also helped numerous refugees from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union to settle in the United States. A member of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, he served as president of the Captive Nations Committee for Northern California and, only a few days before his death, received honorary membership in the Polish-American National Congress.