
NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

LUDMILLA A. PATRICK, 1897–1976

Ludmilla Alexandrovna Patrick, retired lecturer in Russian at the University of California, Berkeley, died in Munich on October 19, 1976, after a very brief illness. Indefatigable to the end, she was in the midst of preparations to conclude her summer in Europe by a visit *via* the Trans-Siberian Railroad to her birthplace, Vladivostok.

After coming to the United States in 1919, she did graduate work in history at Berkeley, where she received the M.A. degree in the field of Russo-Japanese relations and where she was well advanced toward the doctorate, with an almost completed dissertation on Bakunin, when personal circumstances interrupted her studies. She began her long teaching career at Berkeley in 1937, and from 1946 until her voluntary retirement in 1963 she served there as full-time lecturer. Besides creating and teaching a wide variety of language courses, she was for years solely responsible for the Slavic Department's course offerings in Russian drama and folklore; she supplemented her students' formal training by providing them with the opportunity to perform in Russian plays that she produced and directed; and, not least, she made her home on Bonnie Lane an unforgettable center of traditional Russian hospitality.

She was the widow of Professor George Z. Patrick, and she continued his pioneering work in Russian language instruction by producing revised versions of his textbooks and by editing two collections of Russian one act plays for classroom use. A strongly independent personality and an enthusiastic, energetic, and effective teacher, she will be warmly remembered by her colleagues here and abroad, and by generations of former students throughout this country whom she taught in Berkeley classrooms, or through correspondence courses, or at the Middlebury Summer School.

FRANCIS J. WHITFIELD
University of California, Berkeley

BERTRAM DAVID WOLFE, 1896–1977

Bertram D. Wolfe, who died on February 21, 1977, at the age of 81, of burns sustained in an accident, had spent a full life—doing, describing, analyzing, fighting; as a teacher, organizer, editor, historian, political activist, administrator; as Marxist and anti-Marxist; a member of the Executive Committee of the Communist International (ECCI) and a senior research fellow of the Hoover Institution. Never indifferent, never neutral, never equivocating, he was a man of many talents, a memorable presence, with a rare facility for the telling, witty, often biting, phrase, and a formidable opponent in debate.

A Brooklyn boy, born in a family of German immigrants, Bert was one of the "City College boys," as the professional proletarians on the extreme left of American politics would derisively label the intellectuals in their midst. During World War I he was attracted to socialism by his pacifist convictions and his social conscience. The Russian Revolution attracted him to the Soviet experience. With John Reed and Louis Fraina he drafted the manifesto of the left wing of the socialist party, in June 1919, which led to the group's indictment. But he missed much of the infighting in the early years of American communism because he left New York. He founded a labor college in San Francisco, edited *Labor Unity*, and represented California at the Michigan convention of the Communist Party. After a stint in Boston he moved on to Mexico, where he helped organize the Communist movement; in 1924 he represented

the Mexican CP at the Fourth Comintern Congress and the Third Profintern Congress. After his deportation from Mexico in 1925, he became educational director of the Workers Party of America, joining the victorious Ruthenberg-Lovestone faction. At the height of its crisis, in December 1928, he left for Russia as the new U.S. representative to the Comintern. He later described a dramatic session with ECCI, at which he sought to avert a basic change in the Comintern line in regard to the United States. In May 1929 he was part of the American Communist leadership, with Jay Lovestone and Benjamin Gitlow, which confronted—and lost out to—Stalin in Moscow. Because of their anti-Stalinism and their defense of American “exceptionalism” (in essence, an early variant of national communism), Wolfe and the other Lovestonites were promptly ousted from the CPUSA and proceeded to form a futile counterorganization. By the late thirties, Wolfe—like so many others, from Max Eastman to Will Herberg—would wind up reversing his political loyalties, with a vengeance, even prior to the Nazi-Soviet Pact.

Thus began Bertram Wolfe’s second career—as analyst, detective, historian, and political commentator. Using his considerable skills and insights, he published in 1948 *Three Who Made a Revolution*, perhaps his best known book, which became one of the classics for the post-World War II generation of American students of Soviet affairs. For some four years he was chief of the Ideological Advisory Board of the Voice of America. There followed a string of articles and other books, including *Six Keys to the Soviet System*, *Khrushchev and Stalin’s Ghost*, *Strange Communists I Have Known*, *Marxism: 100 Years in the Life of a Doctrine*, and *An Ideology in Power*. He was a tireless researcher and a merciless exposé of falsifications and forgeries, such as the “Litvinov Diaries.”

Initially an English teacher, Wolfe had a strong artistic and dramatic bent. In Mexico he befriended the talented artists of the left, and produced several works with and about them, including *The Fabulous Life of Diego Rivera*. Arts and letters might have become his real avocation, had it not been for politics and writing, which became his complete preoccupation. In 1951–52 he was a senior fellow at the Russian Institute of Columbia University. In 1961–62 he served as distinguished professor at the University of California, Davis, which awarded him a doctorate of laws, *honoris causa*.

An articulate and intransigent anti-Communist, he spent his last ten years at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace (Stanford University), and was at work on his memoirs, which, one may hope, his widow and long-time companion will see through to publication. Many scholars will remember him, in addition to his considerable writings, for his personal appearances at professional meetings. In 1972 the AAASS honored him with a special Award for Distinguished Contributions to Slavic Studies, citing the “toughmindedness, breadth of learning, lucidity, and wit” of this “man of outstanding gifts and unique accomplishments.”

ALEXANDER DALLIN
Stanford University