

IN MEMORIAM

Andrus Park (1950–1994)

As this issue goes to press, it is with deep shock that we learn of the sudden and tragic, untimely death of Academician Andrus Park, East European Editor of *Nationalities Papers*. Andrus Park was in the prime of life and on the threshold of a thriving career, finally freed from decades of restraint that the Soviet system had imposed on him and his entire generation of young Estonians engaged in rebuilding the political and cultural lives of their country.

Andrus Park first came to our attention in the Spring of 1988 when he came to The City College of New York and openly lectured in his elegant English, devoid of Marxist jargon, about the then fledgling Estonian independence movement. A byproduct of that visit was a spontaneous bilateral exchange agreement, initiated by him, between The City College and the Estonian Academy of Sciences, *without* Moscow acting as a watchdog third party. A year later, Andrus accepted our invitation to become the liaison editor for the USSR, a task he embraced enthusiastically, and resulting in dozens of fruitful pre-1991 contacts with Soviet scholars of his ilk—those who would become the post-Soviet cohort of scholars in *Nationalities Papers*' fields of interest. After 1991, Andrus asked that he be reclassified as liaison editor for the Baltic region, a task he performed unstintingly, as two articles by Baltic scholars in this issue attest.

His most recent achievement for this journal was to co-guest edit and supervise in record time a Special Topic issue, "Visions and Policies 1987–1993: Estonian's Path to Independence and Beyond." It will appear as the Spring 1994 edition of *Nationalities Papers* as part of a series on small countries, a fitting tribute to his life's work.

Andrus led an intensely active and dedicated life, determined not to squander a single opportunity that came his way. A graduate of Tartu University in Estonia and of the Academy of Sciences of Lithuania, Andrus attained the rank of full professor in 1987, and head of the academy's Division of Humanities and Social Sciences in 1990. He held visiting appointments at Harvard, Duke and Georgetown Universities and at the Wilson Center in Washington, DC. He published widely, always stressing his philosophical mantra, that human events are fundamentally unpredictable because the actors are free to choose. In his political and professional life he lived unambiguously according to this premise, even before it was prudent to do so. His death is a loss to us, to his country and above all to his family, to whom we extend our deepest condolences.

It was thanks to the farsighted advice and wisdom (indeed, courage) of individuals like Andrus Park that *Nationalities Papers* was and remains able to respond to the twists and turns of our changing times referred to in the Editorial Note.

Henry R. Huttenbach