

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

diachronic linguistics should study his *Manuel du vieux slave* (vols. 1–2, 1948) and his comparative grammar. He also should study Vaillant's articles in the *Revue des études slaves* (since 1924) and he will realize to what degree modern linguists live on the forgetfulness (or ignorance) of the general reader. A bibliography of Vaillant's publications (up to 1963) can be found in *Revue des études slaves*, 40 (1964): 244–52.

In 1933–34 I had the privilege of becoming Vaillant's pupil in a post-graduate class of the Ecole des Hautes Etudes in Paris where Vaillant had the chair of Slavic before moving to the Collège de France after A. Mazon's retirement in 1952. In the mid-thirties we were a small group of advanced students, reading rather unorthodox OCS texts, discussing Slavic morphology, and trying to penetrate the mysteries of Slavic accentuation. Vaillant had just finished the second edition of A. Meillet's *Slave commun*, to which he added his excellent presentation of Slavic prosody. It was a great time in Paris—one could listen to Meillet's inspiring lectures every two weeks at the Collège de France, attend Benveniste's classes, and also work under Vendryès. Meillet, already half paralyzed and unable to write on the blackboard, delivered each time an absolutely perfect presentation on a particular topic: he spoke for exactly 60 minutes (not 59, nor 61) and the transcript of his lecture could go *telle quelle* to the printer. Vaillant's classes were quite different; they had rather the quality of *causeries*, with his astute, sometimes sarcastic remarks giving us an incredible amount of information on Slavic, Baltic, Greek, and Hittite, on Byzantine theology, on paleography and textology, and on the art of editing texts. Vaillant himself was probably the best editor of Slavic texts since Jagić. He replaced the "stupid punctuation" of the originals with modern signs and excluded all superscriptions and abbreviations (*titla*), thus making Slavic texts more readable. He also insisted that every single sentence be correctly translated into a modern language, a requirement which most contemporary philologists do not fulfill.

Vaillant disliked phonemes and made ironical remarks when I enthusiastically tried to interpret some phenomenon by adducing structural arguments. He himself used the word *phonème* in the first volume of his *Grammaire comparée* (1950), but it is clear that he meant speech sounds, which in his eyes sometimes possessed supernatural qualities, such as the ability to palatalize preceding consonants.

Every Tuesday, after his seminars, he invited me to a small restaurant on the Boulevard St. Michel ("A la boule d'or"—it is no longer there) and here he introduced me with patience and perseverance into the refined art of French cuisine. He used to go directly to the kitchen in his winter coat and his woolen scarf, open all the pans and pots and compose with the assistance of the chef a meal which each time proved to be a work of art. Thus I became Vaillant's disciple in more than one sense. Only two years ago I was invited by Professor Vaillant to an unforgettable bouillabaisse in a small restaurant opposite his home. He was over eighty, but full of plans and original ideas.

André Vaillant was an extremely modest person, but his was an exceptionally productive life. His first publication appeared in 1921, and thereafter he produced an impressive corpus of monographs, textbooks, studies, articles, and miscellaneous publications without ever abandoning his taste for the pleasures of this world. Long after his retirement he remained the unquestioned leading spirit of Slavic studies in France (his gentle but pointed remarks were frequently heard at meetings of the Linguistic Society of Paris, whose sessions he attended regularly), and his name has entered the pantheon of the very great Slavists, together with Miklosich and Jagić, Sobolevskij and Trubetzkoy, Meillet and Vasmer.

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