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## NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

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### MARY-BARBARA KAUFFMAN ZELDIN, 1922–1981

Although she was born in New York City, on April 23, 1922, Mary-Barbara (“Bobbie”) Zeldin spent more than ten of her earliest years—between 1926 and 1936—in Geneva. In later years she often traveled, lived, and lectured abroad—in Canada, Western Europe, Greece, Turkey, India, and the Far East. She received her A.B. (1943) from Bryn Mawr, *magna cum laude* with honors in Latin, and her M.A. (1945) and Ph.D. (1950) in philosophy from Radcliffe.

After a period of employment with the United Nations in New York (1947–50) and the U.S. Department of Defense in Austria (1951–52), she joined the faculty of Hollins College (Va.) in 1953, where, in 1970, she was named professor of philosophy and religion. She was always a good citizen of the academy both on her home campus and in the wider world of philosophy, intellectual history, and Slavic studies. She chaired the Hollins Department of Philosophy and Religion and its Russian Studies Program for several years each. She was a two-term member of the executive committee of the Washington (D.C.) Philosophy Club and chaired the nominating committee of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies in 1975–76. She served as president of the Southern Slavic Conference (1968–69) and was a member of the program committees for the AAASS national conventions in Dallas (1972) and Atlanta (1975).

Barbara Zeldin made her special mark as an interpreter of Kant and of Chaadaev, Vladimir Solov’ev, and Berdiaev. She presented numerous papers to regional, national, and international conventions of both philosophers and Slavists, including two World Congresses of Philosophy (Vienna, 1968 and Düsseldorf, 1978) and three International Kant Congresses (in 1970, 1974, and 1981), as well as the national convention of the AAASS in St. Louis (1976).

She published substantial articles and reviews in this journal and in other journals in the field of Slavic studies, such as the *Russian Review* and *Studies in Soviet Thought*. She was a contributor to the *Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (1967) and to the *Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Review*, and *Kant-Studien*. No doubt she is best known to readers of the *Slavic Review* for her exemplary translation, with an informative introduction and helpful notes, of Chaadaev’s *Philosophical Letters and Apology of a Madman* (1969), and for *Russian Philosophy* (1965, reprinted in 1976), the three-volume sourcebook which she coedited with James M. Edie and James P. Scanlan and for which she translated selections from Chaadaev, Bakunin, Plekhanov, and (with Vladimir Pastuhov) Khomiakov and A. G. Spirkin. Barbara Zeldin was also the author of a distinguished Kant study, *Freedom and the Critical Understanding: Essays on Kant’s Later Critiques* (1980), and coauthor (with Constantine Cavarnos) of a monograph, *Saint Seraphim of Sarov* (1980).

Bobbie Zeldin died in Paris of recurring cancer on April 21, 1981. She leaves her husband Jesse, professor of English at Hollins College and himself a noted Slavist, her daughter Xenia, a graduate student in philosophy at the University of Texas, and her brother Andrew J. Kauffman II, a retired Foreign Service officer.

Mary-Barbara Zeldin’s energy and enthusiasm as a teacher and scholar, her loyalty and generosity as a friend and colleague, and her gallantry in the face of her final illness will not be forgotten. Through her students, and through her writings, she has left an indelible mark on scholarship in the history of philosophic thought, both Russian and Western.

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