

People in Political Science

prolegomena to *Order and History*, a compact statement of the theoretical directions Voegelin was taking, with much of the empirical evidence from the incredible breadth of historical sources he had mastered incorporated only by allusion. The first three volumes of *Order and History—Israel and Revelation, The World of the Polis, and Plato and Aristotle*—appeared in 1956 and 1957, and a long hiatus followed before the fourth volume—*The Ecumenic Age*—was published in 1974.

In the interim, momentous events occurred in Voegelin's life. In 1958 he accepted appointment to the Chair in Political Science at the University of Munich, the first occupant of that position since Max Weber's death in 1920. Despite the time involved in making an intercontinental transition once again and undertaking the administrative burden of organizing and directing the Institute of Political Science (he proved to be a superb administrator), Voegelin continued to carry a heavier than necessary teaching load, undertook a steadily increasing number of lecture engagements in all parts of Europe and America, and contributed to a number of international colloquia on contemporary problems.

The monograph on *Science, Politics and Gnosticism* (an expansion and refinement of his inaugural lecture) and the book that developed out of his studies in the philosophy of consciousness—*Anamnesis* (1966)—are the two most noteworthy free-standing works of the Munich years.

Voegelin was eligible for retirement from the chair in Munich in 1969, and for the third time he crossed the Atlantic to settle finally in Palo Alto. He was awarded a five-year grant as Henry Salvatori Distinguished Scholar, tenable at the Hoover Institution, where he carried on his work on *Order and History* and continued to be active to the end.

In his later years Voegelin began to receive the recognition that many of those who had followed his philosophical odyssey over the years thought he had long since earned. As his friend Gregor Sebba has pointed out, what he was doing was so far removed from the concerns of political science in the recent

past that it is not surprising that his work was better known among the leading figures in other disciplines than political science. A few years ago Eric Voegelin received the Benjamin Lippincott Award for work in political theory that is viable 15 years or more after publication.

If J. Herbert Fuerth, a founder of the Vienna circle to which Voegelin belonged for some 17 years, is correct in his 1972 assessment of Voegelin as "... perhaps the greatest living political scientist (and I believe the only one of us who can most nearly be called a real genius)," and I believe he is, he is the only political scientist that I have known who is likely to still be read and studied for the value of his contribution to the knowledge of man and society a hundred years from now.

Voegelin is survived by his wife of 52 years, Lissy Onken Voegelin.

William C. Havard
Vanderbilt University

Philip Williams

Philip Williams, who died suddenly on November 16, was a remarkable and much-loved figure. He had been, with a four-year interruption at Jesus College, a Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford, since 1949. Behind his appearance as an untidy, mildly eccentric don, lay a powerful intellect—and a fund of human kindness. Coming to Oxford just before the war, he became a close friend of Tony Crosland—and against the pressures of the time, they jointly decided not to join the Communist Party. After the war he moved from history to political science and produced in 1954 his monumental *Politics in Postwar France*, ultimately revised into a full analysis of the Fourth Republic in *Crisis and Compromise* (1964). But he then turned from France to his own country and spent ten years on the definitive life of Hugh Gaitskell, a politician who so exactly reflected his own pragmatic commitment to democratic socialism and to intelligent care for the underdog. The work received wide acclaim as the best political biography published in Britain since the war.

The last phase of his life was devoted to American politics. He had spent time at Columbia and at Princeton in earlier years, and he had developed an encyclopaedic knowledge of electoral and congressional personalities and politics. He found great delight in his appointment to the Council of the American Political Science Association in Washington, DC, and, despite his uncertain health, he travelled energetically visiting his many American friends. His final achievement lay in his initiatives which led to the generous endowment of the Mellon Chair in American Government and Politics in Oxford (the first such post in Britain).

But a chronicle of his public achievements does not indicate what he meant to the academic world—in Nuffield, in Oxford and beyond. He was a dedicated tutor of undergraduates and supervisor of graduates. He was a generous and meticulous critic of other people's manuscripts. And in every Oxford generation of students, he would focus on half a dozen young men and women, talking endlessly with them, almost always on politics, and fostering their minds and careers, making lifelong friendships

which were continuously sustained by a vast correspondence and an open door at Oxford. The tributes that reached his college and his friends in the days after his death were altogether out of the ordinary.

Philip had a fierce integrity of mind and a dedication to academic life. He was obstinate in defense of anyone he thought hard done by. His idiosyncracies grew with the years, but to the end he was always fun to be with—he used to write doggerel commentaries on the scene during college meetings and he had a wonderful fund of stories about absurd political comeuppances in Britain and France and America. He died, as he might have wished, suddenly, in the company of friends after giving a brilliant talk on the American election at the American Embassy. He leaves behind a lasting body of scholarly work, an outstanding example of scholarly qualities—and a host of people who recognize how lucky they were to have him as a teacher and a friend.

David Butler
Nuffield College