

universities of Târgu Mureş and Alba Iulia. Numerous writing projects were also in the works, notably a new history of Romania.

It is hard to imagine being in Cluj and not meeting Pompiliu Teodor to exchange thoughts on everything imaginable, from the state of the profession and literature and philosophy to old and new politics and human foibles, and to try out good wine and Transylvanian cuisine. We had been doing it for forty years. He was interested in everything.

KEITH HITCHINS

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John Albert White, 1910–2001

Born in Providence, Rhode Island, on 14 August 1910, John Albert White died in League City, Texas, on 8 August 2001. White received his B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1933, where he studied with Andrei Lobanov-Rostovsky; his M.A. from Columbia University under Geroid Tanquary Robinson in 1938; and his Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1947 under Harold Fisher. White's publications include *The Siberian Intervention* (1950), *The Diplomacy of the Russo-Japanese War* (1964), and *Transition to Global Rivalry: Alliance Diplomacy and the Quadruple Entente, 1895–1907* (1995). While working at the Hoover Institution on his dissertation on the Siberian intervention, White obtained two research grants (1948 and 1949), and he was later awarded several Rockefeller Foundation research grants—to Japan in 1946–47 and again in 1954–55, and to England in 1963–64.

From 1947 to 1977 White was a professor of Russian history at the University of Hawai'i. He began his teaching career, however, with a focus on Asia that had been sparked by his having been sent to Colorado to study Japanese during World War II, and early in his career, he coauthored a book entitled *Asia* (1953) with the well-known historian Shunzo Sakamaki. During his time at the University of Hawai'i, White taught the general introduction to Russian history as well as specialized courses on Siberia and Central Asia, which he alternated every other year, and a course on Russian foreign policy. He served several times as chair of the department of history, actively participated in university committees, and lectured frequently in the community.

In 1960 White worked hard to persuade the newly created, federally funded East-West Center to include the Soviet Union within its ambit and was disappointed by his lack of success. Eventually, Russian scholars and students were able to receive scholarships and conference invitations, but only in the wake of glasnost and the collapse of the Soviet Union. But in 1986, almost a decade after White had retired, the University of Hawai'i established a Center for the Soviet Union in the Asia Pacific Region. It was a real pleasure for him to see his lifetime interests recognized in such a formal way.

Another of White's biggest concerns was building up the library's collection on Russian history and, in particular, on Siberia. Over the years White worked tirelessly to persuade the library administration of the importance of continuing to build this collection.

We greatly miss the kindness and thoughtfulness of this gentlemanly professor.

PATRICIA POLANSKY

ROBERT VALLIANT

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January 2002

George Barany, 1922–2001

At the recent annual meeting held in Crystal City, Virginia, I was deeply aware of the ghosts in the halls, for some of the great figures in our profession are leaving us at an alarming rate. In my own field, Hungarian studies, we mourned Peter F. Sugar not that long ago, and now we mourn George Barany. His gaunt, lanky figure was a presence at most annual

meetings, frequently as a participant in various panels and always as an engaged observer.

The public knew Barany as a professor of history with interests in a wide variety of fields and an encyclopedic knowledge about his own, but few knew how closely his early life was intertwined with the troubled history of his native country, Hungary. Born in Budapest in 1922, Barany grew up in Miskolc. His studies at a Teachers' College in Szeged were interrupted by the German occupation of Hungary in March 1944. Drafted as a Jew into a labor battalion, he was captured by the Russians and spent three years in a prisoner-of-war camp. Barany was one of three hundred Jewish prisoners who went on a hunger strike in Kimry in 1946 to protest the fact that recently arrived German technicians were receiving better treatment and to object to the continuing senseless incarceration of Jewish prisoners.

Following his release from the camp and return to Hungary, he first worked in the Hungarian foreign service and then for the Hungarian publisher, Korvina. After the defeat of the Hungarian revolution of 1956, Barany and his wife decided to leave Hungary for the United States. In their new home in Colorado, Barany was able to realize his childhood dream of becoming a historian. He received both his M.A. and his Ph.D. degrees at the University of Colorado under the guidance of S. Harrison Thomson. From 1960 until his retirement in 1992, Barany taught both undergraduate and graduate courses at the University of Denver on modern eastern Europe and on Russian and Soviet history. Beginning in 1986, he also taught the historical methodology course required of graduate students.

Barany's first book, *Stephen Szechenyi and the Awakening of Hungarian Nationalism, 1791–1841*, was published by Princeton University Press in 1968. Working currently in the same period, I can state with conviction that this book is a masterful portrait, not only of Stephen (Istvan) Szechenyi, Hungary's foremost reformer, but also of the entire era, which was marked by a struggle for national renewal and liberal reforms against heavy odds. Thorough research in several languages, insightful and objective analysis, concise prose, and good, logical organization contributed to making this book an outstanding one, a definitive work on this period.

Barany followed up this book with a large number of essays in edited volumes and articles in journals. All of them carry his trademark of meticulous scholarship on the highest level. To mention just one, "Ungarns Verwaltung," in *Die Habsburgermonarchie 1848–1918*, edited by Adam Wandruszka and Peter Urbanitsch (1973), could stand on its own as an invaluable source of much useful information and an independent scholarly monograph.

Although the bulk of his work was rooted in Hungarian studies, some of his chosen topics ranged far beyond this field. In 1986, he published *The Anglo-Russian Entente Cordiale of 1697–1698: Peter I and William III at Utrecht*. He also published essays and articles on nationalism in eastern Europe, on the immigrants' influence on Woodrow Wilson's peace policies, on the roots of Hungarian fascism, on Jews and non-Jews in eastern Europe, on Raoul Wallenberg, on Jewish prisoners of war in the Soviet Union, on truth in myths, on Voltaire and Peter the Great, and other such varied subjects in the *American Historical Review*, *Slavic Review*, *Austrian History Yearbook*, *East European Quarterly*, and *Journal of Central European Affairs*, among others.

Barany's fellowships and academic and civic honors included grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Philosophical Society, the Fulbright Program, the International Research and Exchanges Board, and the Collegium Budapest. He was president of the Conference on Central and East European History in 1978 and of the American Association for the Study of Hungarian History in 1975–1976. He served for four years as executive secretary of the American Committee to Promote Studies of the History of the Habsburg Monarchy, for six years on the editorial board of the *Austrian History Yearbook*, and since 1986, on the editorial board of *Revue Danubienne* (Strasbourg). A honorary faculty member of Phi Beta Kappa, Barany was also chosen as University Lecturer of the Year in 1976 and received the American-by-Choice Award for Outstanding Service from the Colorado Citizenship Committee, also in 1976.

Barany was a relentless fighter for justice and truth, as his tireless efforts to get to the bottom of Wallenberg's disappearance in the Soviet Union demonstrate. He also chal-

lenged the National Archives' decision to return documents from the tsarist period to the Soviet Union. He fought against entrenched bureaucracies, while, at the same time, helping students and colleagues. As his younger colleague, I could always count on his encouragement and support. George Barany was loyal to the utmost to his friends and devoted to his first wife, Susan, until her death in 1974, and then to his second wife, Ernestine. "I probably would not be alive today," wrote his brother Charles to me, "had it not been for his help and love. We miss him very much but are relieved that he is not suffering any more." We, friends and colleagues, miss him as well. May he rest in peace!

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Rutgers University, Newark
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