

**In Memoriam**  
**Thomas Spira**  
**(1923-2005)**

The readers of our journal will be saddened by the news of the passing of a trusted and experienced member of our editorial board, Thomas Spira, who died last September. An indefatigable worker and editor, Dr. Spira has been a role model and adviser to me on most matters of journal production and manuscript editing from the very first days of our journal.

Thomas Spira was born December 28, 1923, in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, the capital city (Pozsony) of the Kingdom of Hungary from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. He and his family left East Central Europe during the late 1930s to escape the increasingly anti-democratic and anti-Semitic political atmosphere there. He arrived in the United States just before the outbreak of World War II. Having experienced the mainly negative effects of nationalism in his childhood, he devoted a lifetime to its study. He received his B.A. from the City College of New York and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from McGill University in Montreal. He next joined the faculty of the Department of History at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. There, in 1973, he launched the *Canadian Review of Studies in Nationalism* a journal he continued to edit for the rest of his life. The *Canadian Review of Studies in Nationalism* published a great many articles of significance over the years and helped to give Thomas Spira's university a world-wide profile.

Tom, as he was known to his friends and colleagues, also published many articles and wrote or edited many volumes. The latter included *The Rise of the Global Village*; *The German-Hungarian-Swabian Triangle, 1936-1939*; *The Road to Discord*; *Ideologies*; and, most recently, *Nationalism and Ethnicity Terminologies: An Encyclopedic Dictionary and Research Guide*. After his retirement from teaching, he remained active as a scholar and editor and was in the process of

completing the *Political Science Handbook of Terminologies: An Encyclopedic Dictionary and Research Guide*.\*

His contribution to our journal, beyond the giving of advice regarding editing and publishing, were two articles: "The Radicalization of Hungary's Swabian Minority after 1935," XI, 1 (Spring, 1984): 9-22; and "The Reaction of Hungary's German Minorities to Oscar Jaszi's Plan for an 'Eastern Switzerland,'" XVIII, 1-2 (1991): 27-42.

Tom personally and thoroughly edited all the manuscripts slated for publication in his journal. His work-load must have been tremendous. Not surprisingly, no successor stepped forward to take over the task of editing the *Canadian Review of Studies in Nationalism*. The journal ceased publication.

Nándor Dreisziger

\* See the obituary of Thomas Spira by Henry Srebrnik, the most recent Associate Editor of *CRSN*, in the last volume of that journal (vol. 32, 2005), p. vii.