
NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

CHARLES A. DUVAL, 1940–1981

Charles Duval died in a car accident on May 9, 1981, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Born in Littlefield, Texas, Charles attended the University of Texas, Austin, where he received his baccalaureate, master's degree, and, in 1971, doctorate of philosophy, specializing in twentieth-century Russian and Soviet history under Oliver Radkey. In 1970, he joined the history faculty at New Mexico State University and since 1975 had held the rank of associate professor.

Charles concentrated on the history of the revolutionary and early Soviet period. Although his list of publications is modest, Charles established a reputation as a promising young scholar in the field of Soviet history. His colleagues in the field were well aware of his work and waited eagerly for the completion of his long-standing project, a monograph on Sverdlov and the early history of the secretariat. Charles completed that project in 1980 and submitted to the Oxford University Press his manuscript entitled "Toward a One-Party State: The Fifth Soviet Congress and the Left SR Rebellion Against the Bolsheviks." Its eventual publication will undoubtedly confirm that Charles was on the verge of gaining national recognition in the field and that the profession has suffered a loss in his untimely death.

Above all, colleagues will remember Charles for his combination, perhaps too rare in the profession, of a quick mind, personal modesty, and charm. Always intellectually exciting, socially gregarious, and personally affable, Charles was the favorite at every gathering of Slavacists in the western states during the 1970s. At New Mexico State University, Charles enjoyed a reputation as an innovative, popular, yet demanding teacher. Apparently, his reputation for charm, teaching and scholarship had spread far. He was scheduled to be a visiting professor at the University of Keele in Great Britain during 1981–82.

For Charles, the singular experience of his career was his participation on the senior program of the International Research and Exchanges Board during 1979–80. After dividing his eleven months between Leningrad and Moscow, he returned with a renewed sense of intellectual excitement which only enhanced his already considerable popularity at New Mexico State University. Evtushenko's "The City of Yes and the City of No" was the poem Charles invariably recalled when he reflected on his year in the Soviet Union. Like the poet, Charles claimed he was a man of both the city of yes and the city of no. His friends were not convinced. For them, Charles was obviously from the city of yes, and they remember the warmth which came over his face when he recited,

And in no one is there even a trace of suspicion,
And lowing herds are offering their milk,
And daisies, teasing, are asking to be picked,
And wherever you want to be, you are instantly there,
Taking any train, or plane, or ship that you like.
And the water, faintly murmuring, whispers
"Yes — yes — yes. Yes — yes — yes. Yes — yes — yes."

NICHOLAS HAYES
University of Minnesota

ALEX SIMIRENKO, 1931–1979

Alex Simirenko was descended from a family of Cossack-Ukrainian nationalists who are credited with several major engineering, industrial, and commercial accomplishments in

the prerevolutionary era, including the introduction of steam navigation on the Dniepr River. His family was also instrumental in financing and publishing the works of the poet Taras Shevchenko. Alex's grandfather and father were horticulturalists, and his grandfather developed an apple strain, the Reinette Simirenko apple, which has the distinction of having been consumed with gusto by two Soviet cosmonauts in outer space in 1978. Alex was proud of the apple, which he remembered fondly from his childhood, and a friend has brought the variety to the United States in an effort to propagate it here. It will stand as a unique and touching memorial to Alex.

Alex's father ran up against the Stalinist science establishment in the early 1930s and disappeared into the camp system. Fleeing the country with his mother, Alex completed his elementary education in Prague and his secondary schooling in Bavaria. After a stretch in a displaced persons' camp at Augsburg, Alex and his mother came to Philadelphia in 1950 and then moved on to Minneapolis where he entered the University of Minnesota.

Alex received all of his academic degrees from the University of Minnesota, completing a Ph.D. dissertation there on the Russian-American community of Minneapolis. He published some journal articles based on this research, and the revision of the dissertation was published as *Pilgrims, Colonists and Frontiersmen: An Ethnic Community in Transition* (1964). With his first academic appointment at the University of Nevada, he continued research on acculturation processes with a study of the Washo Indians, and he developed important theoretical strands in ethnic studies during this period.

In the latter half of the 1960s, Alex turned to Soviet studies, editing major books on *Soviet Sociology: Historical Antecedents and Current Appraisals* (1966) and *Social Thought in the Soviet Union* (1969). Into the 1970s, Alex prepared a series of very interesting and original papers on Soviet society and politics, and in the area of the sociology of knowledge he explored questions of biography and ideology. His work appeared in many journals, including the *British Journal of Sociology*, *Social Problems*, *Sociological Quarterly*, *Society*, *Newsletter on Comparative Communism*, *Studies in Comparative Communism*, *Problems of Communism* and *Nationalities Papers*. He was also responsible for a long list of book reviews which appeared in both sociological and Soviet studies journals and a great number of papers at professional meetings.

Some of Alex's major papers will soon appear in a collection published by Transaction Books which is to be called *Professionalization of Politics and Its Consequences: Society and Sociology in the Soviet Union*. By reflecting his deep concern for and facility with sociopolitical theory and research, this collection is certain to be a major contribution to comparative sociology and Soviet studies.

After leaving the University of Nevada, Alex had a brief appointment at California State University, Northridge, before moving to Pennsylvania State University, where he finished his career. Long active in several professional associations, Alex also served on numerous governing, consulting, and editorial boards and committees, including the AAASS Board of Directors (as representative of the American Sociological Association). His service to sociology and Soviet studies was extensive.

In many ways, Alex was a man of emotion. Just as he could become deeply angered at what he saw as an injustice or an impropriety, he frequently established deep friendships. In his own warm way, he strongly supported his younger colleagues. His death kept him from completing a planned contribution to the book *Contemporary Soviet Society: Sociological Perspectives*, which we recently edited, but we were honored to dedicate the book to Alex in gratitude and respect for his aid and encouragement with the book and in our careers.

A chronic respiratory problem finally took its toll on Alex Simirenko, and he died on April 27, 1979. Few recognized the long-term, serious debilitation he suffered. He did not let it show any more than necessary, and he vigorously pursued the goals which made him

an important influence on many people. Those of us who share his specialties in sociology and Soviet studies, as well as his students, friends, and family, lost an energetic force in our lives.

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