

Energy Commission: Richard D. Hughes of Sacramento State College appointed foreign affairs officer.

NOTES

Contributions both to this section and to the *Newsletter* are welcome at any time. The deadlines for inclusion in this section are November 15 for the March issue, February 15 for the June issue, May 15 for the September issue, and August 15 for the December issue. The deadlines for the *Newsletter* are March 15 for the spring issue and October 15 for the fall issue. Send all items to Frank Y. Gladney in care of the AAASS in Urbana.

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ALEXANDER G. KOROL, 1900–1967

Alexander G. Korol, Research Associate of the Center for International Studies, M.I.T., died of cancer on October 12, 1967.

Alex Korol led an exceptional life. The son of a tsarist exile in Siberia, he was born and received his early education in Irkutsk. During the Civil War he emerged the sole survivor from an encounter with an impromptu Bolshevik firing squad and in 1920, along with fellow cadets at the Naval Academy in Vladivostok, commandeered a ship and escaped to Japan. For the next three years he lived the life of a merchant seaman, with a brief interlude as a student at the Ecole National des Langues Orientales Vivantes in Paris. He emigrated to Seattle in 1923, where he attended the University of Washington for a year before joining an engineering firm as draftsman and, eventually, chief engineer. In 1936 he accepted a position with Hawaiian Tuna Packers, Ltd., in Honolulu, and became manager and vice president of the firm.

After the war, at the age of forty-eight, Korol decided to leave the business world and resume the education interrupted so many years before. He spent a semester at George Washington University, then transferred to Columbia, where he received the B.S. degree in economics in 1950 and the M.A. in 1952, along with the Certificate of the Russian Institute. Following a brief period with the New York office of the Harvard Russian Research Center's Project on the Soviet Social System, he joined the newly organized Center for International Studies at M.I.T. as one of its first staff members. He first collaborated in the study of the Soviet political system which resulted principally in W. W. Rostow's book *The Dynamics of Soviet Society*, then completed his own monograph, never published, on the forced labor camp system in the USSR.

By 1953 Korol had found the field to which he would remain committed for the rest of his life—the study of education and of scientific research and development in the Soviet Union. His first book, *Soviet Education for Science and Technology*, published in 1957, analyzed organization and curricula at all levels of Soviet education, providing a particularly thorough and detailed examination of the higher educational system. Although it stressed those aspects of education most directly related to the selection and training of engineers and scientists, the book succeeded in giving

a carefully documented and reliable picture of the objectives, strengths, and weaknesses of the Soviet educational system as a whole.

Korol turned his attention next to the Soviet research and development establishment, devoting several years to a painstaking analysis of the numbers and types of people engaged in scientific research and development, the institutional setting in which they worked, and, so far as the sparse data allowed, the funds expended on their activities. The study was published in 1965 as *Soviet Research and Development: Its Organization, Personnel, and Funds*. After his retirement from M.I.T. Korol returned to Russia for the first and only time, as head of an Office of Education delegation studying Soviet secondary and higher scientific and technical education. At the time of his death he was well along on a manuscript which would have served both as an extended report on the findings of this trip and as the basis for a new edition of his first book.

Through his writing one can perceive large parts of what made up the man—the vast patience and stubborn insistence on accuracy of detail, the modest confidence of his balanced judgments, the special faith in the ultimate superiority of democratic society, whatever its weaknesses, enjoyed by one whose life history would not allow him to take democracy for granted. But Alex Korol was not one who deserves to be remembered mainly by what he wrote, distinguished though it was. To all who knew him, it was the man himself that mattered, and the style of life he created. What gave him his strength and his appeal as a human being, perhaps, was a set of qualities rarely found in combination. Everything he undertook would be done with skill and style, or it would not be done at all: there was an instinct for perfection behind every venture, in his garden, his workshop, and his kitchen as much as at his desk. But along with this there went an astonishing warmth, an openness and generosity of spirit toward new acquaintances and old friends alike. Rigorous with ideas, with the physical world, and with himself, he was uncommonly gentle with others. For all these qualities, he was a man much admired and loved.

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