

## In Memoriam Gusztáv Bayerle

Professor Emeritus Gusztáv Bayerle was among a group of outstanding Hungarian scholars, which included György Kara, Thomas Sebeok, Denis Sinor and Mihály Szegedy-Maszák, whose contribution helped make the Department of Central Eurasian Studies one of the world's most recognized institutions in the field and a flagship at Indiana University. I first met the gregarious Professor Bayerle, Gusztí as his friends and colleagues fondly called him, as a graduate student in 1988. He was standing in front of his chair's office, which was to the left as we entered the CEUS office on the ground floor of Goodbody Hall. I was a history and political science major and did not realize that I would have anything ever to do with CEUS. But somehow we figured out that we had a common interest, nuclear and international politics. Gusztí invited me into his office. I would reemerge two hours later. In the meanwhile we discussed all the great problems of the world clarifying our positions on the arms race, nuclear deterrence, the transformation in Hungary, interspersed with Gusztí's comments drawing on his vast reservoir of knowledge on Ottoman and early Hungarian history. Many more encounters would follow in my later stints as Hungarian Chair at CEUS. But in 1988, I was still a student, and he a department chair, a professor. Thinking back, the most surprising part of this conversation to me was the way Gusztí treated me as an equal. He was interested in my views and did not make me feel that I was not his peer. Professor Bayerle had not grown up in a democratic environment. He experienced the devastation of war, national socialist persecution, and later the stifling atmosphere of communist terror. He was forced to leave Hungary in 1956, after the revolution failed.

Gusztáv Bayerle was born in Budapest on May 19, 1931. He received the BA in Fine Arts History from the University of Rochester in 1960 and the PhD in Turkish Studies from Columbia University in 1966. It was at Columbia that he met his Finnish wife, Telle. They raised two sons, Henry and Paul, in Bloomington. They would tell friends how proud they were of them. Gusztáv was a student of the noted Hungarian-born Turkologist, Tibor Halasi-Kun at Columbia University, with whom he studied Turkish philology and the history of the Ottoman Empire. Ottoman history remained his main field of interest, especially the history of Central European lands under Ottoman rule. He published five books, numerous articles and reviews, edited important Ottoman historical sources, registers of population and revenues, documents of Ottoman diplomacy, sixteenth and seventeenth century Ottoman Turkish and Hungarian-written letters of Turkish officials. His handy historical dictionary of titles and terms in the Ottoman Empire appeared in Istanbul, once the capital of the Ottoman Empire. Perhaps the most lasting products of his scholarship on Ottoman history are the edition of the 1570 Nógrád sandjak detailed register and the summary register of 1579, which were published in Paris and Hague. His two-volume publication of the letters of the Pashas of Buda entitled *Ottoman diplomacy in Hungary* and the publication of the letters of Ali pasha of Buda [1991], will ensure his lasting legacy. His historical dictionary, *Pashas, begs and efendis* was published in Istanbul.

Professor Bayerle's career at Indiana University began in 1966, one year after the Program in Uralic and Altaic Studies gained department status. He was promoted to associate professor in 1973. He chaired the department for ten years, 1981-1991. The department name changed to Central Eurasian Studies in 1993. From 1991 until his retirement in 1999 Bayerle served as director of the IU Institute of Hungarian Studies. He edited the Turkish Studies Association Bulletin from 1979-1984. From 1984-1989 he served as president of that organization which later became the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association. He was secretary for the American Research Institute in Turkey from 1992, continuing into his retirement. The courses he taught at IU include 16th and 17th Century Ottoman History, Ottoman Turkish, Ottoman philology, History of Hungary, Hungarian Literature and Introduction to Hungarian Studies. Bayerle launched a project for the cooperation of American and Hungarian specialists in Ottoman Studies, which resulted in a number of important papers by Rhoads Murphy, Géza Dávid and Pál Fodor, among others.

Perhaps there was only one thing that Guszti was more proud of than his professional achievements. In 1956 he was a member of the revolutionary Hungarian National Guard. For many years we have commemorated 1956 in Bloomington. This became possible after the democratic turn in 1989. Guszti and Telle did not miss a single one of these. He would proudly show what must have been his most prized treasure, his *Nemzetőrség* identity card. This year, Guszti and Telle have been painfully absent from the festive event. After a visit with them in their beautifully kept home two years ago I did not suspect that it would be our last farewell even though we knew Professor Bayerle had been ill. Telle departed unexpectedly a short time ago. The Department of Central Eurasian Studies, *his* CEUS moved from Goodbody Hall. The world he knew in Bloomington is no longer and he passed on with it.

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