
NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

LEONARD J. KIRSCH, 1934–1977

Leonard J. Kirsch died unexpectedly of a heart attack on July 5, 1977. Only forty-two years old, he planned to celebrate his birthday the next day. Len was at the peak of his ability and had a very productive future ahead of him. Until his illness he had been working on a study of Karl Marx's "economic writings" and had hoped to complete his study within the next year or so. He was also preparing a study of current Soviet trade union practices for a conference at the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies. It was as a teacher, however, that Len was at his best. Voted the best instructor at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, where he was an associate professor and chairman of the Economics Department, Len had a reputation for attracting students all over the Boston area. At one time or another in his career, he had taught at Harvard, Tufts, Brandeis, Simmons, and Wellesley. The usual pattern was for a school such as Wellesley to call on Len to fill in at the last minute because of his adaptability and his way with students.

The dry statistics in no way convey Len's flair. He received his A.B. degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1956. He then entered the Russian area program at Harvard and received an A.M. degree in 1958. He completed his study for the Ph.D. in economics in 1967 and wrote a dissertation entitled "A Study in Soviet Economics: Wage Administration and Structure in the USSR since 1956." This later served as the basis for his book, *Soviet Wages*, which was published by the MIT Press in 1972. He also wrote articles and numerous book reviews for several scholarly journals. Along with his wife Lena he was coeditor of the journal *Problems of Economics*. He also served as a consultant for the UAW on its labor policies, and since the late 1950s had been an associate of the Russian Research Center at Harvard University.

He leaves his mother, Anne; his wife, Lena, whom he met while an IREX exchange student at Moscow University in 1960; and his daughter, Lara. His loss, however, is felt by more than his immediate family. The field of Soviet studies and economics teaching in the Boston area has suffered a premature loss.

This is not an ordinary necrology. But then Len was not an ordinary man.

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JOSEF KORBEL, 1909–1977

A few weeks after the publication of his last book, *Twentieth-Century Czechoslovakia: The Meanings of Its History*, the news spread that Professor Josef Korbel died on July 18 in Denver, his home since 1949.

Korbel was born on September 20, 1909 at Kyšperk in the poor, hilly northeastern area of Bohemia, which was known for producing enterprising and hard-working men. Energy and enterprise were Korbel's hallmarks. The stirring events of World War I, the disintegration of the Habsburg Empire, and the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918, which Korbel witnessed as a boy, awakened in him an abiding interest in political and international affairs. After completing his secondary education, he matriculated in the Faculty of Law of Prague's Charles University, from which he was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Law in 1933. A year of study at the Paris Sorbonne (1928–29) and another year of military service (1933–34) stimulated his interest in war and diplomacy and prompted him to seek a career in the Czechoslovak

diplomatic service. He entered the diplomatic service in 1934 and was assigned to the press section. In 1937 he was appointed press and cultural attaché in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Recalled home during the Munich crisis in 1938, he witnessed the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia. In March 1939, he fled to London where he joined the Czechoslovak information service, organized by Czechoslovakia's last envoy to Britain, Jan Masaryk. This modest information office became the nucleus of the much larger information service of the exiled Czechoslovak government in London during World War II. Korbela organized and directed its important BBC section. After the war and Czechoslovakia's restoration, he was appointed Czechoslovak ambassador to Yugoslavia. While holding this post (1945–48) he served also as a member of the Czechoslovak delegation to the Satellite Peace Conference in Paris in 1946 and as chairman of the United Nations commission on India and Pakistan, which sought to resolve the Kashmir dispute. While he was discharging this function, the Communists seized power in Czechoslovakia by the Prague Coup of February 1948. A non-Communist, Korbela resigned as Czechoslovak ambassador, but held his UN post until he presented the commission's report to the United Nations in New York in 1949.

In the same year, thanks to the recommendation of Professor Philip Mosely, Korbela was appointed professor of international relations at the University of Denver, beginning an association which lasted until his death. A brilliant organizer and fundraiser, he was responsible for the establishment of the University of Denver Graduate School of International Studies in 1964. After serving as the school's first dean (1964–69), Korbela accepted the Andrew Mellon Chair of International Studies (1969–77) in the school. While busy as teacher, administrator, and fund-raiser, Korbela turned out a steady stream of books on international affairs: *Tito's Communism* (University of Denver Press, 1951); *Danger in Kashmir* (Princeton University Press, 1954; rev. ed., 1966); *Communist Subversion of Czechoslovakia, 1938–1948* (Princeton University Press, 1959); *Poland Between East and West, 1919–1933* (Princeton University Press, 1963); *Detente in Europe: Real or Imaginary?* (Princeton University Press, 1972); and *Twentieth-Century Czechoslovakia: The Meanings of Its History* (Columbia University Press, 1977). An enormously productive man, Korbela was still planning new activities and projects for publication when cancer cut his life short at sixty-seven.

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ANDRÉ VAILLANT, 1891–1977

How sad that André Vaillant's great *Grammaire comparée des langues slaves* will now be discontinued. After the appearance in 1974 of the fourth volume on word formation (809 pp.), one had expected a fifth volume on syntax. When opening (and cutting) a fresh number of the *Revue des études slaves*, it had become a habit to look first for A. Vaillant's always compact and always witty contributions; this place will now remain empty.

Like all French Slavists of his generation, A. Vaillant was trained in classics, hence his exceptionally brilliant knowledge of Greek. During World War I, when the new map of Europe began to materialize, he was directed by Antoine Meillet toward the study of Serbo-Croatian, just as Lucien Tesnière was "programmed" for Slovenian. Vaillant's doctoral dissertation was the analysis of the language of D. Zlatarić, a Ragusan writer of the sixteenth century. But very soon Vaillant became interested in comparative Slavic linguistics, in Old Church Slavonic, and especially in the Church Slavonic literature of the Rus'.

Before writing these lines, I reread some of Vaillant's earlier publications (but of course not all of them—they are too numerous). Anyone really interested in Slavic