
NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

CHARLES EUSTIS BOHLEN, 1904–1974

With a twinkle in his eye, his handsome craggy face crinkling with an appreciative savor of the anecdote, “Chip” Bohlen illumined the fraternity of Sovietology by his sparkling raconteur’s wit. After more than four decades of toiling in the sometimes dreary vineyards of Kremlin-watching, “Chip” never lost his zest for the mysteries, the ironies, the byplay of personalities which enlivened his accounts of the fateful events he witnessed and recorded. Leaning back in his chair—whether at the embassy in Moscow or in Washington—with his feet on the desk, puffing his pipe, Bohlen loved to trade theories, rumors, and stories; he was fascinated by the human side of his subject. As a diplomat, “Chip” had style—a certain elegance, a cool professionalism—and in equally fluent French or Russian he could make his point with precision and with grace.

We are fortunate that he was able before his death to complete his account of the historic events in which he participated, from the opening of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, through the wartime conferences and the uncertain thaw of the Khrushchev era. His book, *Witness to History, 1929–1969* (New York, 1973), is testimony of a mind equally free of illusions and dogma. His work will be a valuable resource for those who seek to untangle the web of relations between Washington and Moscow during those still little-understood years. It will be remembered that Bohlen bore with dignity the vicissitudes of the McCarthy madness, despite craven lack of support from leaders of our government. Indeed, his inner strength helped the nation to regain its sanity.

It was the nation’s good fortune that the brilliant trio of Bohlen, Llewellyn Thompson, and George Kennan emerged in the diplomatic service during the late twenties. Although they differed from one another in temperament, they shared a sense of high calling, and they demonstrated how vital it is to have diplomats so dedicated and so thoroughly prepared.

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JOHN LOTZ, 1913–1973

John Lotz, formerly of the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, D.C. (1967–73), and a member of the faculty of Columbia University from 1947 until 1967, died on August 25, 1973, in Chevy Chase, Maryland. His background, both personal and academic, was as varied as his activity as an educator. He also concealed a number of extraordinary traits beneath an unostentatious exterior. The fact that he was born in Milwaukee (on March 23, 1913) and lived there and in Detroit until he finished the first grade (in a German Lutheran school), but was taken to Hungary by his parents when he was about seven years old, somehow sets the scene for his entire life.