

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

ANTHONY E. SOKOL (1897 – 1982)

Anthony E. Sokol was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1897. His career was immensely varied, both before and after he came to Stanford in 1929. World War I sent him into the Austrian-Hungarian Navy as a young officer. The collapse of that navy led him first to study naval architecture and then to join the Royal Dutch Steamship Company as an officer stationed in Batavia, Java. This nautical background had long-lasting consequences for Tony's teaching, writing, and administrative career at Stanford.

Tony's fluency in at least five languages brought him to the United States in 1924 to teach languages, especially German, at Mississippi State Teacher's College. After a brief return to Vienna, where he studied philosophy and history, he came to Stanford in 1929 as a teaching assistant in the Department of Germanic Languages. He obtained his Ph.D. in 1932, and was appointed Assistant and the Associate Professor in that department.

World War II brought a sharp shift of emphasis in Tony Sokol's career. His knowledge of the Dutch and Malay languages, as well as of Indonesia, led to his becoming co-director, with Professor John Dodds, of Stanford's Far Eastern Area and Language Program, one of the Army's Specialized Programs in anticipation of post-war occupation of the Pacific and Southeast Asian islands. This in turn led to his helping organize and administer the post-war Pacific Asiatic and Russian Program, an interdisciplinary area studies program for undergraduates. When Stanford organized a new Department of Asiatic and Russian Studies in 1945, Tony became Executive Head and Professor of Asiatic Studies. That department was reorganized in 1957 for Asian Languages only, at which time he transferred to the Hoover Institution and, in 1958, to the Department of Political Sciences as Professor of International Security Affairs.

As Tony's title suggested, he never lost interest in naval and military power in world affairs. He was a prolific writer on a variety of cultural and historical subjects, but the works for which he is best known were *Sea Power in the Nuclear Age* (1962) and an official history of the Austrian Navy entitled *The Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Navy* (1968). The latter, translated and reprinted in an elaborate illustrated edition in Austria, was a huge sales success and led to his being awarded by the Austrian Government in 1976 the highly prestigious decoration, The Cross of Honor, First Class, in Science and Art. He was, indeed, a major contributor to the study of naval power and history.

In addition to Tony's special interest in international affairs, he actively pursued a wide range of teaching and writing in the history of civilization. He worked, while a Fulbright Professor at the University of Vienna, to further a better understanding of American culture among Europeans. He had an early interest in the historic status of women, teaching in 1968 a freshman seminar on "The Position of Women in Historical Societies." His collection of slide pictures of distinguished and attractive women was impressive, and indeed his final writing was on a text to accompany possible publication of the collection. As another phase of his broad

range of interests, he contributed a collection of hundreds of volumes to the Austrian National Library and the Austrian War Archives.

What does not emerge from a review of Tony's professional achievements is the fact that he was a warm and charming associate whose good humor was ever-present. His students found him always interested in them as persons, and the added close acquaintance that came with teaching twice at Stanford in Austria, after his retirement, helped to maintain that close student relationship until he died. Likewise his creative work endured without letup. He was writing under an oxygen tent at the end.

Tony will long be remembered as a warm and stimulating colleague by all who came to know him at Stanford. He is survived by his devoted wife, Else, and by a son, Otto, of a previous marriage. Otto is a Stanford graduate in biology. He is also survived by a brother and sister living in Vienna.

Robert A. Walker, Chairman
Robert North
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