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In Memoriam: Edward H. Buehrig (1910-1986)

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In memoriam Edward H. Buehrig  
(1910—1986)

In the midst of the preparation of a paper to be read before faculty and students of Indiana University in early October 1986 and in anticipation of another vivid and cordial exchange of ideas with Edward Buehrig the news was received that he had died at Bloomington/Indiana, USA. The great number of former students from the Institute of International Law at the Christian-Albrechts-Universität in Kiel feel a deep sense of loss as another distinguished scholar, a dedicated and highly regarded teacher of Indiana University who has inspired generations of students from Kiel over almost thirty years, has passed away. We have also lost a close personal friend.

Edward H. Buehrig, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Indiana University Department of Political Science, began his academic education at the University of Chicago. Within two years after graduation in 1932, he fulfilled the requirements for the M.A., and in 1942 he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). Already in 1934 he had joined Indiana University as an instructor for political science and — with a few interruptions — stayed with Indiana University, first as an Assistant and Associated Professor, and from 1953 as a Professor and University Professor. In the year 1966/67 he was Acting Chairman of his Department. In 1944—1946, Edward H. Buehrig worked with the Department of State, in 1951 with the Faculty of the National War College, and with the Brooklyn Institute in 1952. His term as a Visiting Professor at American University, Beirut, in 1957/58 left a lasting impression on Edward H. Buehrig. A number of students from Lebanon joined him later again at Indiana University and did graduate work with him. Also, the experience in the Middle East became one of the recurring subjects of Mr. Buehrig's academic work. Mr. Buehrig received several awards and was a member of distinguished professional associations.

The academic work of Edward Buehrig focussed on the analysis of United States foreign policy and on the central problems of the structure of the international system with a view to the vital issue of the maintenance of international peace and security. Two major books were devoted to these themes — Woodrow Wilson and the Balance of Power (1955) and The
United Nations and the Palestinian Refugees (1971). A great number of articles to professional journals show Edward Buehrig's remarkable grasp of the longterm developments of international relations as well as of the precise knowledge of historical and legal details. A major contribution to the German Yearbook of International Law on "Patterns of Authority in International Law" in many ways may be viewed as a summary of Buehrig's thoughts and approach to the central subject of many years of research and teaching. The article happened to be published in vol. 27 (1984) of the German Yearbook right next to the "in memoriam" remembering Buehrig's close friend from Indiana University, Ralph F. Fuchs, and only barely a year before his own death.

Edward Buehrig will be vividly remembered by his students as a dedicated and warm-hearted academic teacher. We all will recall him entering class quietly, starting his lectures in a low voice, his eyes reaching far out — as if Buehrig was deciphering the bewildering problems of international relations while teaching his class. He would immediately captivate his students and create an intense atmosphere of intellectual effort. And Edward Buehrig was an ever attentive adviser to his students and a close friend over almost thirty years to many of us. Edward Buehrig will be remembered by us with great respect and deep gratitude.

Jost Delbrück