

George Vernadsky will be long remembered for his rich contributions to Russian historiography. He will also be remembered as a teacher and friend. The ill wind that drove him from his native country brought good fortune to our own. The priest at his funeral referred to him as a "saintly soul," and Mr. Pushkarev was right in observing that in this case the phrase was more than merely rhetorical. To many of those whose lives he touched, Vernadsky was an inspiring embodiment of the finest traditions of Russian culture.

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REINHARD WITTRAM, 1902–1973

Reinhard Wittram, *ordinarius* professor emeritus of world history at the University of Göttingen, died in Merano on April 16, 1973. He was born on August 9, 1902, in Bilderlingshof near Riga, and studied history in Jena and Tübingen, where in 1925 he received his doctorate under the supervision of J. Haller. From 1928 to 1939 he taught in Riga at the German Herder-Hochschule. There he gave special attention to the history of his Baltic homeland. His *Geschichte von Livland, Estland und Kurland* appeared in 1939; the third edition (1954) bore the title *Baltische Geschichte*. Moving with other Germans from the Baltic states, he taught in 1940–45 at the University of Posen, and when he had to flee found a new location in which to work at Göttingen. There, in 1955, he secured the chair of East European history, then—as befitted his breadth of interests—in 1959 the chair of world history. Thereafter he concentrated chiefly on Russian history, problems of nationalities (*Das Nationale als europäische Problem*, 1954), and, to an increasing extent, questions of the theory of history. However, he remained interested in the past of his homeland. Besides the newer problems of its history we are indebted to him for the exposition of cultural history based on the story of his own family, *Drei Generationen* (1949) and the collective work *Baltische Kirchengeschichte* (1956). Wittram was one of the founders of the Baltic Historical Commission and its chairman for twenty-two years, having organized twenty-six "Baltische Historikertage" in Göttingen; therein he vigorously advocated cooperative work with Estonian and Latvian historical researchers in exile.

Wittram's chief work in the realm of Russian history is the monumental biography *Peter der Grosse: Czar und Kaiser* (1964), on which he worked for almost twenty years. Changes in the conception of history and the widespread turning away from history after 1945 led him to the observations he set forth in the collections of lectures and articles entitled *Das Interesse an der Geschichte* (1958), *Zukunft in der Geschichte* (1966), and *Anspruch und Fragwürdigkeit der Geschichte* (1969). A penetrating observer of all the changes of our time, Wittram took part in the dialogue with Marxism and was committed to the reform of the universities. His importance as a teacher and the number of his pupils were great.

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