

old associates in the East. His chief complaint was that his weakness had made him fall 300 letters behind in his correspondence, but he happily set about to answer every one. He had not caught up when death took him on June 21, 1966. He is survived by his wife, the former Marie Rogers, and by two children.

C. K. S.

ARTHUR MEIER SCHLESINGER

Arthur and I were "academic twins," having been appointed full professors at Harvard on the same day. And it is difficult for a surviving twin to write about his departed other half. Nor is it necessary to say much, as Arthur wrote his autobiography, which appeared as *In Retrospect. The History of a Historian* in 1963.

He was born and brought up in Xenia, which Lippincott's Gazetteer of 1883 describes as "a handsome city, the capital of Greene Co., O., on the Little Miami River. . . . Pop. about 10,000." There his parents from Germany had settled over a century ago. He was a bright boy, a voracious reader, head of his class at the local high school. We two, then unknown to each other, imbibed history around the turn of the century, not from our school textbooks but from the works of G. A. Henty, J. O. Kaler ("James Otis") and Alexandre Dumas; another of Arthur's favorites was J. Fenimore Cooper. From high school Arthur proceeded to Ohio State University where he graduated with honors, and in 1910 entered the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Columbia University. His doctoral dissertation *The Colonial Merchants and the American Revolution* was written under the aegis of Professor Herbert L. Osgood, whom Arthur used to describe as the dullest lecturer and most thorough scholar he had ever met. The subject

proved the young student's independent way of thinking, since Osgood, a typical "history is past politics" historian, wanted his pupils to choose some political or institutional subject that would feed grist to his many-volumed mill. Arthur, however, possibly influenced by James Harvey Robinson whom he greatly admired, felt that the evolution of society as a whole, rather than the development of its political aspects, was the key to modern history. For that reason he chose to study a class, the colonial merchants, rather than a party or an institution; and this breakaway from tradition brought the immediate attention of the academic world both to the dissertation and to its author. At the age of twenty-four he was appointed instructor in history at his alma mater, Ohio State.

At that time—around 1920-21—I first met Arthur at a meeting of the American Historical Association. He delivered a paper on the American Revolution (published in 1922 as part of his *New Viewpoints in American History*) which showed so much original thought, expressed with such verve and humor, that I promptly introduced myself, and in the few uninterrupted conversations possible in that session, we became friends. Although we did not again meet for several years, I had no hesitation in urging the Harvard History Department to invite Arthur to Cambridge for a year, when I was absent at Oxford.

In his first few months at Harvard, Arthur made such a favorable impression on faculty and students alike that Professor Channing urged that he be invited to join the history department on a permanent basis, to begin in the fall of 1925. And as I then returned from Oxford, we were appointed full professors simultaneously. Thus began thirty years of close personal friendship and professional collaboration. We both retired at the same time, in 1955, and that gave me ten more precious years of his friendship.

Although Arthur was known primarily as a social historian, and a pioneer in it, he did not, like so many of that description, neglect political history. Keenly interested in American politics since boyhood, he transmitted the same taste to his sons. One of my vivid memories of the Schlesinger family, during one of the campaigns in which we both supported Al Smith, was a sort of communication center set up at 19 Gray Gardens, Cambridge. A large wall map of the United States was stuck all over with different-colored pins, representing the vote in the prior presidential election, and predictions for this one. Arthur, Jr., and Tom, schoolboys at the time, were running from telephone to map, sticking in or removing pins, while Arthur, Sr., and Elizabeth looked on benevolently.

How fortunate was Arthur, not only in his sons but in his wife, Elizabeth Bancroft, whom he married in 1914! She shared his interests whole-heartedly and wrote some very good historical articles of her own. Through the League of Women Voters she maintained close contact with the electorate. Arthur and Elizabeth were equally civic-minded, devoting much of their time and energy to the seemingly impossible task of improving the political situation in Cambridge. They took part in many of the hot debates of our era, such as the Sacco and Vanzetti case, academic freedom, and McCarthy; always on the side of freedom.

As a teacher, Arthur was superb. His wit and insight drew sap from the driest graduate student; his supposed secrets and methods of his craft were always at their disposal. As Paul Buck—one of his earliest pupils—said at the memorial service for Arthur on 1 November 1965, "He adorned friendship with insight, solicitude, and assistance. He probed gently yet skillfully until he found what was good in the individual and then gave it nurture."

As a colleague and friend, Arthur was completely dependable, though completely independent in judgment; generous of his time and effort; always ready to coöperate in committee work or in anything that seemed to further improvement in the academic world, as well as in our little circle at Harvard. Let others write about his published works; I say that, great as they were, the man was even greater. He was a patriot in the best sense, a lover of his country, right or wrong, but always endeavoring to keep her faithful to the liberal tradition of the founding fathers.

S. E. M.

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