

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS THEODORE S. HAMEROW

Theodore (Ted) S. Hamerow, G. P. Gooch Professor of History, who taught here from 1958 until his retirement in 1991, and who served as chair of the History Department from 1973 to 1976, died at his home in Madison on February 16, 2013.

Ted Hamerow was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1920. His parents were actors in the great Yiddish Vilna Troupe. When his parents immigrated to the United States in 1925, Ted remained with his grandparents in Poland and Germany before himself coming to New York in 1930.

Ted was educated in the city's public schools and graduated from the City College of New York in 1942. He served in the U.S. Army in Europe from 1943 to 1946 in the infantry and then as a translator for the military police. After the war he earned a master's degree at Columbia in 1947. Ted was then accepted into Hajo Holborn's stellar program in modern German history at Yale, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1951.

Ted's first jobs were brief stints at Wellesley and the University of Maryland's program in Germany. In 1952 he joined the faculty of the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, where he taught until 1958. In the mid-to-late 1950s, the UW History Department was making a major effort to strengthen its European area. In 1956 it hired George Mosse, and two years later it hired Ted Hamerow. Ted's career at Wisconsin was stellar. He directed one of the largest doctoral programs in modern German history in the United States. He was also a compelling undergraduate teacher, with a style all his own. Ted did not use detailed lecture notes or maintain precisely the same lectures year after year. Instead, he prepared only a very brief outline for each lecture, which he then tore up once class was over.

In addition to being a fine teacher at the graduate and undergraduate levels, Ted was a remarkably productive scholar, publishing extensively as a specialist in the era of the unification of Germany. He was particularly interested in the study of social and economic forces and in fact was a pioneer in these areas. His first book was *Restoration, Revolution, Reaction: Economics and Politics in Germany, 1815–1871* (1958), followed by the two-volume *Social Foundations of German Unification, 1858–1871* (1969, 1972), which solidified his reputation as a scholar of the first order. He went on to produce a total of ten works in eleven volumes, as well as co-authoring a textbook, and publishing four other edited or co-edited books. His interests extended beyond Imperial Germany. In *Reflections on History and Historians* (1987) Ted analyzed the current structure and problems of the historical profession and the declining place of history in culture and education, and he proposed several reforms. His 1990 book, *From the Finland Station: The Graying of Revolution in the Twentieth Century*, was a comparative analysis of the revolutionary process in Russia, China, Cuba, and Vietnam.

Retirement little diminished the pace of his research and publication. Among the notable books that he published after his teaching career ended was *On the Road to the Wolf's Lair: German Resistance to Hitler* (1997), which focused on the conservative opposition to Hitler. At the age of 88 Ted brought forth *Why We Watched: Europe, America, and the Holocaust* (2008), a new examination, based extensively on primary research, of the policies and attitudes of Allied governments and institutions during the Holocaust. He also published a memoir of his earliest years, *Remembering a Vanished World: A Jewish Childhood in Interwar Poland* (2001).

Ted was active in service to the profession and in public service, among other things as chair of the Modern European History Association of the AHA in 1978 and later as a member of the Council of the National Endowment for the Humanities from 1992 to 2008. He was the founding president of the Wisconsin

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Association of Scholars and was also one of the founders of The Historical Society, which makes an award annually in his name for the best dissertation in European history.

Ted was a firm and passionate believer in free speech and in maintaining fair and objective standards, and he believed that historians had the responsibility to carry out new research and speak the truth, as they saw it, irrespective of current fads or politics. He had the courage to speak eloquently, passionately, and forthrightly on behalf of his principles, if need be as part of a small minority.

Ted is survived by his wife, Diane, two daughters, two stepsons, two grandchildren, and five step-grandchildren.

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