

Obituaries

MILAN E. HAPALA

(1919–1992)

Milan Hapala, Carter Glass Professor Emeritus of Government at Sweet Briar College, passed away June 20, 1992. Professor Hapala was a much-loved teacher and a respected colleague during his forty-three-year career at the college, from 1947 to 1990. He possessed a keen intellect as well as a subtle wit and warm spirit, which drew students to his classes and colleagues to seek his counsel.

A native of Hranice, Czechoslovakia, Professor Hapala came to the United States in 1938 and quickly proved himself a scholar, graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Beloit College in 1940, earning his M.A. from the University of Nebraska in 1941, and entering the doctoral program at Duke University. He suspended his studies during World War II to serve his adopted country for three years in the Army Air Corps. After the war, he resumed his doctoral studies, joined the faculty at Sweet Briar College in 1947, and received his Ph.D. from Duke in 1956.

Milan Hapala was everything a professor at a liberal arts college should be. He was an energetic and engaged teacher who was recommended by generations of Sweet Briar students as “someone you should take a course with before graduating.” In recognition of his skill and enthusiasm, Professor Hapala twice received teaching excellence awards, and in 1990 was given the singular honor of being the only faculty member ever to deliver the commencement address.

Though comparativists at small colleges are expected to “teach the entire world,” few could do so as competently and credibly. Moreover, his interests transcended narrow disciplinary boundaries. In his efforts to expand and strengthen the Sweet Briar curriculum, he sponsored a number of innovative programs, including the Asian Studies Program. Professor Hapala’s active membership in a number of professional organizations reflected his wide-ranging scholarly interests. In addition to being a member of the Association for Asian Studies since 1961, he was a fellow member of the Institute of Russian and East European Studies at the University of Illinois, as well as a member of the Association of Advanced Slavic Studies and the American Political Science Association. He also helped found the Southern Atlantic States African and Asian Studies Association.

Professor Hapala’s life away from his teaching and scholarship was equally rich. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather to his wife of 45 years and to their family. He was also a civic-minded member of the Amherst County community and remained a fierce competitor on the tennis court until the end of his life.

Milan Hapala will be long remembered by all who knew him. As a tribute to his memory, the Sweet Briar Poker Club continues to play a game he named “Prague,” in honor of the capital of his homeland. Prague is conventional seven-card stud, nothing wild, but with a twist. True to its originator’s spirit, the game allows for two winners, with the high and low hands splitting the pot. While bettering his

own chances of winning, Milan allowed others to win as well. When it came his turn to deal, he always dealt a hand of Prague. In cards, as in all things, Milan Hapala was scholar and a gentleman.

JEFFREY KEY
Sweet Briar College

DONALD STONE MACDONALD

(1919–1993)

Donald S. Macdonald died on August 29, 1993, in Washington, D.C., at the age of 74. He was a specialist in Korean affairs, especially in the area of Korean-American relations. Professor Macdonald at his death had a nearly fifty-year continuous involvement in Korea, dating from 1945 and the U.S. military occupation. For a period during the U.S. occupation, he served as the mayor of Kwangju.

Born in Boston in 1919, Donald Macdonald had two careers, both centering on Korea. He was first a career officer at the Department of State, and then undertook a rewarding academic career. Educated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (B.A.), Harvard University (M.A., Political Science), and George Washington University (Ph.D., Political Science), his career at the State Department centered both in and on Korea. In the State Department, he served as Director of the Korea Desk and in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research in Washington, as well as in Seoul. He received the Department's Superior Honor Award three times, and was given the John Jacobs Rogers Award for Distinguished Service. In addition to his stations in Korea, he served in the Foreign Service in Turkey and Switzerland.

Professor Macdonald taught at East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania from 1971 to 1980. In 1983, he founded the Korea program at Georgetown University, in which he still taught at his death. In addition to his formal academic contributions, Macdonald directed Korean area studies at the Foreign Service Institute of the State Department for a number of years. In the 1960s, he was a founder of the continuing Washington Korea Tuesday Luncheon Group, and was prominent in international conferences and symposia on Korea.

Macdonald was a past president of the MidAtlantic Region of the AAS, and later worked on its membership committee and in revising its by-laws. He was the founder and editor of the *MidAtlantic Bulletin of Korean Studies*. He constantly sought to expand knowledge of Korea and Asia within the academic community, into the school systems, and among the general public. He was the driving force for establishing the Wineck Prize for the best secondary school essay on Asian studies in the