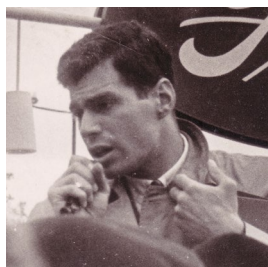


In Memoriam



George Feifer
(1934–2019)

George Feifer died on November 12, 2019, at his home in Los Angeles, of complications from diabetes. An author of more than a dozen books and hundreds of articles for major newspapers and magazines in the United States and Great Britain, he was one of the few American journalists to describe the ethos of ordinary life in the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Feifer was born in Paterson, New Jersey, in 1934. Educated at the Juilliard School of Music and Harvard College, he served as a naval officer before coming to Columbia University's Russian Institute, where he received his master's degree in 1960 and certificate the following year.

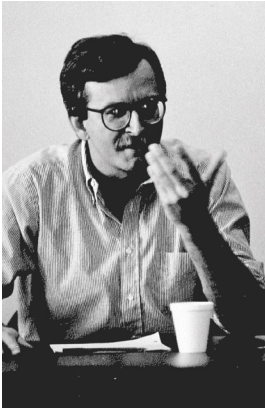
He witnessed the Nixon-Khrushchev kitchen debate in Moscow in 1959, when he served as a young guide for the American exhibition that summer and met his future wife, Tatyana Leimer. After becoming one of the first American exchange students to the USSR in 1961, attending Moscow State University, he published his groundbreaking first book, *Justice in Moscow* (1964), describing the proceedings of civil courtroom trials.

Feifer worked for CBS News before settling in London and going on to write books including his bestselling novel *Moscow Farewell* (1976), about his time in Soviet bohemian circles. *The Girl from Petrovka* (1972) later became a movie starring Goldie Hawn and Hal Holbrook. His anonymously published *Message from Moscow* (1969) described the somber mood in the capital following the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia.

His other notable nonfiction books include *Our Motherland* (1974); *Solzhenitsyn* (1973); *To Dance* (1978); and *Tennozan* (1992), about the World War II battle of Okinawa.

After more than two decades living in London and Ibiza, Spain, Feifer settled in Connecticut. He is survived by his two children, Anastasia and Gregory Feifer; two grandchildren, Vanessa and Sebastian; his former wife Tatyana Stepanova Feifer; and longtime partner Barbara Ungeheuer.

—Gregory Feifer



Mark L. von Hagen
(1954–2019)



Mark L. von Hagen

(professor emeritus at Arizona State University and former director of the Harriman Institute, 1995–2001) died early in the morning of September 15, 2019, surrounded by friends and family. To the very end, Mark was convening seminars in his

hospital room, critiquing a dissertation, and enjoying discussions about history, philosophy, and friendship, three of his favorite topics.

Mark came to Columbia in 1985 to take up the position of assistant professor of history, his first job after defending his dissertation at Stanford University. Mark's legacy at the Harriman Institute includes fundraising for and the establishment of the Ukrainian Studies Program, and the development and establishment of the Harriman master's program in regional studies and its signature course, Legacies of the Soviet Union.

As Alexander Motyl recalls in his tribute to Mark, published on the website of the Shevchenko Scientific Society: "We became full-fledged colleagues when Mark became the Harriman's director and I continued to serve as its, and his, associate director. He bristled with new ideas for courses, conferences, and research; streamlined

the staff; and focused the Institute's attention on the non-Russian nationalities in general and the Ukrainians in particular. It was then that the Institute developed a close relationship with the Association for the Study of Nationalities and agreed to host its annual conventions. It was then as well that Mark initiated a major project on the Ukrainian-Russian Encounter and placed Ukraine at the core of the Institute's mission. He jokingly referred to himself as 'Hetman Marko.'"

Mark began his Columbia teaching career in January 1985, two months before Mikhail Gorbachev came to power. As he writes in the autobiographical essay, with the typically humble title, "Area Studies from Cold War to Civilizational Conflict: On Learning, Relearning, and Unlearning": "After the openings of 1989–91, Columbia was at the center of another arena of area studies that became possible like never before—namely, international conferences and collaborative research projects across former Cold War borders."⁸ It's difficult to imagine anyone better suited than Mark—the quintessential people person—to be at the helm of the Harriman Institute during this tumultuous period, exploring the possibilities for joint projects.

Mark embodied the collaborative spirit as testified by the numerous volumes he coedited with scholars from the post-Soviet states, Europe, Canada, and the United States.[†] (In his narrative for the Harriman Oral History project, Mark goes into much more detail about his

scholarly evolution and the opportunities that opened up with the fall of the USSR.)

The breadth of Mark's accomplishments and expertise is easily summed up by the fact that he served as president of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, president of the International Association for Ukrainian Studies, and dean of the Philosophy Faculty with the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, Germany.

Mark was an inspirational teacher and generous colleague, whose gift for friendship was unexcelled. With his innate charm, he genuinely delighted in introducing friends and colleagues to others. He was fundamentally egalitarian and democratic. He and his devoted partner and husband, Johnny Roldan-Chacon, loved to entertain groups of people—graduate students, colleagues, international visitors—at their home, first on 118th Street, right across from the School of International Affairs, and later on at their much larger apartment on Morningside Drive.

Mark remained at Columbia until 2007, when he left his position as the Boris Bakhmeteff Professor of Russian and East European Studies and chair of the History Department to take up his appointment at Arizona State University, where he was professor of history and global studies with joint appointments in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies and the School of International Letters and Cultures in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Mark

was also the founding director of the Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement at Arizona State, a position of which he was particularly proud and which brought things full circle to the beginning of his career as a military historian with his first book, *Soldiers in the Proletarian Dictatorship* (Cornell, 1990).

On January 31, 2020, the Harriman Institute held a tribute to Mark, with six speakers addressing different parts of his career: Michael David-Fox (Georgetown), Laurie Manchester (Arizona State University), Maria Sonevytsky (UC Berkeley), Frank Sysyn (University of Alberta), Richard Wortman (Columbia), and Elizabeth Valkenier (Columbia). Video of the event is available on the Harriman website.

* Published in the Spring 2017 issue of *Harriman Magazine*, this essay evolved from a talk that Mark gave on September 15, 2016, at the Harriman, as part of its 70th anniversary celebrations.

† *Kazan, Moscow, St. Petersburg: Multiple Faces of the Russian Empire*, coedited with Catherine Evtuhov, Boris Gasparov, and Alexander Osipov (Moscow, 1997); *After Empire: Multiethnic Societies and Nation-Building: The Soviet Union and the Russian, Ottoman, and Habsburg Empires*, coedited with Karen Barkey (Westview, 1997); *Culture, Nation, and Identity: The Ukrainian-Russian Encounter (1600–1945)*, coedited with Andreas Kappeler, Zenon Kohut, and Frank Sysyn (Toronto, 2003); *Russian Empire: Space, People, Power, 1700–1930*, coedited with Jane Burbank (Indiana, 2007).