

Obituaries

Ziz Stockdale

Antonia Young

Michael Sozan

Mizhael Sozan, Professor of Anthropology at Slippery Rock University, charter member of EEAG, and frequent contributor to the *Newsletter* died November 21, 1987 after long illness. Michael came to the United States from his native Hungary after the Revolution in 1956. He took his doctorate at Syracuse University in 1972, basing his dissertation on fieldwork among the Hungarian minority of the Burgenland, Austria. His numerous publications on East European ethnology included two books of particular significance: *The History of Hungarfan Ethnography* (Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1977) and *On Both Sides of the Border* (Paris: I.U.S., 1985). Many of us knew him not only as a good friend but as a severe critic. He was perhaps the most outspoken critic among East Europeanist anthropologists of the present day regimes in Socialist Eastern Europe and an ardent Hungarian nationalist. As long time readers of the *Newsletter* will remember, he was not shy about expressing his criticism of those colleagues he considered naive, ignorant or misguided in their approach to East European society. We can thank him (easier in retrospect) for keeping us on our toes, for forcing us to give adequate thought to our various positions.

Memorial contributions can be sent to Michael's sister, Sarah Greenfield (800 South 21st Street, Arlington, VA 22202). These will be used to establish a "Michael Sozan Memorial Fund" that will annually reward young scholars for their achievements in comparative anthropology, to be administered by the American Association for the Study of Hungarian History.

Fred Singleton

Frederick Bernard Singleton died in Yorkshire, England in January this year. Up to his last days he was still busy writing and working, "finishing off a few loose ends" as he put it. Born in Hull, Singleton was both a true Yorkshireman and a citizen of the world. He was still at Grammar School at the outbreak of the Second World War. Although rather young, he joined the

Royal Navy and served on the minesweeper HMS "Aurora" in the Mediterranean. It was then that he made his first contact with Yugoslavia and its peoples. A relationship was born that would soon become an important part of his life, professional and personal.

Carried away by youth and post-war enthusiasm, he joined the international student brigade determined to make his own contribution in rebuilding war-devastated Yugoslavia. That experience meant more to Singleton than just taking part in the construction of the main road between Belgrade and Zagreb. It meant paving a road towards a future that would engage a good part of his interest and equip him with knowledge of the country and its peoples that would rightfully earn him the nickname "Mr. Yugoslavia".

On leaving the Navy, Singleton studied geography and history at Leeds University, gained his BA and MA there as well as his teaching qualifications. During his studies another interest developed - Finland. In fact, he spent the last days of his life completing the country's history.

In 1963 Singleton became a lecturer in geography at Bradford University and rose to a Readership in Yugoslav Studies in 1977, Great Britain's only post-graduate school in the field his legacy. Singleton was Chairman of the School until his retirement in 1980, and kept a close contact with it as an Honorary Visiting Research Fellow until the end.

Retirement had a different definition for Singleton, it did not mean enjoying the view of Yorkshire from the window of his cottage in the Dales; it meant more time for researching, writing articles, working on new books, attending conferences throughout Europe. His last one was in Kragujevac last September. As a keen supporter of the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik, or as an ex-Chairman and then a committee member of the National Association for Soviet and East European Studies, or as a Vice-President of the British Yugoslav Society, he worked wholeheartedly on the development of better relations and understanding between the East and the West, and more broadly, towards world peace.

Singleton was Socialist at heart, an active member of the Labour Party who truly believed in the Socialist movement. He stood as a Labour candidate for Harrogate in the 1959 elections, then later for the European Parliament for North Yorkshire in 1979. His political motivations were simple - development of a road towards socialism, the fight against racism and the promotion of international peace.

Yugoslav affairs were the subject of several of Singleton's major works - informative but never dull, conscientiously researched and skillfully presented, readable to all. His *History of the Yugoslav Peoples* is one of them. His contributions in presenting Yugoslavia to the world with an eye of a critic who could combine fair criticisms with love for the country, earned him great esteem in Yugoslavia whose government awarded him the Order of the Yugoslav Flag with Gold Wreath, which he took great pride in wearing.

Singleton's resourcefulness and eagerness to build bridges between countries and peoples set up the twinning of Skopje and Bradford, following his organisation of student brigades from Bradford to help the earthquake-stricken Skopje in 1963. That friendship and cooperation still live.

A keen walker, Singleton walked in both the Julian Alps in Yugoslavia and in the hills of Yorkshire with the same enthusiasm; he loved the countryside and fought hard for its preservation.

In recognition of his contribution to the academic world, Singleton was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Bradford, his social-scientific study of Yugoslavia earned international acclaim. By his own choice, several hundred family members, friends and colleagues gathered in February to "celebrate his life", with songs, recollections and good fellowship.

A bibliography of Singleton's writing is currently in preparation, also a Festschrift: *Yugoslavia in Transition: Choices and Constraints* (Bradford University Press).