

## IN MEMORIAM

### *John N. Hazard (1909–1995)*

With the death of Professor John N. Hazard on 7 April 1995, the profession lost one of its founding giants, and *Nationalities Papers*, along with the Association for the Study of Nationalities, is deprived of a staunch supporter.

During the years when a focus on the nationalities question was viewed as peripheral, indeed, marginal, John Hazard lent more than moral support to the journal and its intellectual perspective. Despite his focus on the Soviet constitution and on Soviet law Professor Hazard was more than aware of the multi-national complexity of Soviet society. His last book, *The Soviet Legal System: the law in the 1980s* (1984), clearly anticipated the internal stresses and strains the USSR was to undergo in the following years.

Since 1988, John Hazard, though already retired, lent his active support and considerable prestige to the journal's collaboration with the Harriman Institute of Columbia University. He participated enthusiastically and substantively in the annual spring conferences assessing the status of the relationship between Gorbachev's central government and the non-Russian republics. Without fail he applied his keen insight to the understanding of the unraveling of the Soviet Union; above all, he showed how the constitution proved less and less effective in accommodating the interests of Russians and non-Russians.

Hazard led a rich and varied life. After graduating from Harvard Law School, he was the first American to study law in the Soviet Union in the mid-1930s. During the Second World War he worked for the US government on the Lend-Lease program, rising to become its deputy director. After the war, Hazard assisted Justice Robert Jackson, the chief US prosecutor at the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, before joining Columbia University in 1946, where he remained until his retirement.

In those early years, Hazard was instrumental in founding both the Columbia University Russian Institute and the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. His legacy also lives on through the work of numerous colleagues he inspired and generations of students he mentored.

Henry R. Huttenbach

### *Ernest Gellner (1926–1995)*

I first encountered Ernest Gellner several years ago when I approached him to write for some project of mine. I well remember his letter back to me, writing that I need

not worry about the deadline because, as he put it, “I work fast”. That he did. All his life. Over twenty books, on a range of topics broader than many read, let alone write—from philosophy to democracy; from peasant movements to, of course, nationalism. Many, perhaps most, stood as volumes that have become standards by which the fields were judged: *Words and Things*, *Thought and Change*; *Plough, Sword, and Book*; and, of course, *Nations and Nationalism*.

Ernest Gellner was that rare breed of intellectual—understated, fiercely contentious, inspirational. An anthropologist by training, Gellner was never confined by academic dialogue. It was not simply that his interests spanned many different disciplines; in many ways he *transcended* discipline, exploring the issues that he felt needed examining. For our own field, Gellner did nothing less than define nationalism, opening his *Nations and Nationalism* by calling it “a political principle, which holds that the political and the national unit should be congruent.” And it has been this definition above all which has moved the field forward for the past decade.

The scholar so many of us knew as The-Man-on-Nationalism also had a profoundly human side, remarkable to all fortunate enough to count him as a friend. He was a quintessential gentleman, a charming and never far from amusing fellow, and a terribly gracious host. Ernest Gellner was certainly no stranger to the international glitterati (Oxford one day, New York the next, then Budapest, and who knows where on Thursday); yet he always somehow stood apart. For no matter where he was and who he was speaking with, he never had aspirations to be anything but Ernest.

Gellner the professor inspired genuine fondness in his students. A man who could have hung his scarf in almost any salon in the world, he chose to live in a modest apartment on the seventh floor of Prokopova, Central European University’s graduate student dormitory. There he met with students from all walks of life from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, never hesitating to take the time to learn about them and learn from them. He spoke with the greatest respect of his students, with a deep sensitivity for both their scholarship and—as often—their desires to achieve something for themselves and their nations.

Ernest Gellner never stopped enjoying life to the fullest and passed away in the city he loved most. Walking Prague with Ernest as my guide, taking in a play in his theater box, sipping steaming tea topped with rum and lemon, those are my personal memories of the truly great Professor Gellner. And as I grabbed a taxi to head home for the night, he would turn his back and shuffle away on the cobblestones, deep in thought. Ernest, we will all miss you.

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