

Kermit E. McKenzie, 1924–2008

A respected historian of Russia and Kazakhstan, Kermit E. McKenzie died of pneumonia on 18 March 2008 at Wesley Woods Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. Born in 1924 in Hanover County, Virginia, Kermit entered the United States Army in 1943 and fought with the 9th infantry division (47th regiment) in the European theater, rising to the rank of sergeant and being awarded two purple hearts. Following the war, he received his BA from the University of Richmond in 1947, his MA in 1949, and his PhD in history in 1960 from Columbia University. In 1947, he also completed a program at the Russian Institute in Moscow. Kermit taught Russian and Soviet history at Emory University in Atlanta from 1960 until 1995. Conversant in at least four languages, while reading several more, Kermit both advocated and embodied the success that can come from a good education. As the author of *Comintern and World Revolution, 1928–1943: The Shaping of Doctrine* (1963), editor of Fedor Rodichev's *Vospominaniia i ocherki o rusском liberalizme* (1983) and the author of an unfinished manuscript about the brilliant Kazakh ethnographer Chokan Valikhanov, as well as the author of eight peer-reviewed articles and many briefer scholarly notes, Kermit constantly strove to expand his scholarly horizons. A gifted teacher, Kermit directed sixteen doctoral dissertations and served his department as chair from 1982 to 1987 and his profession with many positions on leading professional organizations such as the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies and the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies. Kermit was also a true southern gentleman—brilliant but humble, he rarely spoke ill of others. He loved his country but not always its policies. In 1967, Kermit took an early stance against the Vietnam War. Not only did he oppose U.S. intervention, he spoke out to “counter the ridiculous and profoundly anti-democratic notion that participation in warfare imposes a moratorium on free and critical inquiry respecting the rightness or wrongness of that participation.” A proud, lifelong liberal, Kermit always cheered for the underdog and the little guy, and his contributions to his students and colleagues were unstinting.

MATTHEW PAYNE
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April 2008

Edward Carl Thaden, 1922–2008

Edward C. Thaden, professor emeritus of history at the University of Illinois, Chicago, died on 9 July 2008 in Seattle, Washington, after a long illness. Trained in the traditions of European historical scholarship, Thaden was a cosmopolitan in his mastery of sources in the major and some minor languages of the continent, which he read to remain current on the latest scholarship in his field, and he conveyed that tradition to his students even as the requirement for language study steadily declined in history doctoral programs. He infected his students with a passion for the serious, critical study of history. A pioneer in the field of Slavic studies, Thaden leaves behind a body of professional publications that serves as a testament to his influence on that field and on the larger ones of European intellectual history, the integration of imperial Russia's western borderlands, and historiography. An erudite scholar of broad interests, Thaden established close ties with an extensive community of American and European historians engaged in the study of the history of the Slavs, culminating in his presidency of the Commission Internationale des Etudes Historiques Slaves in 1995–2000. At the same time, he was one of the pioneers of the interdisciplinary approach to the development of Slavic area studies in the United States and served as executive director of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies from 1982 to 1984. In the wake of the Twentieth Party Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1956, Thaden was one of the first American historians to establish professional contacts with Soviet scholars, and his observations contributed to the climate that promoted research opportunities for young and senior American

scholars in the USSR as part of the U.S.-Soviet scholarly exchange program created later by the Eisenhower administration.

Born in 24 April 1922, Thaden graduated from the University of Washington in 1943 and served in the United States Navy during World War II. With demobilization after the war, he undertook graduate study at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, in 1947–1948 and then completed his PhD at the University of Paris (Pantheon-Sorbonne) with Pierre Renouvin in 1948–1950. Under Renouvin's direction, Thaden wrote *Russia and the Balkan Alliance of 1912*, which he reworked into a monograph and published with Pennsylvania State University Press in 1965. After completing his PhD, Thaden returned to the University of Washington, where he taught until 1952 when he joined the faculty at Pennsylvania State University. Over the next sixteen years he established his position as a leader in graduate education at Penn State and, through a series of articles and chapters, confirmed the broad range of his interests—Russian diplomatic history of the early twentieth century, Russian intellectual history, and Russian historiography. In 1964, he published *Conservative Nationalism in Nineteenth-Century Russia* (University of Washington Press). During his final years at Penn State, Thaden conducted his first seminars on the Russification of the Baltic *gubernii*s and Finland in the late nineteenth century and began work on his textbook of modern Russian history, *Russia since 1801: The Making of a New Society* (John Wiley, 1971).

In 1968, Thaden accepted a position in the history department of the University of Illinois, Chicago, where he would teach until his retirement in 1992. During those two decades he completed his work on the Baltic *gubernii*s and Finland and, as coeditor with Michael Haltzel, published the collection, *Russification in the Baltic Provinces and Finland, 1855–1914* (Princeton University Press, 1981). He followed this with his study of the incorporation of the Polish, Lithuanian, and Ukrainian lands into the Russian empire, which he wrote together with his wife, Marianna Forster Thaden: *Russia's Western Borderlands, 1710–1870* (Princeton University Press, 1984). That same year he and Toivo Raun coedited *Finland and the Baltic Provinces in the Russian Empire* as a special issue of the *Journal of Baltic Studies*. *Interpreting History: Collective Essays on Russia's Relations with Europe* (Social Science Monographs, 1990) is a collection of some of Thaden's previously published articles on the theme of Russia and the west grouped around four large themes: historiography, foreign policy, nationalism and nationality policy, and the Baltic provinces. In 1992 Thaden retired from the University of Illinois, Chicago, but he remained actively engaged in research and publishing. His primary area of interest became the shift in Russian historiography in the nineteenth century from an Enlightenment paradigm to one based on historicism and philosophical idealism, and he explored this topic in *The Rise of Historicism in Russia* (Peter Lang, 1999). In 1995 Leo Schelbert and Nick Ceh coedited *Essays in Russian and East European History: Festschrift in Honor of Edward C. Thaden*, which includes articles on imperial Russia, eastern Europe, and historiography by his colleagues and former students. This work also contains a bibliography of his publications to that date. Thaden remained actively involved in research and professional activities associated with Slavic and Baltic studies until his death. An ardent supporter of the study and teaching of history, he was a founding member of the National History Center in Washington, D.C.

An inspiration to his students and colleagues alike, Thaden will be deeply missed by two generations of scholars who benefited from his intellect, professionalism, and personal charm.

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July 2008

Charles E. Timberlake, 1935–2008

When Charles Timberlake learned in March 2007 that he had a rare form of melanoma, he was determined to deal with it in the same tenacious and focused fashion that he had dealt with the many professional challenges and responsibilities he had faced during his