

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

ANATOLE GREGORY MAZOUR (1900 – 1982)

Anatole Gregory Mazour, Emeritus Professor of History, distinguished scholar, long-time colleague, and close friend died January 26, 1982, of a cardiac arrest. He had suffered from asthma and emphysema for some time, afflictions partially by having been exposed to poison gas while soldiering during World War I. Memorial services were held January 30, 1982, at the Stanford Memorial Church. He is survived by his wife, Josephine Lurie Mazour; two children, Alexander and Natasha; a sister; and four grandchildren.

He was born on May 24, 1900, in a village near Kiev, Ukraine, to Gregorii--a prosperous horticulturist--and Sophiia (Katova) Mazurenko. Anatole's childhood coincided with profound crises in Russia's state system aggravated by defeat in the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), the revolution of 1905, and World War I (1914-17), which culminated in the overthrow of the Tsar (1917), the Bolshevik Revolution (October 1917), and the ensuing Civil War (1917-1921). These events in one way or another helped shape Anatole's personality and outlook. In 1909 his parents enrolled him in a Kiev gymnasium. Despite his loneliness, broken by brief visits with his parents, the boy did well at school. As a reward his father in 1913-14 took him along on a business trip to Vladivostok. The lengthy rail journey deeply affected Anatole, for the vastness of Siberia, the diversity of scenery and peoples, and the Pacific port city especially impressed him and enlarged his comprehension of Russia and its accomplishments. Although born a Ukrainian, Anatole was not a national-exclusivist for he came to sense that the Ukraine and Russia had much in common and should stand together in peace and war. Yet, he was also something of a Slavophile and he hoped that the Slavic peoples might eventually stop squabbling and cooperate for their mutual benefit.

Anatole was in school when World War I erupted. Upon graduation from the gymnasium in 1916, he served in the army until the Tsar's government collapsed in 1917. During the subsequent civil war, he fought with the anti-Communist White Guards and later participated in the Russo-Polish campaign of 1921 aimed at preventing a Polish occupation of the Ukraine.

The triumph of the Bolsheviks in the civil war led Anatole's father to counsel emigration, since the victors could be expected to deal harshly with those who had fought them, especially offspring, of middle class families. The father gave his son a jewel-encrusted gold watch, inherited from his own father, who had received it from the imperial government for meritorious service in the Crimean War in the expectation that it could be used if needed to survive. After reaching the United States Anatole sold the watch to Tiffany's for \$800 and used the money for subsistence and his education.

In 1921 Anatole managed, despite many vicissitudes, to reach Berlin, where he dedicated himself to the study of the German language. Life there offered meager opportunities for émigrés, so Anatole moved in 1923 to New York and to Columbia University. Three years later he accepted the advice of History Professor Charles D. Hazen to break ties with the local

Russian émigré colony, and enter the University of Nebraska. There he might learn English more rapidly than in New York and adjust more quickly to Americans and their ways. Anatole traveled to Lincoln.

Without financial resources, he worked his way through college and earned the A.B degree in 1929. That he was something more than an ordinary student is attested by his election to Phi Beta Kappa. His early Nebraska years were lonely ones, but he quickly adapted to ways and people strange to him and in time he developed a strong affection for the university, Nebraska, and Nebraskans.

After being advised to pursue graduate work, because of his excellent academic record and facility with languages, Anatole entered Yale's graduate division in 1929. He earned an A.M. degree in History in 1931, and then, at the suggestion of his adviser, Professor Charles Seymour, he moved to Berkeley and enrolled at the University of California to work for a Ph.D. degree under Professor of Russian History, Robert J. Kerner. The University conferred the doctorate upon Mazour in 1934. Soon after his arrival in Berkeley he married Lucile Jackson, a marriage that lasted until 1944.

Anatole served as an instructor at Berkeley, 1935-36; then he held an appointment as Assistant Professor at the University of Miami, Ohio, during 1936-37. Receipt of a research fellowship from the Social Science Research Council in 1937-38 allowed him to advance his studies and to expand his visibility as a scholar. In 1938 he accepted an Assistant Professorship at the University of Nevada; Nevada advanced him to Associate Professor in 1941 and to Professor in 1946. In 1944 he met and married Josephine Lurie, a marriage that yielded the happiest moments in Anatole's life. Mazour came to Stanford in 1945 as a Visiting Associate Professor first of Slavic Languages, then in 1946, of Russian Civilization and History. In 1947 he joined the History Department as an Associate Professor, and in 1952 he was advanced to the rank of Professor, becoming emeritus in 1965. Professor Mazour was a member of the American Historical Association, the American Association of University Professors, the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, and the Commonwealth Club of California. He received a number of scholarships, fellowships, and grants during his career; he delivered the Hill Foundation lectures at Carleton College in 1956, and in 1963, the University of Nebraska honored him with a Doctor of Laws degree.

Professor Mazour was a highly respected and popular teacher. His survey of Russian history had broad appeal; in it he displayed his talents at weaving into his lectures political, economic, and cultural developments, enlivened by observations drawn from his own varied experiences. By nature quiet and reserved, Anatole used words sparingly yet he fought against bigotry and racism, vehemently opposed war, and expressed strong feeling for the needy and oppressed. He had the naturalist's and botanist's love of growing things, as expressed in the care and nurture of his garden. Devoted also to music and the drama, he amassed a distinguished collection of recordings which he recently gave to Stanford's Archive of Recorded Sound. Moreover, he was a dedicated bibliophile and over the years collected a variety of monographic and documentary works, many of them now quite rare.

Anatole understood the importance of good teaching. He sought to extend his influence as a teacher by publishing textbooks for colleges and secondary schools. His *Russia, Past and Present* (Van Nostrand, 1951) and *Men and Nations: A World History* (World Book Company,

1959), the latter written with his long-time friend, John M. Peoples, were widely used. *Men and Nations* has gone through several editions and has sold over one-and-a-million copies.

Two of his scholarly studies were especially well received: *The First Russian Revolution, 1825* (University of California Press, 1937, Stanford University Press, 1961), and *Modern Russian Historiography* (Van Nostrand, 1958, Greenwood Press, 1975), a revised and expanded version of his *An Outline of Modern Russian Historiography* (University of California Press, 1939). This work reflects an intimate knowledge of Russian historiography. Especially valuable are those sections in which he discussed his own teachers and their contemporaries. He brought his study of Russian historiography up to date with *The Writing of History in the Soviet Union* (Hoover Institution Press, 1971), the only review of Soviet historiography in English.

Three shorter volumes of lesser significance than his major studies but nonetheless widely used were: *Rise and Fall of the Romanovs* (Van Nostrand, 1960), *Russia, Tsarist and Communist* (Van Nostrand, 1962), and *Soviet Economic Development* (Van Nostrand, 1967). Mention should also be made of his *Finland Between East and West* (Van Nostrand, 1956) designed for the general reader, and a modest work published after his retirement, *Women in Exile: Wives of the Decembrists* (Diplomatic Press, 1975).

Professor Mazour lived a full, productive life marked by extraordinarily rich experiences – some tragic and freighted with misery, some happy and replete with rewarding satisfaction. His career was one of remarkable achievements in scholarship and in teaching. We shall miss him.

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