

In Memoriam

Barbara Jelavich, 1923–1995

For an entire generation, her name has been synonymous with the Habsburg Empire and Balkan Studies. Since joining the History Department at Indiana University in 1962, Barbara Jelavich enriched and stimulated the profession's awareness of this complex multinational region by no means over-studied in American academe. Her brilliant survey, *The Habsburg Empire in European Affairs, 1814–1918* (1969) remains a classic, the fruit, in part, of intense study of nineteenth-century Russian diplomacy. Her elegant two volume *History of the Balkans* is still a must for any seminar reading list. She has since culminated her scholarly career with *Russia's Balkan Entanglements* (1991), a masterful *tour de force* and demonstration of control over enormous detail and sources. (Her primary concern was accuracy of fact and devotion to sources she painstakingly gleaned from archives, year after year.)

We first met briefly in 1964, and her intense work habits proved contagious, to which all of us who came in contact with her, whether privately or professionally, can testify. Over the years, informal conversations inevitably led to asking her why not devote an article to multinationalism *per se*, given her unequalled qualifications? The answer, accompanied by a mischievous glint of the eye, always suggested a non-committal "someday, perhaps." But that day never came, and *Nationalities Papers* remains the poorer.

Barbara Jelavich's real passion was diplomacy, the management of a multinational empire's external affairs in a time of rising ethno-national separatism. Nevertheless, as one scours her dozen books, it is crystal clear that no student of Mitteleuropa and the Balkans interested in the region's multiplicity of languages, cultures and religions can afford not to read them without serious risk of poor preparation.

Judging from the wealth of footnotes in articles published by *Nationalities Papers* crediting Barbara Jelavich's influence, there can be little doubt of her constant influence in the last quarter century and equally of her enduring impact on future contributors to the journal.

Barbara Jelavich received well-earned honors, from grants to honorary memberships and citations for scholarly achievements. Above all, though, I suspect she valued most the treasury of people she encountered during a very busy life: her husband, her children, her friends and a myriad of admiring students and colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic. If anyone earned the right to be an expert commentator on and analyst of today's post-Communist Mitteleuropa and Balkania, it would have had to be Barbara Jelavich. We have lost a much-admired scholar.

Henry R. Huttenbach