
NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

CHARLES A. DUVAL, 1940–1981

Charles Duval died in a car accident on May 9, 1981, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Born in Littlefield, Texas, Charles attended the University of Texas, Austin, where he received his baccalaureate, master's degree, and, in 1971, doctorate of philosophy, specializing in twentieth-century Russian and Soviet history under Oliver Radkey. In 1970, he joined the history faculty at New Mexico State University and since 1975 had held the rank of associate professor.

Charles concentrated on the history of the revolutionary and early Soviet period. Although his list of publications is modest, Charles established a reputation as a promising young scholar in the field of Soviet history. His colleagues in the field were well aware of his work and waited eagerly for the completion of his long-standing project, a monograph on Sverdlov and the early history of the secretariat. Charles completed that project in 1980 and submitted to the Oxford University Press his manuscript entitled "Toward a One-Party State: The Fifth Soviet Congress and the Left SR Rebellion Against the Bolsheviks." Its eventual publication will undoubtedly confirm that Charles was on the verge of gaining national recognition in the field and that the profession has suffered a loss in his untimely death.

Above all, colleagues will remember Charles for his combination, perhaps too rare in the profession, of a quick mind, personal modesty, and charm. Always intellectually exciting, socially gregarious, and personally affable, Charles was the favorite at every gathering of Slavacists in the western states during the 1970s. At New Mexico State University, Charles enjoyed a reputation as an innovative, popular, yet demanding teacher. Apparently, his reputation for charm, teaching and scholarship had spread far. He was scheduled to be a visiting professor at the University of Keele in Great Britain during 1981–82.

For Charles, the singular experience of his career was his participation on the senior program of the International Research and Exchanges Board during 1979–80. After dividing his eleven months between Leningrad and Moscow, he returned with a renewed sense of intellectual excitement which only enhanced his already considerable popularity at New Mexico State University. Evtushenko's "The City of Yes and the City of No" was the poem Charles invariably recalled when he reflected on his year in the Soviet Union. Like the poet, Charles claimed he was a man of both the city of yes and the city of no. His friends were not convinced. For them, Charles was obviously from the city of yes, and they remember the warmth which came over his face when he recited,

And in no one is there even a trace of suspicion,
And lowing herds are offering their milk,
And daisies, teasing, are asking to be picked,
And wherever you want to be, you are instantly there,
Taking any train, or plane, or ship that you like.
And the water, faintly murmuring, whispers
"Yes — yes — yes. Yes — yes — yes. Yes — yes — yes."

NICHOLAS HAYES
University of Minnesota

ALEX SIMIRENKO, 1931–1979

Alex Simirenko was descended from a family of Cossack-Ukrainian nationalists who are credited with several major engineering, industrial, and commercial accomplishments in