
NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

ALFRED SENN, 1899–1978

Alfred Senn was born of Swiss parents in Alsace-Lorraine on March 19, 1899. He was always conscious of his Swiss heritage. He grew up in Switzerland and received his doctorate in linguistics at the University of Fribourg in 1921. In that year, he moved to Lithuania, and began a lifelong commitment to study of that nation's language, linguistics, literature, and culture; he was married there in 1923. He was a member of the faculty of the University of Lithuania in Kaunas from 1922 to 1930. He moved to the United States to become Sterling Research Fellow at Yale in 1930–31, and then was professor of Germanic and Indo-European philology at the University of Wisconsin from 1931 until 1938. For the remainder of his career he was on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, as professor of Germanic philology (1938–48) and then of Germanic and Balto-Slavic philology (from 1948 on). At the University of Pennsylvania he served as chairman of the German Department from 1944 to 1946, acting chairman of the Linguistics Department in 1946–47, and chairman of the Department of Slavic and Baltic Studies from 1947 to 1965. From 1959 until 1966, he also served as director of the Slavic Language and Area Center. He died in his home in Connecticut on February 9, 1978.

Alfred Senn's most outstanding single scholarly work is no doubt the five-volume *Wörterbuch des litauischen Schriftsprache* (1932–68); the first volume was done in collaboration with Max Niedermann and Franz Brender; the second, with Max Niedermann and Antanas Salys; and the last three, with Antanas Salys. It is recognized as a model of lexicography, the most comprehensive Lithuanian dictionary that has ever been compiled. He also collaborated on other dictionaries and wrote textbooks for Middle High German, Russian, and Lithuanian. He published significant studies on, among other subjects, Balto-Slavic cultural and linguistic relations, verb aspect in various languages, onomastics, and word derivations. His scholarly interests also encompassed both Lithuanian and Swiss literature and culture.

He was a leader in various national and international organizations. He was president of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (1948), of the American Association of Teachers of German (1956–60), of the Association Internationale des Langues et Littératures Slaves (1960–63), and of the American Name Society (1963). His continuing interest in Lithuanian affairs resulted in his membership in the Institute of Lithuanian Studies and of the Académie Scientifique des Catholiques Lithuaniens. In 1974, he donated his books and papers to the Memorial Library of the University of Wisconsin and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. His Lithuanian books—many of them quite rare—comprise some 1,500 volumes; they now constitute the Senn Lithuanian Collection at the University of Wisconsin. He also maintained his interest in Swiss affairs: he was president of the American Council on College Study in Switzerland in 1945–47, and president of the Swiss-American Historical Society from 1954 to 1964. In 1937, he founded the Swiss Club in Madison, Wisconsin, and started a weekly Swiss radio program which continued for more than thirty years over the University of Wisconsin station, WHA. He received numerous honors, including the Medal of Distinction of the University of Brussels (1952), the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (1959), the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters conferred by Vilanova University (1969), and the AAASS Award for Distinguished Contributions to Slavic Studies (1976).

Alfred Senn was a scholar and a *gentle* man, who loved life and who loved scholarship, his students, and his colleagues in the profession. He had a warm personality, and an elegant mien; he was also a man of integrity and conviction. Perhaps no brief account of his life and accomplishments can do better than to quote from the AAASS award citation, which appropriately emphasizes not only his pioneering work as teacher, administrator, and scholar in Slavic studies in this country, but also his inspiring personality: "The fields of Baltic and Slavic linguistics in North America are deeply indebted to your pioneering work. You have served with great distinction in universities both here and in Europe. You established a full program of Slavic and Baltic studies at the University of Pennsylvania and have tutored generations of students in these fields. You served as department chairman for over two score years and have encouraged by your example countless colleagues and students. You have set high standards in lexicography by your painstaking effort in the *Dictionary of the Lithuanian Literary Language*, over thirty years in the making. You have encouraged scholars of literature and folklore to examine the findings of linguistics and philology through your voluminous writings. You have given of your time to those of us who have known you as teacher and counselor and have encouraged us to attempt to follow your good example. You have been an inspiration to all who have known you."

J. THOMAS SHAW
University of Wisconsin, Madison

GEORGES HAUPT, 1927–1978

Georges Haupt died on March 14, 1978, at the age of 51, in Rome. The Slavic field has lost an outstanding scholar, and many of us have lost a dear friend.

The bare outline of his life shows that Georges embodied the history of the twentieth century. He was born in Satu-Mare, Transylvania, and his father had wanted him to be an engineer. When war came to Europe, however, Georges experienced all the horrors of Nazi rule; he lived through Auschwitz and Buchenwald. After the war he studied for six years, as a Rumanian citizen, at the University of Leningrad, where he worked with Eugene Tarle. Haupt was a professor of history at the University of Bucharest when, in 1958, he chose not to return home from a vacation in the West. He then settled in Paris. He first came to the United States in the fall of 1967 as a visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin, and in the following decade he taught at several American universities. His last visit to this country was in the fall of 1977.

Haupt was a specialist in the history of socialism. Writing in *Survey* some years back, Peter Nettl respectfully called him an "archive rat" and commented, "There can be no one as familiar with the documentation of the Second International, particularly in its institutional aspect." His detailed knowledge of the history of both the Second and the Third Internationals was stunning.

But for many of us, his personal qualities were at least as important. As I write, a flood of memories pours over me. I recall his glorious struggle with the English language when he first came to this country, his enthusiasm when I took him to his first American basketball game, and, above all, his understanding and sympathy for people. Georges radiated a *joie de vivre* that infected all who came into contact with him. It is for these qualities that we will miss him the most.

ALFRED ERICH SENN
University of Wisconsin, Madison