

Her conversion to Roman Catholicism did not change these concerns or many of her related judgments, but the extended process did make Betsey eventually a vigorous critic of elements of radical feminism and of various political and moral positions—on abortion, on euthanasia, and on other expressions, as she read them, of excessive, doctrinaire individualism and moral relativism. The reaction to these changing and unfolding views will continue to influence, from both the right and the left, the standing of Betsey's enormous output—more than one hundred and fifty articles and book chapters, as well as more than a dozen books. The range of that work will put full assessment beyond the reach of any single scholar at the same time as it will ensure Betsey's continuing relevance for many areas of scholarship. Extending that influence immeasurably are the work being done, and also the teaching, by Betsey's nearly five dozen former master's and doctoral students, first at Binghamton and then at Emory University, where she was the Eleonore Raoul Professor of the Humanities from 1988 until her death.

David Moltke-Hansen

ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER, JR.

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., a member of the Society since 2000, died on February 8, 2007, at the age of eighty-nine. Because of both his distinguished works of history and biography and his much-celebrated political activity, Professor Schlesinger was probably the best-known American historian of his generation. The engaging smile, the bow tie, and the horn-rimmed glasses were familiar to many Americans.

Schlesinger was born October 15, 1917, in Columbus, Ohio. Originally named Arthur Bancroft Schlesinger, he eventually changed his name to Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., out of admiration for his father, a distinguished Harvard historian who himself

was elected a member of the Society in 1939. Young Schlesinger attended Harvard College, graduating in 1938. His undergraduate honors thesis became his first published book, *Orestes A. Brownson: A Pilgrim's Progress* (1939). After spending a year studying at Cambridge University, he joined Harvard's Society of Fellows in the fall of 1939. In those days membership in the Society of Fellows was an alternative to graduate study. Consequently, Schlesinger never acquired the Ph.D. that most academic historians needed; he seems never to have missed it: As a fellow, he wrote one of his most important books, *The Age of Jackson*, published in 1945 and winner of the first of his two Pulitzer Prizes.

Even as he was beginning his career as a historian of the early nineteenth century, Schlesinger was very much involved in issues of contemporary politics. In his memoir, *A Life in the Twentieth Century*, he tells us that his wife tracked him down in Worcester while he was doing research at the Society for his *Age of Jackson* in order to tell him that *The Nation* wanted to publish as soon as possible his article 'Can Willkie Save the Republican Party?' His article, which urged American intervention to support European resistance against Nazism, was published on December 6, 1941.

Schlesinger spent World War II and its immediate aftermath in London and Washington working for the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA. Although he returned to Harvard as a member of the history faculty in 1947, his interest in contemporary political developments became even more intense. He became one of the founders of Americans for Democratic Action, and in 1949 he published *The Vital Center: The Politics of Freedom*. In this influential book Schlesinger urged the Democratic Party to reject the pro-Communist Left represented by Henry Wallace and instead promote the pragmatic and dynamic liberalism that FDR and the New Deal had initiated. From his father, Schlesinger had picked up a belief that past American politics was cyclical, a belief he fully developed in *The Cycles of American History* (1986). At the end of *The Age of Jackson* he contended that once liberalism had restored tranquility, conservatism recovered power

by the laws of political gravity; conservatism then went on to make a new botch of things that required liberalism to once again take over in the name of the nation. By the late 1940s he implied that liberalism's day was once again coming, if not with Adlai Stevenson, then with some new rising star.

During the 1950s as Schlesinger was becoming increasingly caught up in Democratic Party politics, he worked on what became his important three-volume study of *The Age of Roosevelt*, published between 1957 and 1960. The first of these volumes, *The Crisis of the Old Order*, was awarded the Bancroft Prize. He became involved in John F. Kennedy's campaign for the presidency, and with Kennedy's election in 1960 Schlesinger was invited to join the new administration as a presidential assistant. This dramatically changed the course of his career.

After Kennedy's death in 1963, Schlesinger served briefly under Lyndon Johnson before leaving the government to write his account of his years under President Kennedy. His book *A Thousand Days: John F. Kennedy in the White House* (1965), combining a personal memoir with history, sought to establish Kennedy's legacy as a pragmatic liberal who transformed the American spirit. The book won a National Book Award and the second of Schlesinger's Pulitzer Prizes.

Although Schlesinger joined the faculty of City University of New York Graduate School, he remained close to the Kennedy family and worked on the presidential campaign of Robert F. Kennedy. Following Robert Kennedy's assassination in 1968, Schlesinger devoted himself to writing a biography of the fallen hero, *Robert F. Kennedy and His Times*, which was published in 1978 and won a National Book Award. Most of Schlesinger's subsequent writing involved issues of contemporary politics and included *The Imperial Presidency* (1973) and *The Disuniting of America* (1991).

No doubt it was Schlesinger's absorption in twentieth-century history and contemporary politics that long delayed his election to membership in AAS. Although the bulk of his scholarship lay

outside the scope of the Society, by 2000 Schlesinger's distinction was too great for his being any longer ignored and he became a member. In 2002 he donated a signed copy of his *A Life in the Twentieth Century* to the Society to be used in the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant auction. Because the Society in anticipation of its bicentennial celebration has begun collecting the works of members that have won Pulitzers, Bancrofts, and National Book Awards, the Society now has several of Schlesinger's works, including those that deal with the twentieth century. At the same time the Society has been compiling a collection of the autobiographies, memoirs, and printed diaries of its members. The memoirs of the Schlesingers, father and son, now sit side-by-side in that collection.

Gordon S. Wood

HENRI-JEAN MARTIN

Henri-Jean Martin, who died in Paris on January 13, 2007, at the age of eighty-two, was elected a member of the Society in 1995 in honor of his role as principal figure in the 'history of the book' and as a great scholar of printing and writing. Trained at the *École des Chartes*, from which he graduated in 1947, Martin worked thereafter at the *Bibliothèque Nationale (BN)*. He found greater happiness collaborating with Lucien Febvre, a co-founder of the *Annales* school, on a history of printing in early modern Europe. Febvre had outlined such a book but asked Martin to draft the chapters. In the end the book was virtually his, for Febvre was prevented by illness and his death in 1956 from doing much more than review a small portion of *L'Apparition du livre* (1958); widely translated, it appeared in English in 1976 as *The Coming of the Book*. Impressive for many reasons, it brought to book history an alertness to the book as a commodity and the geography of its commerce. For Martin, a significant professional appointment

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