

## IN MEMORIAM

### Sidney Heitman (1924–1993)

With the passing of Sidney Heitman, the Association for the Study of Nationalities has lost one of its earliest members, and *Nationalities Papers* one of its staunchest supporters. It is with pride and a sense of deep sorrow that we note this volume contains Sidney's last completed article, subtitled *A Postscript*, on the subject which had been of constant fascination for him since 1973: *ethnic* emigration from the USSR.

In selecting this perspective, Sid—as he was known to us—pointed to a key index of the state of health of the Soviet empire. While others viewed and measured the ever growing Soviet military might and grain production as indices of global power and internal stability, Sid studied those ethnicities who voted with their feet. While most observers concentrated on the obvious, the Jewish exodus, and assessed it largely *in vacuo*, Sid quietly and persistently examined the gamut of emigration from the USSR, focussing in particular on the exit of Soviet Jews, in comparison with that of Germans and Armenians. In so doing, he helped pioneer a critique of the Soviet Union from the vantage point of its polyethnic foundations. Over a dozen articles, including ones for *Nationalities Papers*, established him as a leading and recognized scholar in this respect. Thanks to his publications and scholarly papers, he prepared the way for understanding the post-Brezhnev debacle.

Prior to that, Sidney—as some preferred to call him—was known for his work on Nicolai Bukharin, which spanned the years 1959–1973. His monographic works on this topic appeared in publications in the United States, Germany and Italy, including leading journals such as the now terminated *Problems of Communism*. What he had to say about this key Bolshevik figure still awaits full recognition; his subtle and original reading of Bukharin, especially his theory of revolution, is, as yet, still an unpublished manuscript.

Sidney Heitman's entire academic life, since 1955, was spent in the Fort Collins branch of Colorado State University. Except for short breaks as guest lecturer, Professor Heitman devoted his professional energies to that institution where he was admired by generations of students for the next thirty-eight years. Besides his teaching and writing, he found time to be a charter member of the Rocky Mountain Association for Slavic Studies and to help sustain the Western Social Science Association as co-founder of the *Social Science Journal* which he edited for thirteen years (an achievement he modestly left out of his *vita*).

Sidney was self-effacing but his contributions to our field of studies speak for themselves. To end on a personal note: Sid was unswervingly generous of mind and

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courteous of manner. In his last note to me, he shared a poignant wisdom with typical understatement—

“As it happens, I have come down with a rather serious illness, but I am receiving treatment and hope to recover. Take my advice—do what you can and wish to now!”

(July 13, 1993)

Henry R. Huttenbach

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**William O. McCagg**

*Nationalities Papers*, with deep regret, announces the death of Professor William McCagg. His position as a leading scholar of Eastern Europe has been noted and lauded in numerous journals. His major works have also been reviewed in this publication. The breadth and depth of his interests are evident in his articles and monographs. He was at home in many fields; from the Jews in the Habsburg Empire to the plight of the handicapped in Socialist countries. No less important is the legacy he left behind as a much beloved teacher at the University of Michigan.

*Nationalities Papers* mourns the loss of this most learned contributor to its pages. His extraordinary humanity made him a well respected writer, his well-known article on the Gypsies being a rare combination of professionalism and personal commitment. He was always gentle and generous in his advice and counsel.

Bill McCagg leaves behind a sad *lacuna* in our ranks. He had intended to contribute to this 20th Anniversary issue, but, sadly, his illness intervened. The volume is so much the poorer without him.

Henry R. Huttenbach