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- Three folders containing reviews of *My Years*: an extensive archive of documents collected from numerous journals. [B1]

REVIEWS OF

MY YEARS WITH
LUDWIG VON MISES

Margit steht ebenfalls an
den Spitze der Sache Holman^{2.}
ein geprüfter Diplomingieur und Nationalökonom

den ~~zitiert~~ ~~von~~ Margit Mises - "dass das ~~sozialistische~~ aus dem Bereich des

nationalökonomischen Handels keinesfalls auszuschliessen ist." Eine ~~kurze~~ ~~Notiz~~ ~~von~~ Jack Holman, ein geprüfter Diplomingieur und National-
gedruckt und darf
von Margit Mises
die Margit steht ebenfalls an Spitze der Sache Holman

ökonom, wiederholt einen Ausspruch von Mises folgendermassen" eine der

unumgaenglich notwendigen Vorbedingungen fuer die wirkliche Beherr-
schung des nationalökonomischen Wissens ist vollkommene ~~Kenntnis~~ ~~der~~
und eine genaue Kenntnis
Geschichte, der ~~Gesamten~~ Geschichte der Ideen und der Zivilisation...

Um ein Gebiet zu beherrschen, muss man auch andere Gebiete vollstaendig
gesprochen sein
beherrschen. Die Filtration von Gedanken ist ein unermesslich unendlich
fascinierendes ~~TMN~~ Thema, und Margit von Mises gibt eine Unzahl von

Einzelheiten, die es dem Lesere~~r~~ ermöglichen, die Eindringung der Mises-
Philosophie in die fernliegendsten Orte zu verfolgen. Wenn Sudamerika

~~jemals~~ ~~ein~~ nationalökonomischen Verstand zurueckgewinnen wird, so
die haben Mises "Zwei Monate in Mexico", die Margit mit grosser Einsicht

im ihrem Buche
beschreibt, viel damit zu tun. Und wenn Marx jemals in den Orten, die
und dem Bamboo
jetzt hinter dem eisernen Vorhang liegen, aufgegeben wird, so wird die

Hauptursache Mises Grundauffassung sein, dass das Problem ökonomischer
Berechnung ~~und~~ *AA* unter dem Sozialismus ~~unmoeglich~~ *erwar* ist. Kommunismus haengt

~~ab~~ ~~von~~ ~~den~~ ~~sozialistischen~~ ~~Systemen~~ ~~und~~ ~~den~~ ~~sozialistischen~~ ~~Systemen~~ ~~haengt~~ ~~für~~ ~~den~~

Un livre sur la vie privée

de LUDWIG VON MISES

Nous sommes très heureux et très honorés de publier en exclusivité l'article suivant, que le Professeur Louis Rougier a bien voulu confier à l'Informateur et qui concerne l'un des plus grands économistes des temps modernes.

Ludwig von Mises ne fut pas seulement un des plus grands économistes de son époque. Il fut un esprit universel. Economiste, psychologue, sociologue, épistémologiste, son maître ouvrage HUMAN ACTION fait appel à l'ensemble des sciences sociales. Le premier, en 1920, il démontra que le planisme bureaucratique centralisé était dépourvu de toute rationalité économique, faute de pouvoir calculer les coûts comparés des biens et des services que seul peut déterminer le mécanisme du marché. Dans un premier grand ouvrage LA THÉORIE DE LA MONNAIE ET DU CRÉDIT, il compléta la doctrine autrichienne de l'utilité marginale et établit une théorie des cycles économiques qu'il devait développer par la suite. Son séminaire à l'Université de Vienne essaima toute une floraison de jeunes économistes à travers l'Europe et l'Amérique.

Or, ce professeur incomparable, dont les débuts furent fulgurants, qui prononça tant de conférences, anima tant de séminaires, écrivit tant d'articles, publia tant de livres, forma tant de disciples, dont l'accès fut toujours accueillant, était par contre un homme très réservé, très peu commu-



par le Professeur
Louis ROUGIER

Mises avait 59 ans. Il devait commencer une vie nouvelle, dans un pays étranger, sans situation fixe. Certes, il était connu par ses publications, mais la rigueur de sa pensée, n'admettant aucune concession, fit qu'aucune grande chaire d'économie ne lui fut offerte, à la différence de ce qui était arrivé pour ses propres étudiants de Vienne qui l'avaient précédé aux Etats-Unis de quelques années: G. von Haberler à Harvard, Fritz Machlup à Buffalo et à Princeton. C'est alors que l'affection de Margit, faisant fonction de secrétaire, fut pour lui d'un secours décisif. La Fondation Rockefeller pendant trois ans, l'Association nationale des Industriels, ses articles, ses conférences dans les deux Amériques, ses livres, son séminaire à l'Université de New York de 1948 à 1969

lui permirent de réaliser pendant trente ans le travail le plus productif de sa vie. Parmi les nombreux ouvrages qu'il publia, il faut citer OMNIPOTENT GOVERNMENT, BUREAUCRACY, THEORY AND HISTORY et surtout la traduction anglaise, considérablement augmentée et souvent entièrement réécrite du livre qu'il avait publié à Genève en allemand NATIONALÖKONOMIE en 1940 et qui parut à l'Université de Yale sous le titre de HUMAN ACTION. Un des chapitres les plus impressionnants du livre est celui du sabotage typographique volontaire de la seconde édition qui procura à von Mises beaucoup de nuits blanches.

Von Mises forma quantité d'élèves dont certains sont devenus des économistes notoires, comme Sennholz, Rothbard, mais sans doute le plus fidèle continuateur et défenseur de sa pensée est-il un professeur de droit de Mexico, Gustavo Velasco.

Cette trop rapide analyse et l'espace mesuré ne permettent pas de rendre compte de la richesse d'informations, du pittoresque des descriptions du livre de Margit von Mises. Cette aisance de style s'explique par le fait que Margit fut actrice avant son mariage et traductrice de plusieurs pièces de théâtre de l'anglais en allemand. Elle raconte avec charme et humour leur séjour à Mexico, leurs divers voyages dans l'Amérique du Sud. Elle fait revivre quantité de personnages qui marquèrent profondément cette époque.

Personnellement je suis très sensible à l'évocation de tout ce passé, quand je lis: « Un des derniers livres qu'il lut avec grand intérêt fut THE GENIUS OF THE WEST de Louis Rougier. Il l'avait déjà lu dans l'édition française et il le considérait comme « a great and valuable book ».

Louis Rougier



Ludwig von Mises

nicatif au sujet de sa vie privée. Sa veuve, Margit von Mises, constata que, lors de son décès survenu en octobre 1973, dans les nombreux articles nécrologiques qui parurent, aucune allusion ne fut faite à sa vie familiale. Elle considéra de son devoir de combler une telle lacune. Elle le fit en écrivant un fort beau livre, bien illustré, qui est déjà un best seller aux Etats-Unis, MY YEARS WITH LUDWIG VON MISES (Arlington House Publishers).

Leur rencontre eut lieu au cours de l'automne 1925 à Vienne, lors d'un dîner chez un journaliste, le Dr Fritz Kaufmann, qui, par la suite, devint un économiste distingué en matière de monnaie, de banque et de finance. Une longue intimité s'en suivit qui devait aboutir à un mariage en juin 1938, à Genève, où von Mises occupait, depuis 1934, une chaire à l'Institut de Hautes Etudes internationales, dirigé par William Rappard. Ce ne fut qu'une très heureuse étape pour von Mises et sa femme, avant leur départ, via Lisbonne, pour les Etats-Unis, où ils arrivèrent le 2 août 1940.

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Il est difficile de résumer en quelques phrases cette action et notre raison d'être. Si certains chefs d'entreprise, lecteurs de votre journal, souhaitaient un plus large exposé sur nos buts, nos moyens, soyez assuré, Monsieur le Directeur, que nous serons toujours à votre disposition.

l'imprimé es



VON MISES, THE MAN

Margit von Mises, *My Years with Ludwig von Mises*, Arlington House, (New Rochelle, N.Y., 1976), 191 pp., (\$9.95)

Milton Friedman

Margit von Mises ends this sentimental and charming love letter as follows:

"I can best sum up my husband's character in the very words that he himself used in writing about the distinguished economist, Benjamin Anderson:

'His most eminent qualities

Milton Friedman, the Nobel economist, was greatly influenced by Ludwig von Mises.

were his inflexible honesty, his unhesitating sincerity and his unflinching patriotism. He never yielded. He always freely enunciated what he considered to be true. If he had been prepared to suppress or even to soften his criticism of popular, but obnoxious policies, the most influential positions and offices would have been offered to him. But he never compromised. This firmness marks him as one of the outstanding characters of this age."

This description brought vividly to my recollection the first occasion on which I met von Mises: the founding meeting of the Mont Pelerin Society, convened in 1947 at the small Swiss village of that name, by Friedrich von Hayek, von Mises' favorite and unshakably loyal stu-

dent, with the cooperation of William Rappard, Swiss founder of the Institute des Hautes Etudes de Geneve, who had brought von Mises from Vienna to the Institute in 1934, where von Mises spent six productive years, leaving only in 1940 after the Nazis' conquest of France, and Wilhelm Roepke, a German anti-Nazi who was von Mises' colleague at the Institute.

Von Mises was clearly the dominant intellectual influence on these three eminent economists, as well as on many of the other participants, both those who had their roots in Europe, and already, even by that date, on some from the U.S. The thirty-six persons at the meeting had all been selected because they had demonstrated their belief in a free society and in the close link between political and economic freedom. All were "liberals" in the classical nineteenth century sense, or Burkean conservatives. Yet, my vivid recollection was of a session at which we were discussing the distribution of income, and the propriety of graduated income taxes. All of a sudden, von Mises rose from his seat, proclaimed dramatically, "You're all a bunch of socialists," and stalked from the room.

A coin has two sides. Von Mises' greatness as an economist, his extraordinary influence on a wide range of followers, the hero-worship he attracted — all these derived from his inflexible honesty, with the "inflexible" element as important as the "honesty" element. But the other side of that coin was intransigence, even dogmatism, that bordered on intolerance for anyone who did not wholly agree with him. He was a cultivated and civilized person who was, except perhaps for such occasional outbursts as the one I recall, uniformly polite, so his intolerance never took personally objectionable form. But it was there and has been magnified — as unfortunate traits so often are — in some of his disciples. This side of von Mises' character must have made him an extremely difficult person to live with — as an Austrian friend of Margit's warned her before she left for Geneva to marry "Lu," as she consistently refers to him. Yet, as befits a love letter, this memoir contains few overt references to such difficulties — almost all is perfect harmony, marital bliss, joint accommodation, and consideration — a real tribute to the depth of the love and devotion that Margit rendered to "Lu" during their thirty-five years of married life and that she continues to render to him since his death in 1973 at the age of 92.

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Biography

My Years with Ludwig von Mises, by Margit von Mises. New Rochelle: Arlington House, 1976. 191 pp. \$9.95.

What can be said of a man regarded by many as a genius, a man who, through his work, gave so much to the world, yet chose to reveal so little of his private life? Such a man was the Austrian economist Ludwig von Mises. Many students of Mises, and others, kindled by his unique, extraordinary scholarship, have undoubtedly wondered: What was he like?

His widow, Margit von Mises, has now filled a void with her thoughtful tribute to Mises, the man, and her account of their long, productive life together.

My Years With Ludwig von Mises, it should be said, is not a "memoir" in the usual sense of the word. Actress, literary scholar, and translator, the ebullient and charismatic "Grete" von Mises was able to devote her life to her "Lu," and, in so doing, optimize her own special talents as well.

Born to well-to-do, cultured parents in the city of Hamburg, her happy, comfortable childhood was one of fine schools, good books, and voracious reading, theater, opera, and an endless number of cultural and social events. Her family's sojourn to America during her first five years assured her bilingualism in English and German. This skill later was to be her lifeblood during those lean years between the two Great Wars.

Her independence and strength of character were in evidence early, even before she was out of her teens. She chose the theater as a career, initially against the wishes of her family. However, they soon relented and came to appreciate her success in that career, which took her to Vienna.

We follow her through her young womanhood, set against the backdrop of World War I and its economic and political aftermath. Her early marriage to Ferdinand Sereny and the birth of their two children spanned precarious times in Europe. Her first awareness of a world gone mad did not come with Hitler, but with the living conditions she had to endure during the War, and with the raging inflation afterwards. She conveys to us well the feelings of helplessness and devastation ever present.

Nor was her own life free of turmoil then. Involuntary separations from her husband, necessary travel throughout Germany and Austria, the hardships of having young children plus a career, all affected her. She was finally, happily reunited with her husband and family, only to be left a widow in 1923, the worst year of the inflation.

She met Mises in 1925, beginning a difficult relationship of thirteen years before they married. He, aware of his binding commitment to scholarship, feared that the marriage might detract from his work; she, fulfilled in her own career, was ready to devote herself completely to him and to his ideals.

They were difficult years in a political sense as well, for Hitler's rise to power in Germany was a constant threat to Austria during the year preceding the Anschluss. For his political and economic writing, Mises was on the Nazis' black list. (How could it have been otherwise? Individual liberty and free markets are antithetical to all totalitarian systems.) In 1934, he took a position in Geneva, where he and Margit finally married in 1938, she having narrowly escaped Austria by train.

The next two years in Geneva were happy, successful ones for them, except for the cancer of Naziism, which was spreading fast throughout Europe. Its effects

were felt even in tiny, tranquil, peace-loving Switzerland. They made at last the painful but necessary decision to escape from Europe in July of 1940.

Margit von Mises' consummate skill as a writer keeps us moving quickly through her narrative. The account of the escape from Vienna to Geneva and Geneva to Lisbon grips us. It reads like a novel.

Of their life later in New York, her emphasis shifts to Mises' work, and the people who were attracted by his ideas. She adds her own touches, detailed personal anecdotes of Mises, his colleagues, and his friends, but throughout these passages her insight into human nature is evident. She never gets too chatty, nor does she lose sight of the larger picture.

Her observations of Mises (as only she could know him) are bound to surprise us. We find it hard to believe that the formidable scholar had a soft spot for children, and even for animals. His romantic nature is new to us. This self-contained Victorian had a temper nonetheless; at times, he let it show. His tremendous mental energy allowed him time to pursue a far-reaching range of interests. Art, music, literature, traveling, mountain-climbing were all important to his life, but most important of all were his relationships with other people.

Both in Europe and in America the Mises were constantly entertaining new friends and old. Wherever they went they made friends, whether with fellow refugees escaping from occupied France on a bus headed for Lisbon, or with students in his famous seminar at New York University.

How Mises was able to be so productive yet live such a life in balance might remain a mystery, were it not for certain insights into his character. The Mises combined intelligence and self-discipline with a facility for living their lives in grace and graciousness, even in the face of adversity. There were, after all, obstacles: the loss of their native land, the scattering of family and close friends, the adjustment to a new way of life.

Mises' financial position was insecure in America, and his health began to decline in his most productive years. His later, frequent bouts with illness were a constant source of distress to him, stress on her.

She alludes also to the one fact most painful to tell: that despite the soundness of his economic theory, despite his prophetic warnings come true, Mises was never really accepted by the "official" fraternity of economists.

All the more remarkable, then, that the things we remember are Mises' accomplishments. That the times they were born in, and the values of another era influenced their whole way of life cannot be denied. Ever gracious, ever *gemütlich*, ever demanding and achieving the best of themselves, they were truly of the Old World. In these days of nihilism, of despair, of collective guilt and collective rage, we have met two people who were that much more human than today's self-styled defenders of a dubious faith. They refused to compromise their dignity. He refused to compromise his economic philosophy of individual liberty.

Amy Mann

Economics

The Inflation Crisis and How to Resolve It, by Henry Hazlitt. New Rochelle, N.Y.: Arlington House Publisher, 1978. 192 pp. \$7.95.

All politicians are ostensibly interested in "fighting" inflation. By such rhetoric the politician is likely to mean support of programs of government confiscation and coercion to increase emoluments to particular interests or groups, or support for

My Years With Ludwig von Mises, by Margit von Mises, New Rochelle, N. Y.: Arlington House, 1976. 191 pp. \$9.95.

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY, for all its fanfare about academic freedom and its being a free marketplace of ideas, still flashes every now and then a degree of intellectual intolerance, especially against those it seems as possessing unconventional wisdom and being on "the Right." That is one impression from a reading of Margit von Mises' tender, moving and revealing memoir of her late husband whom she and her friends called "Lu."

Another impression is that once again a great intellect—and Mises possessed one of the great intellects of this century and perhaps of one century—is shown to be nothing but a disembodied mind. Mises, the man, if ever uncompromising, ever beleaguered, still comes through as an individual of sense and sensitivity, charm and compassion, courtly manners and dignified reserve—marks of a bygone gentler and grander era.

Ludwig von Mises (1881-1973) was the leader of the Austrian School of Economics, the mentor of such outstanding economists as F. A. Hayek, who went on to become a Nobel laureate, and Gottfried Haberler and Fritz Machlup, both of whom went on to become president of the American Economic Association. He also had a profound impact on Jacques Rueff of France, Wilhelm Roepke of Switzerland, Lionel Robbins of England, Bertil Ohlin of Sweden, Volkmar Muthesius of Germany, Jean-Pierre Hamilius of Luxembourg, Luigi Einaudi of Italy, Joaquin Reig of Spain, Alberto Benegas-Lynch of Argentina, Pedro Beltran of Peru, Gustavo Velasco of Mexico, Ludwig Lachmann of South Africa, Toshio Murata of Japan and a number of scholars in the United States, perhaps most notably (apart from Drs. Haberler and Machlup) James Buchanan of Vir-

formerly of *Newsweek* and *The New York Times*, Israel Kirzner of New York University, Sylvester Petro of Wake Forest University, Murray Rothbard of the Polytechnic Institute of New York and Hans Sennholz of Grove City College. Mises, whom Hayek characterized as a "great radical," was a thinker *par excellence* on freedom and free enterprise. Rare is the man who comes up with one major opus in his lifetime: Mises came up with three, all up-setting to conventional wisdom.

The first was published in 1912 as *Theorie des Geldes und der Umlaufsmittel*, later translated into a British edition in 1934 and an American edition in 1952 as *The Theory of Money and Credit*. In it Mises linked the business cycle to inflation and the Quantity Theory of Money. The Quantity Theory holds that prices, apart from supply and demand, tend to move with the stock of money, rising and falling with the stock.¹ With money issue and credit control as universal functions of government, said Mises, inflation is anything but an act of God; it is man-made—more precisely, government-made. Moreover, inflation breeds recession. Money, he declared in the 1934 edition, is simply a medium of exchange, a means of transferring goods and services, and not at all a tool for carrying out economic reform or business "stimulus" (how modern a ring in that word!). He held, yes, money and credit expansion can well lead to an inflationary boom, but it is bound to end in a correspondingly severer crisis.

His second major opus was published in 1922 as *Die Gemeinwirtschaft*, later translated into British and American editions as *Socialism*. Here he delivered so devastating (and presumably so helpful) an attack on socialism for its inherent lack of market calculation that a leading socialist thinker, Oskar Lange, who later became a member of Poland's Politburo, was impressed and even proposed tongue-in-cheek that a statue of Mises be raised. Lange believed that the

thought such a puerile naive.

His third and most sweeping major opus started as *Nationalökonomie* in Switzerland in 1940 and became *Human Action* in a completely revised English edition published by Yale University Press in 1949. In this work Mises transcended economics to comprehend the entire sphere of man's behavior, a sphere he designated as "praxeology . . . the science of human action." Human action, explained Mises, reflects each individual's ever choosing, determining and trying to reach various ends. Ends are unlimited, means limited—the omnipresence of scarcity. So, ironically, choosing the means for one end means giving them up for another. He wrote: "Action therefore always involves both taking and renunciation." Life ineluctably becomes a series of trade-offs.

Free—i.e., noncoerced—individual choice, then, becomes the key to personal and societal development, if not survival. So while Mises believed strongly in law and government (he held a doctorate in jurisprudence), he advocated limited and condemned interventionist government. As he stated:

In stark reality, peaceful social cooperation is impossible if no provision is made for violent prevention and suppression of antisocial action on the part of refractory individuals and groups of individuals.

No government intervention was sacrosanct. He slashed into the Keynesians' use of the so-called contracyclical budget—the big paradigm of modern-day economics. (E.g., Mr. Carter's \$31.3 billion budgetary package of job projects and \$50 tax rebates to "stimulate" the U.S. economy.) Indeed, interventionism generally makes matters worse: subsidies to industries make them sick, minimum wage laws boomerang on labor, welfare hurts the poor, industrial regulation reduces competition and efficiency, foreign aid undermines developing countries, etc. etc.

also adversaries if not enemies over a time, as Margit von Mises makes clear. Be sure, Mises was assertive and even assertive at times. He questioned whether economics could be dissolved into branches as agriculture, labor and Law in America. He was also critical of historical and statistical approaches in deriving economic theory. His methodology was a priori and deductive, not empirical and inductive. And conceding its shortcomings he nonetheless espoused the gold standard to his dying day, long after it had gone out of fashion. Little wonder that Mises stood alone. But he never budged, pushing on with a "relentless consistency and persistence"—the words are Hayek's, quoted in Mrs. Mises' book—"even when it led to unpopularity and isolation."

So Margit Mises weaves a remarkable story of a remarkable man in remarkable times. She tells of her career on the Austrian stage, of her becoming widowed at age 27 with two small children and with inflation wiping out her savings in 1923. She recounts her first meeting in 1925 with Mises, already eminent, then 44-year-old professor of economics she was to marry 13 years later.

She describes the Nazi takeover of Austria, the street demonstrations in Vienna, the huge picture of Hitler hung in St. Stephen's Cathedral, the strut of German troops, the Nazis raiding Professor Mises' apartment, their seizure of his library, his writings, documents and everything else they found of importance, which they packed into thirty-eight cases and carted away. Fortunately Mises had earlier fled Vienna for Geneva where he joined the Graduate Institute of International Studies.

Margit, then engaged to her "Lu," had to scramble to get the necessary documents from the Nazified authorities to leave Austria for Switzerland. She writes of her departure with her children:

Police officers, Gestapo agents, S.S. men one after the other, came into the co-

Modern Age which arrived today.
Peterson's review of your book. Fred.

ment of our railway coach to inspect passports and examine our documents. Only when the train moved out the station and gathered speed could breathe easy. We were free!

the Nazi terror would not go away. rites how she and Mises, blacklisted Nazis, followed news of the outbreak of World War II in 1939, of Hitler's sweep forward, Denmark, the Netherlands, and, finally, France. With the occupation of Paris in June of 1940, she decided to leave for the United

States. Her escape from Europe, beginning on July 1, 1940, was not easy. Their bus in France had to avoid German soldiers who were in the midst of occupying the country. There was a nerve-racking delay in getting clearance to cross the border into Spain. They arrived in New York in August.

Her New York friend Henry Hazlitt, then an editor of *The New York Times* and an admirer of Mises, proved to be very helpful. Also helpful were Lawrence Fertig, syndicated newspaper columnist for the Scripps-Howard papers, Leonard Read, head of the Foundation for Economic Education, and Robert Courtney, president of Coty, Inc. She soon turned out *Omnipotent Government: The Rise of the Bureaucracy and Planned Chaos*. In 1941 the Yale University Press published his work, *Human Action*. Mrs. Mises had written every page of the manuscript.

She notes one incident in which she may have influenced Mises' thinking. She told him she felt the most important fact of the free market was that it helps poor people. This should be stressed and brought out as fully as possible in his writing. Mises listened to her, thought for a moment, and said, "I guess you are right."

Meanwhile, Mises became a "visiting professor" of political economy at New York University's graduate business school. He held the position for twenty-four years. For Mrs. Mises expresses her gratitude to the university. Still, the fact that he did not hold the position at one of the more presti-

gious universities betrays some intellectual ostracism. In a poignant episode Mrs. Mises writes of his luncheon with his friend Winfield W. Riefler at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton where scholars pursue full-time research and share a challenging intellectual atmosphere. She writes:

I remember Lu once told me that Riefler's job was the only position that really would have made him happy. . . . It was unusual for Lu to express a longing for something out of his reach. It was more revealing to me than any other remark or complaint he might have made. . . . When I told Fritz Machlup—much, much later—about Lu's wish, he replied, "And he would have been the right man at the right place. Why did no one ever think of it?"

Why indeed? Again, she relates how the Yale University Press, after a change of editorship, denied page proofs to Mises and botched the second edition of *Human Action*, full of typographical errors and misplaced sections. (The Henry Regnery Company of Chicago brought out a third revised edition in 1966 that was workmanlike in every respect.) She also relates how coolly his fellow faculty members treated him at NYU's graduate business school, how faculty advisers denied permission to students to take the Mises seminar for credit in their official degree programs. As one of them declared to a student: "Mises' theory is a religion, not economics."

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Another impression is that once again a great intellect—and Mises possessed one of the great intellects of this century and perhaps of any century—is shown to be anything but a disembodied mind. Mises, the man, if ever uncompromising, ever beleaguered, still comes through as an individual of sense and sensitivity, charm and compassion, courtly manners and dignified reserve—marks of a bygone gentler and grander era.

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Senate

LUDWIG VON MISES—FIRST HAND

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, several years ago I had the opportunity to deliver daily television editorials in Raleigh, N.C. My comments on economic matters prompted a friend of mine to recommend a brilliant book—Ludwig von Mises' *Human Action*, one of the most important economic treatises of this century. The von Mises book answered many questions in my mind about the free market and the essential humanity of freedom in economic affairs.

Two years ago Mrs. Ludwig von Mises, Margit, wrote "*My Years With Ludwig von Mises*," a book which chronicles the private life of Professor von Mises which was as full of character and integrity as his books. Mrs. von Mises lives in New York and is active in a number of organizations which value highly the virtues of a free society. Though I have never met her, I recognize her as a scholar in her own right and I hope sometime to be able to talk with her. Until anyone who does not know her has that opportunity, the next best thing might be her book.

Mr. President, a review by Prof. William Peterson, holder of the Lundy Chair of Philosophy of Business at Campbell College in North Carolina, of Mrs. von Mises' book appeared in the prestigious journal "*Modern Age*" in the summer 1977 issue. Bill Peterson is an erudite economist in his own right and I am glad to number him among my friends.

Mr. President, I ask that this article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

MY YEARS WITH LUDWIG VON MISES

(By Margit von Mises)

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But the Nazi terror would not go away. She writes how she and Mises, blacklisted by the Nazis, followed news of the outbreak of World War II in 1939, of Hitler's sweep into Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium and, finally, France. With the occupation of Paris in June of 1940, the Mises decided to leave for the United States.

Their escape from Europe, beginning on July 4, 1940, was not easy. Their bus through France had to avoid German troops who were in the midst of occupying the entire country. There was a nerve-racking delay in getting clearance to cross the Pyrenees into Spain. They arrived in New York in August.

In New York Henry Hazlitt, then an editor of *The New York Times* and an admirer of Mises, proved to be very helpful. Also helpful were Lawrence Fertig, syndicated financial columnist for the Scripps-Howard newspapers, Leonard Read, head of the Foundation for Economic Education, and Philip Cortney, president of Coty, Inc. Mises soon turned out *Omnipotent Government*, *Bureaucracy* and *Planned Chaos*. In 1949 Yale University Press published his masterwork, *Human Action*. Mrs. Mises had typed every page of the manuscript.

She notes one incident in which she may have influenced Mises' thinking. She told him she felt the most important fact of the free market was that it helps poor people, that this should be stressed and brought out as clearly as possible in his writing. Mises looked at her, thought for a moment, and said: "I guess you are right."

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University's graduate business school, a post he held for twenty-four years. For this Mrs. Mises expresses her gratitude to the University. Still, the fact that he did not land a position at one of the more prestigious universities betrays some intellectual ostracism. In a poignant episode Mrs. Mises writes of his luncheon with his friend Winfield W. Riefler at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton where scholars pursue full-time research and share a challenging intellectual atmosphere. She writes:

I remember Lu once told me that Riefler's job was the only position that really would have made him happy . . . It was unusual for Lu to express a longing for something out of his reach. It was more revealing to me than any other remark or complaint he might have made. . . . When I told Fritz Machlup—much, much later—about Lu's wish, he replied, "And he would have been the right man at the right place. Why did no one ever think of it?"

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An Empirical Theologian

The Mind of William Paley: A Philosopher and His Age, by D. L. LeMahieu, *Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1976. xi — 215 pp. \$12.95.*

To COLERIDGE, William Paley's theology evinced "the utter rejection of all present and living communion with the universal Spirit." In Hazlitt's view, "this . . . shuffling Divine . . . employed the whole of his life, and his moderate second-hand abilities, in tampering with religion, morality, and politics. . . ." And Shelley rashly exclaims: "I had rather be damned with Plato and Lord Bacon than get to heaven with Paley and Malthus." William Paley (1743-1805), for the romantics, epitomized the arid empiricism, rationalism, and complacency of eighteenth-century religious thought in England. They found in his

works no febrile grasping after elusive truths, no torment, no visions. Lacking the agile skepticism of his great antagonist Hume, he wanted also the intense spirituality of a Böhme or a Blake. No wonder, then, that the mind of William Paley, apparently frigid and pedantic, should offend the passionate and metaphysical mind of S. T. Coleridge. And if Paley was an incubus to the romantics, surely he is not even a ghost to us! Who now reads Paley? We may well ask. Who now would read about him?

Yet from 1785 to 1802 William Paley produced four works whose influence defied and no doubt inflamed romantic vilification. His *Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy* (1785) advanced a conservative utilitarianism; it was incorporated immediately into the curriculum and examinations of Cambridge and survived for many years the assaults of evangelistic Christians, hostile dons, and even J. S. Mill. By the mid-nineteenth century, however, the shadow of Coleridge lay heavily across it. In 1790 he published the *Horae Paulinae*, a diligent and original examination of the *Acts* and the epistles of St. Paul designed to rebut the charges of fraud raised against Christianity by Hume and others; it, too, endured well into the nineteenth century, to be eclipsed at last by the German "higher criticism." His best works are his final two: the *Evidences of Christianity* (1794) and *Natural Theology* (1802) made him a celebrity. Both works, in fact, are intelligent and extensive exercises in natural theology: they attempt to show how the central truths of Christianity, conveyed to us through revealed theology, are supported by reason. In this tradition, to be sure, Paley was no pioneer, for natural theology was well known to the schoolmen and the Church fathers; but no one can deny that it was plied with redoubtable vigor by eighteenth-century Christian apologists, and LeMahieu is surely correct in distinguishing Paley as its most acute, consistent, and sophisticated practitioner.

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His second major opus was published in 1922 as *Die Gemeinwirtschaft*, later translated into British and American editions as *Socialism*. Here he delivered so devastating (and presumably so helpful) an attack on socialism for its inherent lack of market calculation that a leading socialist thinker, Oskar Lange, who later became a member of Poland's Politburo, was impressed and even proposed tongue-in-cheek that a statue of Mises be raised. Lange believed that the

problem of calculation was solvable; Mises thought such a belief naive.

His third and most sweeping major opus started as *Nationalökonomie* in Switzerland in 1940 and became *Human Action* in a completely revised English edition published by Yale University Press in 1949. In this work Mises transcended economics to comprehend the entire sphere of man's behavior, a sphere he designated as "praxeology . . . the science of human action." Human action, explained Mises, reflects each individual's ever choosing, determining and trying to reach various ends. Ends are unlimited, means limited—the omnipresence of scarcity. So, ironically, choosing the means for one end means giving them up for another. He wrote: "Action therefore always involves both taking and renunciation." Life ineluctably becomes a series of trade-offs.

Free—i.e., noncoerced—individual choice, then, becomes the key to personal and societal development, if not survival. So while Mises believed strongly in law and government (he held a doctorate in jurisprudence), he advocated limited and condemned interventionist government. As he stated:

In stark reality, peaceful social cooperation is impossible if no provision is made for violent prevention and suppression of antisocial action on the part of refractory individuals and groups of individuals.

No government intervention was sacrosanct. He slashed into the Keynesians' use of the so-called contracyclical budget—the big paradigm of modern-day economics. (E.g., Mr. Carter's \$31.3 billion budgetary package of job projects and \$50 tax rebates to "stimulate" the U.S. economy.) Indeed, interventionism generally makes matters worse: subsidies to industries make them sick, minimum wage laws boomerang on labor, welfare hurts the poor, industrial regulation reduces competition and efficiency, foreign aid undermines developing countries, etc. etc.

All this and more attracted converts but also adversaries if not enemies over a lifetime, as Margit von Mises makes clear. To be sure, Mises was assertive and even abrasive at times. He questioned whether economics could be dissolved into such branches as agriculture, labor and Latin America. He was also critical of historical and statistical approaches in deriving economic theory. His methodology was a priori and deductive, not empirical and inductive. And conceding its shortcomings, he nonetheless espoused the gold standard to his dying day, long after it had gone out of fashion. Little wonder that Mises long stood alone. But he never budged, pushing on with a "relentless consistency and persistence"—the words are Hayek's, as quoted in Mrs. Mises' book—"even when it led to unpopularity and isolation."

So Margit Mises weaves a remarkable story of a remarkable man in remarkable times. She tells of her career on the Austrian stage, of her becoming widowed at age 27 with two small children and with inflation wiping out her savings in 1923. She recounts her first meeting in 1925 with the already eminent, then 44-year-old professor of economics she was to marry 13 years later.

She describes the Nazi takeover of Austria, the street demonstrations in Vienna, the huge picture of Hitler hung in St. Stephen's Cathedral, the strut of German troops, the Nazis raiding Professor Mises' apartment, their seizure of his library, his writings, documents and everything else they found of importance, which they packed into thirty-eight cases and carted away. Fortunately Mises had earlier left Vienna for Geneva where he joined the Graduate Institute of International Studies.

Margit, then engaged to her "Lu," had to scramble to get the necessary documents from the Nazified authorities to leave Austria for Switzerland. She writes of her departure with her children:

Police officers, Gestapo agents, S.S. men, one after the other, came into the com-

partment of our railway coach to inspect our passports and examine our documents. Only when the train moved out of the station and gathered speed could I breathe easy. We were free!

But the Nazi terror would not go away. She writes how she and Mises, blacklisted by the Nazis, followed news of the outbreak of World War II in 1939, of Hitler's sweep into Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium and, finally, France. With the occupation of Paris in June of 1940, the Mises decided to leave for the United States.

Their escape from Europe, beginning on July 4, 1940, was not easy. Their bus through France had to avoid German troops who were in the midst of occupying the entire country. There was a nerve-racking delay in getting clearance to cross the Pyrenees into Spain. They arrived in New York in August.

In New York Henry Hazlitt, then an editor of *The New York Times* and an admirer of Mises, proved to be very helpful. Also helpful were Lawrence Fertig, syndicated financial columnist for the Scripps-Howard newspapers, Leonard Read, head of the Foundation for Economic Education, and Philip Cortney, president of Coty, Inc. Mises soon turned out *Omnipotent Government*, *Bureaucracy* and *Planned Chaos*. In 1949 Yale University Press published his masterwork, *Human Action*. Mrs. Mises had typed every page of the manuscript.

She notes one incident in which she may have influenced Mises' thinking. She told him she felt the most important fact of the free market was that it helps poor people, that this should be stressed and brought out as clearly as possible in his writing. Mises looked at her, thought for a moment, and said: "I guess you are right."

Meanwhile, Mises became a "visiting professor" of political economy at New York University's graduate business school, a post he held for twenty-four years. For this Mrs. Mises expresses her gratitude to the University. Still, the fact that he did not land a position at one of the more presti-

gious universities betrays some intellectual ostracism. In a poignant episode Mrs. Mises writes of his luncheon with his friend Winfield W. Riefler at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton where scholars pursue full-time research and share a challenging intellectual atmosphere. She writes:

I remember Lu once told me that Riefler's job was the only position that really would have made him happy. . . It was unusual for Lu to express a longing for something out of his reach. It was more revealing to me than any other remark or complaint he might have made. . . . When I told Fritz Machlup—much, much later—about Lu's wish, he replied, "And he would have been the right man at the right place. Why did no one ever think of it?"

Why indeed? Again, she relates how the Yale University Press, after a change of editorship, denied page proofs to Mises and botched the second edition of *Human Action*, full of typographical errors and misplaced sections. (The Henry Regnery Company of Chicago brought out a third revised edition in 1966 that was workmanlike in every respect.) She also relates how coolly his fellow faculty members treated him at NYU's graduate business school, how faculty advisers denied permission to students to take the Mises seminar for credit in their official degree programs. As one of them declared to a student: "Mises' theory is a religion, not economics."

To be sure, Mises won recognition after all. In 1963 New York University bestowed an honorary doctorate of law on him, and *The Wall Street Journal* acknowledged the event with a laudatory editorial. In 1969, four years before his death, he was named Distinguished Fellow of the American Economic Association. In 1974, one year after his death, the Mont Perlerin Society conducted an impressive memorial conference in honor of Mises. Francisco Marroquin University in Guatemala founded a Ludwig von Mises Library. Hillsdale College in Michigan founded an annual series of

Mises Lectures. The National Federation of Independent Business has a yearly Mises Memorial Essay Contest for high school and college students, administered by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute.

The work and philosophy of Ludwig von Mises will unquestionably live on and may someday even overtake the paradigms of our interventionist age. If this happens, it would be in spite of ongoing intellectual intolerance against his seminal free-market ideas.

Reviewed by WILLIAM H. PETERSON

But the Mises view of the Quantity Theory differed importantly from that of the Chicago School's patron saint, Irving Fisher. Fisher's approach with its equation of $PT = MV$ was mechanical and presumably quite predictable in application; Mises' approach with its subjective evaluation of money was psychological and a good bit less predictable in application.

My Years with Ludwig von Mises

by Margit von Mises
New Rochelle, N.Y.: Arlington House.
1976.
191 pp. Illustrated. \$9.95.

While free-market economists such as Hayek and Friedman have come in of late for long overdue honors, the general public still knows little of the man whom most knowledgeable observers believe to be the foremost classical economist of this century—Ludwig von Mises.

Perhaps with the failure of interventionist economics dawning in an ever-widening circle of public opinion, this situation will be corrected and the name *von Mises* will be as well known to the man on the street as *Samuelson* or *Galbraith* or *Keynes*. Aiding invaluable in this process is an admirable little biography of Professor von Mises by his widow, Margit—a study that looks, not at the theories that propelled her husband to the apex of libertarian thinkers, but rather at the individual himself, a man who devoted his whole life to economic freedom and the diversity of

the marketplace.

Already a scholar of some note in the first decade of this century, Ludwig von Mises served in the Austrian army in the First World War and in the 1920's performed as a high official of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce, a semi-official trade organization, advancing to a position as one of his nation's foremost thinkers through the publication of his ground-breaking study *Socialism*.

He was not a garrulous or an outgoing man; his manners were reserved and courtly and belonged, even in that decade, to an earlier era, but upon meeting Margit—a distinguished and lovely actress and a translator of dramatic properties—he resolved to end the bachelor ways his academic colleagues felt he would never forsake.

Nothing got in the way of his work, however. He continued to carry forward the gospel of free-market economics to the rest of Europe. In 1934, either through a careful reading of the Central European political situation or by mere fortune, he migrated to Switzerland. Four years later, when Hitler marched into Austria, von Mises spirited his future bride out of Vienna and completed their decade-long courtship.

A comfortable life in Geneva was

threatened by continued German aggression, and the couple made their way across the remnants of free Europe in 1940 to America, where Ludwig was offered a post in California.

Now in his sixties, von Mises began a second career, teaching seminars at New York University, writing voluminously (it was in the New World that *Human Action*, *Bureacracy*, and *Omnipotent Government* were written), lecturing throughout the Americas, and influencing an entire generation of American classical economists.

He was, as ever, an unbending advocate of a free society. As von Mises himself said of a colleague, Benjamin Anderson, in words that are equally applicable to himself: "His most eminent qualities were his inflexible honesty, his unyielding sincerity and his unflinching patriotism. He never yielded. He always freely enunciated what he considered to be true. If he had been prepared to suppress or only soften his criticism of popular, but obnoxious policies, the most influential positions... would have been offered to him. But he never compromised. This firmness marked him as one of the outstanding characters of this age."

David A. Pietrusza

Book Review**The Human Side of von Mises**

By MURRAY N. ROTHBARD

For those who are passionately concerned with ideas, and especially those engaged in a lifelong struggle for freedom, the opportunity is all too rare to step

"My Years with Ludwig von Mises"

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back for a moment and consider the *persons* who are our mentors and guides. This is particularly true of Ludwig von Mises, one of the great minds of this century and the outstanding champion of human freedom of our age.

In this charming and poignant memoir of their life together, his devoted widow, Margit, points out that when Mises died in October 1973, none of the articles and memorials about him dealt with Mises the person. In her preface, she explains why, and why she wrote this book:

"My husband was a very reserved person. While he was kind and friendly to all, he was extremely self-restrained and uncommunicative about his own life and affairs. He never talked about himself or his family. His work, his writings belonged to the world. His feelings belonged to me. I have reason to believe that I am the only person who really knew him.

"That is why I have written this book. The desire to bring him closer to his admirers and to the many students who loved him and stood in awe of his genius eventually grew so strong within me that it became almost an obsession. By telling the story of our life together, I shall try to reveal Ludwig von Mises as he really was: a great thinker, a great scholar, a great teacher—but still a lonely man with a great need for love and affection."

The awe and the love I can testify to. For those of us who were honored and privileged to be students and friends of Ludwig von Mises, the idea of any sort of emotional intimacy with this man whom we loved and revered was simply not thinkable.

Mr. Rothbard is Professor of Economics at the Polytechnic Institute of New York. He has written widely on history, economics and social criticism.

Mises was a man of great charm, sweetness, and benevolence—far different from the doughty fighter one might expect from his writings—but he also possessed the grace, courtliness and inner reserve which was a product of an older and nobler age. But this was not a disappointment to us; quite the contrary. In our bumptious world of Instant Intimacy it was an honor to know a man for whom privacy and emotional restraint were an essential part of his being.

In this enthralling and moving memoir, Margit von Mises has gracefully succeeded in the delicate task of revealing to us Mises the man without presuming to strip away his cherished sense of privacy. (Would that other memoirs would do the same!)

As the details of their life together accumulate, the reader becomes gripped and moved by the book. Who would have thought that a volume like this is one that "one cannot put down"? And yet, Margit has accomplished this feat.

Above all, this book is a lovely valentine, a love story of Ludwig and Margit's life together. It is a touching and tender love story, a romance in the best sense of the term. No longer need we think sadly of Ludwig von Mises' life as merely a lonely and supremely courageous struggle on the part of a great man whose ideas and contributions were neglected and demeaned by a hostile and uncomprehending world, who was deprived of the high honors which academia and the world of scholarship *should* have heaped upon him.

For now we know that Mises' life was enriched and made happy by his great and abiding love. All of us who love and admire Ludwig von Mises are in Margit's debt—both for her existence and for this book which tells us the Mises story. It is a book for all of us to read and cherish.

And yet... I am reluctant to bring up any unpleasant considerations in a discussion of a book of such grace and tenderness. But this book has brought alive even more than before the shabbiness, the malice, with which Mises was treated by an intellectual world which should have given him all the honor and prestige of which they are capable.

In what I found a particularly moving passage of the book, Margit writes of the time, early in his life in America, when

Mises visited a friend of his (Winfield W. Riefler), who had a position with the prestigious Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, where scholars can devote themselves to full-time scholarship and high intellectual companionship. She writes:

"I remember Lu [Mises] once told me that Riefler's job was the only position that really would have made him happy. ... It was unusual for Lu to express a longing for something out of his reach. It was more revealing to me than any other remark he might have made. When I told Fritz Machlup [one of Mises' students in Vienna]—much, much later—about Lu's wish, he replied, 'And he would have been the right man at the right place.' Why did no one ever think of it?"

Why, indeed? In her sweet way, Margit expresses gratitude to New York University for giving Mises the opportunity to teach. But I must confess that when I consider that NYU paid Mises the munificent sum of \$2,000 a year as a part-time instructor, that they only allowed Mises to teach full-time as a visiting professor for many years because his entire salary was paid by the William Volker Fund and other business admirers, that the administration of NYU tried to discourage students from attending Mises' classes, many emotions fill my heart, but gratitude is not one of them.

To think that at a time when every fifth-rate Socialist refugee received well-paying and prestigious posts in academia, that a man like Mises could only spend his years at a third-rate business school in a subsidized post! This is a blot on American academia that can never be forgiven or forgotten.

I am grateful and happy that Ludwig and Margit were able to live their lives in America without bitterness, that Mises could spend his most productive and fruitful years happily even under such contemptible treatment. But I cannot succeed in looking at that treatment with the same grace and equanimity.

It is sad that Ludwig von Mises could not have lived to see the present resurgence of his "Austrian economics" teachings, to see a world where a glittering array of younger economists have become "Misesians," where scholarly institutes, foundations, conferences and seminars are expounding his teachings, where Misesian books are beginning to pour forth from the presses.

But we can console ourselves a little at the thought that the immortal Ludwig von Mises lives on, in the hearts of those who loved him, and in his teachings that are finding an ever-expanding influence. And now Margit von Mises' memoir will play a vital part in the immortalizing of her noble husband.

UN LIVRE SUR LA VIE
PRIVÉE

de LUDWIG VON MISES

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Ludwig von Mises ne fut pas seulement un des plus grands économistes de son époque. Il fut un esprit universel. Economiste, psychologue, sociologue, épistémologiste, son maître ouvrage HUMAN ACTION fait appel à l'ensemble des sciences sociales. Le premier, en 1920, il démontra que le planisme bureaucratique centralisé était dépourvu de toute rationalité économique, faute de pouvoir calculer les coûts comparés des biens et des services que seul peut déterminer le mécanisme du marché. Dans un premier grand ouvrage LA THÉORIE DE LA MONNAIE ET DU CRÉDIT, il compléta la doctrine autrichienne de l'utilité marginale et établit une théorie des cycles économiques qu'il devait développer par la suite. Son séminaire à l'Université de Vienne essaima toute une floraison de jeunes économistes à travers l'Europe et l'Amérique.

Or, ce professeur incomparable, dont les débuts furent fulgurants, qui prononça tant de conférences, anima tant de séminaires, écrivit tant d'articles, publia tant de livres, forma tant de disciples, dont l'accès fut toujours accueillant, était par contre un homme très réservé, très peu commu-



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Cette trop rapide analyse et l'espace mesuré ne permettent pas de rendre compte de la richesse d'informations, du pittoresque des descriptions du livre de Margit von Mises. Cette aisance de style s'explique par le fait que Margit fut actrice avant son mariage et traductrice de plusieurs pièces de théâtre de l'anglais en allemand. Elle raconte avec charme et humour leur séjour à Mexico, leurs divers voyages dans l'Amérique du Sud. Elle fait revivre quantité de personnages qui marquèrent profondément cette époque.

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G.E.F.L.U.C.

Groupement des entreprises françaises dans la lutte contre le cancer

Président d'Honneur :

M. le Pr Robert de VERNEJOUL

Les entreprises petites ou grandes sont également concernées par le G.E.F.L.U.C. Si notre action vise d'abord à fournir aux laboratoires et aux chercheurs des compléments financiers indispensables à leurs travaux en raison d'un budget de l'Etat toujours trop limité, l'aide aux familles des salariés éprouvées par cette maladie est également notre souci constant.

Mais l'idée du Franc (de l'Espoir) prélevé chaque mois sur le salaire, acte volontaire accompli par le salarié, nous paraît aussi essentiel. Il s'agit en effet de motiver les personnels et de leur faire prendre conscience de cette réalité : le cancer a les plus grandes probabilités d'être guéri s'il est détecté plus tôt.

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Certaines entreprises adhérentes au G.E.F.L.U.C. ont déjà usé de cette possibilité pour laquelle entreprise et salarié n'ont aucune charge financière à assumer.

Il est difficile de résumer en quelques phrases cette action et notre raison d'être. Si certains chefs d'entreprise, lecteurs de votre journal, souhaitaient un plus large exposé sur nos buts, nos moyens, soyez assuré, Monsieur le Directeur, que nous serons toujours à votre disposition.

l'imprimé es

C. Informateur (Paris) Avril 1977

Nous sommes très heureux et très honorés de publier en exclusivité l'article suivant, que le Professeur Louis Rougier a bien voulu confier à l'Informateur et qui concerne l'un des plus grands économistes des temps modernes.

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organisons sur demande des entreprises et en liaison avec le Centre Léon Bérard des visites de dépistage systématiques pour le personnel.

Certaines entreprises adhérentes au G.E.F.L.U.C. ont déjà usé de cette possibilité pour laquelle entreprise et salarié n'ont aucune charge financière à assumer.

Il est difficile de résumer en quelques phrases cette action et notre raison d'être. Si certains chefs d'entreprise, lecteurs de votre journal, souhaitaient un plus large exposé sur nos buts, nos moyens, soyez assuré, Monsieur le Directeur, que nous serons toujours à votre disposition.

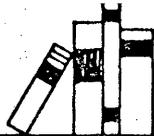
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Frankfurter Zeitung Das Leben eines Liberalen

MARGIT VON MISES: *My Years with Ludwig von Mises.* Arlington House Publishers, New Rochelle, New York. 191 Seiten, 9,95 Dollar.

Ludwig von Mises, der große liberale Sozialphilosoph und Nationalökonom, ist hierzulande wohl vor allem noch als in der Tradition der „Wiener Schule“ stehend und mit seinem Buch „Gemeinwirtschaft“ in Erinnerung. Er ist nach einer Zwischenstation in Genf 1940, bei der Durchreise durch Frankreich die anrückenden deutschen Truppen auf den Fersen, nach Amerika ausgewandert und wurde der geistige Führer einer Bewegung für eine freiheitliche Gesellschaftsordnung. In den Vereinigten Staaten entstand sein wichtigstes Werk „Human Action“. In diesem Buch erlebt man Ludwig von Mises persönlicher, als seine Bücher es vermitteln können: Seine Frau erzählt ihr Leben mit ihm. Sie versucht nicht eine Interpretation von Ludwig von Mises oder seiner Werke zu geben; sie schildert schlicht und einfach, wie er gewesen ist und wie dieses Leben sich abgespielt hat. Der besondere Reiz dieses Buches ist, daß Margit von Mises, gebürtige Hamburgerin und Anfang der zwanziger Jahre Schauspielerin, viele kleine Beobachtungen, Eigenheiten, Ereignisse des Tages beschreibt, die für sie in ihrer Beziehung zu ihrem Mann nun im Rückblick wichtig erscheinen, dem Leser damit aber auch Zugang verschaffen zu einer Persönlichkeit, die anderen gegenüber offenbar recht zurückhaltend und wenig zugänglich erschienen sein mag. Vor allem aber werden wir der Anhänglichkeit seiner früheren Wiener Schüler gewahr, die in den Vereinigten Staaten wieder mit ihm zusammentrafen, wie Friedrich A. Hayek, Fritz Machlup und Gottfried Haberler. Frau von Mises beschreibt auch einige Sitzungen von Seminaren, auf denen ihr Mann fast bis zur Vollendung des neunzigsten Lebensjahres vorgetragen und Diskussionen bestritten hat.

WILHELM SEUSS



Off The Shelf



My Years With Ludwig von Mises
by Margit von Mises

[New York: Arlington House, 1976, 191 pages (illustrated) \$9.95]

Reviewed by Mark Spangler

Ludwig von Mises has been described as the greatest economist of this century. He was internationally known as the head of the "Austrian School" of economic thought until his death in 1973 at the age of 92. Logic and economic analysis led him to conclude that a free market economy is the only rational economic order. He wrote nineteen books to this endeavor and became respected as an unyielding defender of economic freedom and individual liberty.

Through the aid of foundations, seminars, and Mises' followers and former pupils, many students are discovering and taking an active interest in the teachings of Ludwig von Mises. Until recently, however, one tingling curiosity had been unanswered for Misan devotees — who was Mises the man? Margit von Mises, his wife of thirty-five years, has written **My Years With Ludwig von Mises** in which she tells of their life together. In her preface she says "When Ludwig von Mises died on October 10, 1973 . . . no journalist, no economist wrote about him as a man, as a human being . . . The explanation is simple. My husband was a very reserved person. He never talked about himself or his family. His feelings belonged to me. I have reason to believe that I am the only person who really knew him. That is why I have written this book."

Who would imagine a scholarly economist being capable of writing love letters.

Yet, in the book the reader will find a few that Ludwig had sent Margit. From the first day they met in 1925, their years together seem to have been a love story that rivals Erich Segal's, and this tone pervades the book.

Mrs. Mises tells of their early years together in Austria when they were still engaged and he was with the University of Vienna. Professor Mises' staunch stand on economic and individual liberty was understandably a menace to the goals of the Nazi regime. As he saw the Nazi party strengthening in Austria, he realized the increasing danger to his life. Having the opportunity to teach at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Mises therefore left Austria in 1934. Later when Margit too felt endangered by the political unrest in Austria, she joined him in Geneva and they were married. The Nazis' strength continued to grow, and when in a few years the Nazis occupied Paris, Prof. and Mrs. realized that their lives were again threatened. They fled Europe and escaped to the United States. Here Prof. Mises started a new life with a new language and began what Mrs. Mises calls his most productive years. This was in 1940 when Prof. Mises was sixty.

Margit Mises describes her husband's deep devotion to his work and his efforts to become established in the United States. He soon began receiving invitations to lecture or write.

One of Mises' first projects after establishing himself in the United States was the writing of his momentous **Human Action**, a treatise on economic principles, which stands among the most important writings in economic history. Mrs. Mises writes, "**Human Action** meant more to Lu Mises than all the work he did before or after." **Human Action** was a success and had been recognized as one of the great books of all times, but this was followed by the next crisis in Mises' life. The success of **Human Action** warranted a second edition, but when the new edition appeared, it was a shock to everyone." Henry Hazlitt wrote, "The Press does not honor Professor Mises . . . The new edition is a typographical disgrace." Mises himself wrote, "The typographical makeup of the new revised edition . . . is a shocking scandal. Never before has any decent publisher dared to bring out such a defective product." Arrangements were soon made for a new edition with a different publishing house, but who was responsible for marring the second edition and why remain a mystery.

Margit Mises devotes a chapter to the famous "Mises Seminar" that was held at New York University. In 1945 Mises was appointed as a visiting professor at NYU. From 1948 - 1969 Mises conducted a weekly seminar which was attended by a wide range of students — high school students to well - known scholars. Mrs. Mises talks about the eminent students who emerged from this seminar and about Prof. Mises' contact with them.

Margit Mises reveals many other parts of her and Prof. Mises' life together — his hobby, their summer vacations, his lecture tours, their travels, their continued contact with friends and students, his unceasing dedication to his work, and their last years together. Mrs. Mises has taken her readers on a delightful excursion into the life of her husband.

(Continued From Page 2)

Life is probative; our three score years and ten are a test run. As St. Augustine put it, "We are here schooled for life eternal." And one of the important exam questions concerns the economic use of the planet's scarce resources and the proper management of our material possessions. These are the twin facets of Christian stewardship, and the consequences of low grades here is dire. As Jesus put it, "If therefore, you have not been faithful in the use of worldly wealth who will entrust to you the true riches?"

The Entrepreneur is published at Grove City College by students of the Department of Economics.

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Minerva Currier

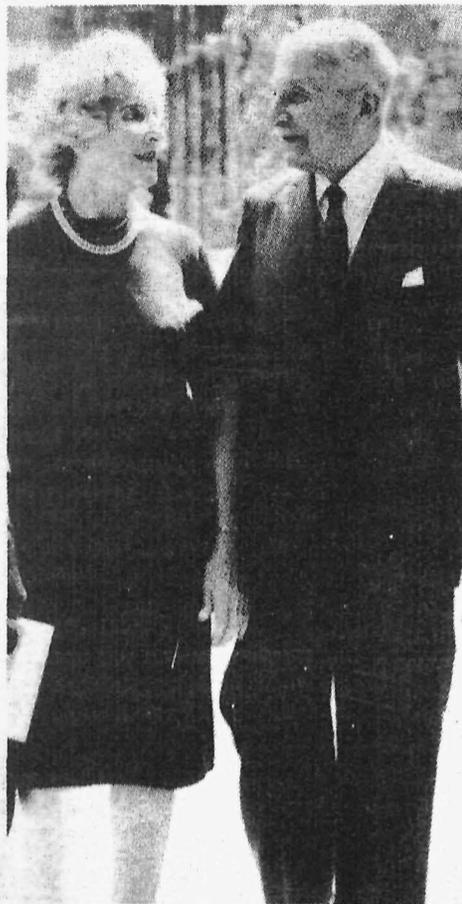
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Ludwig and Margit von Mises married after a 13-year courtship and then shared 35 years.

affairs. He never talked about himself or his family. His work, his writings belonged to the world. His feelings belonged to me. I have reason to believe that I am the only person who really knew him.

"That is why I have written this book. The desire to bring him closer to his admirers and to the many students who loved him and stood in awe of his genius eventually grew so strong within me that it became almost an obsession. By telling the story of our life together, I shall try to reveal Ludwig von Mises as he really was: a great thinker, a great scholar, a great teacher—but still a lonely man with a great need for love and affection."

The awe and the love I can testify to. For those of us who were honored and privileged to be students and friends of Ludwig von Mises, the idea of any sort of emotional intimacy with this man whom we loved and revered was simply not thinkable.

Mises was a man of great charm, sweetness, and benevolence—far different from the doughty fighter one might expect from his writings—but he also possessed the grace, courtliness and inner reserve which was a product of an older and nobler age. But this was not a disappointment to us; quite the contrary. In our bumptious world of Instant Intimacy it was an honor to know a man for whom privacy and emotional restraint were an essential part of his being.

In this enthralling and moving memoir, Margit von Mises has gracefully succeeded in the delicate task of revealing to us Mises the man without presuming to strip away his cherished sense of privacy. (Would that other memoirs would do the same!)

As the details of their life together accumulate, the reader becomes gripped and moved by the book. Who would have thought that a volume like this is one

that "one cannot put down"? And yet, Margit has accomplished this feat.

Above all, this book is a lovely valentine, a love story of Ludwig and Margit's life together. It is a touching and tender love story, a romance in the best sense of the term. No longer need we think sadly of Ludwig von Mises' life as merely a lonely and supremely courageous struggle on the part of a great man whose ideas and contributions were neglected and demeaned by a hostile and uncomprehending world, who was deprived of the high honors which academia and the world of scholarship *should* have heaped upon him.

For now we know that Mises' life was enriched and made happy by his great and abiding love. All of us who love and admire Ludwig von Mises are in Margit's debt—both for her existence and for this book which tells us the Mises story. It is a book for all of us to read and cherish.

And yet... I am reluctant to bring up any unpleasant considerations in a discussion of a book of such grace and tenderness. But this book has brought alive even more than before the shabbiness, the malice, with which Mises was treated by an intellectual world which should have given him all the honor and prestige of which they are capable.

The British pound sterling is sagging; the Labor government is unable to set things right despite exhortations by Prime Minister Callaghan in the manner of Jerry Ford; the Brain Drain gets worse. But, when Scotland Yard or Britain's intelligence service are under attack, the British government cracks down with measures which American liberals are sure to denounce as "McCarthyism." A smattering of Britons take the same line.

It's been some time since Philip Agee has been in the news. Agee is the defecting CIA agent who, in co-operation with *Counterspy*, has been doing his best to destroy the CIA. The way to bring this about was to print the names of CIA agents in various areas. This tactic resulted in the assassination of CIA agent Richard Welch in Athens in 1975. Although Agee became a folk hero on TV and in liberal columns, he emigrated to England where he has been writing a second book about the evils of the CIA.

However, Agee and Mark Hosenball, an American journalist who had a job on the London *Evening Standard* but was identified by *Counterspy* as "one of our London Group," seem to have messed around with the British opposite numbers of the CIA. In the Home Office view Messrs. Agee and Hosenball "have been and continue to be involved in disseminating information harmful to the security of the United Kingdom." That was it: No Church committee to take a peep into the iniquities of British intelligence. Just a Home Office order that Agee and Hosenball pack up their duds and leave England promptly.

The London-based American anti-CIA Camorra had been carrying on its

In what I found a particularly moving passage of the book, Margit writes of the time, early in his life in America, when Mises visited a friend of his (Winfield W. Riefler), who had a position with the prestigious Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, where scholars can devote themselves to full-time scholarship and high intellectual companionship. She writes:

"I remember Lu [Mises] once told me that Riefler's job was the only position that really would have made him happy. . . . It was unusual for Lu to express a longing for something out of his reach. It was more revealing to me than any other remark he might have made. . . . When I told Fritz Machlup [one of Mises' students in Vienna]—much, much later—about Lu's wish, he replied, 'And he would have been the right man at the right place.' Why did no one ever think of it?"

Why, indeed? In her sweet way, Margit expresses gratitude to New York University for giving Mises the opportunity to teach. But I must confess that when I consider that NYU paid Mises the munificent sum of \$2,000 a year as a part-time instructor, that they only allowed Mises to teach full-time as a visiting professor for many years because his entire salary was paid by the William Volker Fund and other business admirers, that the administration of NYU tried to discourage students from attending Mises'

classes, many emotions fill my heart, but gratitude is not one of them.

To think that at a time when every fifth-rate Socialist refugee received well-paying and prestigious posts in academia, that a man like Mises could only spend his years at a third-rate business school in a subsidized post! This is a blot on American academia that can never be forgiven or forgotten.

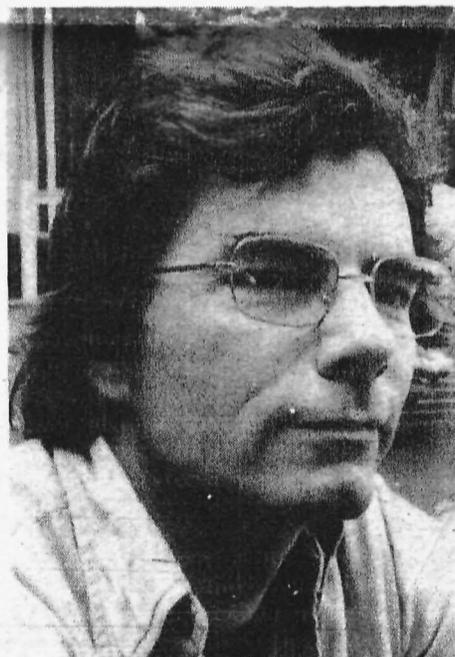
I am grateful and happy that Ludwig and Margit were able to live their lives in America without bitterness, that Mises could spend his most productive and fruitful years happily even under such contemptible treatment. But I cannot succeed in looking at that treatment with the same grace and equanimity.

It is sad that Ludwig von Mises could not have lived to see the present resurgence of his "Austrian economics" teachings, to see a world where a glittering array of younger economists have become "Misesians," where scholarly institutes, foundations, conferences and seminars are expounding his teachings, where Misesian books are beginning to pour forth from the presses.

But we can console ourselves a little at the thought that the immortal Ludwig von Mises lives on, in the hearts of those who loved him, and in his teachings that are finding an ever-expanding influence. And now Margit von Mises' memoir will play a vital part in the immortalizing of her noble husband.

Ex-CIA Agent Unwelcome in Britain

By FREDERIC NELSON



Agee will not return to the United States until he finds out whether he faces prosecution.

pernicious activities unhindered until it expanded its program to include British intelligence. In addition to Agee and Hosenball, there is Stephen Weissman who, according to the London *Telegraph*, takes credit for having "written in an Italian left-wing newspaper the names of seven men he alleged were CIA agents in Italy." In the February issue of *New Times*, Weissman was said to have named a CIA agent in South Africa, whose potentially capital offense appears to be that he was instrumental in persuading South Africa to come to the West's rescue in Angola. Mr. Weissman doesn't think that he will be deported because

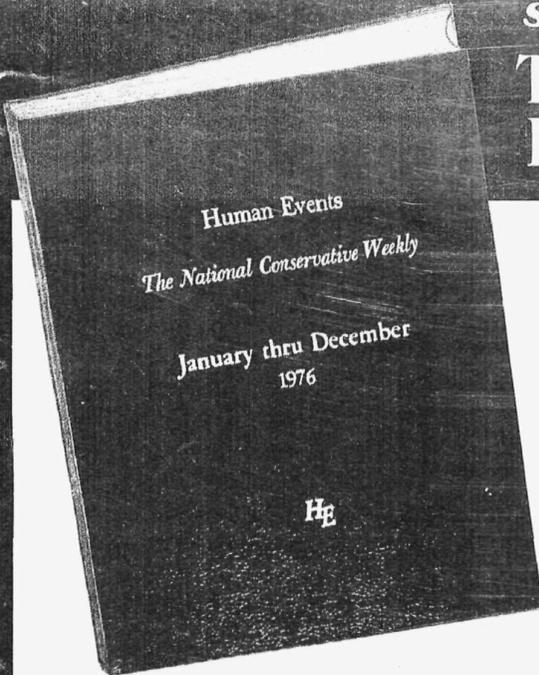
"I am married to a lovely British lady." Still, there is the Official Secrets Act in case the Home Office takes a dim view of marriage as a defense.

The betting is that Agee and Hosenball will go. Agee declares that his deportation must have been brought about by American pressure. As quoted in the London *Telegraph*, Agee said; "The Americans must have applied tremendous pressure either by threatening not to support a British loan from IMF or by cutting down on intelligence exchanges unless something was done about me."

That the U.S.A. would go to such lengths to bring these nuisances home again must deserve the 1976 Nobel Prize for Egotism. However, Agee adds he will come to the U.S.A. but "I am advised by legal counsel [American Civil Liberties Union]... not to return until determination is made whether the government will prosecute."

Prosecute! He and Mr. Hosenball will be welcomed enthusiastically by the TV chains and their liberal allies in the press. As Robert Conquest pointed out in *HUMAN EVENTS* (Sept. 13, 1975, page 5) defectors from the Soviet KGB have to be carefully hidden, given false names and locations, but defectors from the CIA "live in comfort in countries allied to the United States, write their books and even have them published in New York." If anybody is prosecuted, it will be FBI or CIA agents for spying on revolutionary terrorists.

In left-leaning Britain, though, those charged with protecting the national security aren't treated as felons.



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Will Carter Restore Trust in Government?

By SEN. JAMES L. BUCKLEY (C.-R.-N.Y.)

Political analysts are now poring over statistics in order to identify the reasons for Jimmy Carter's victory. I have no doubt that many possible reasons for his success will be found—the shape of the economy, the perceived need for change—but we should not forget those two little words uttered by Jimmy Carter: "Trust me." Perhaps in the final analysis Carter is President-elect because enough Americans wanted to trust him.

I see nothing implausible about this. Elections are not always decided on the "issues." To a voter buffeted by the



As an outsider, Carter has the opportunity to achieve changes in the Washington establishment.

traumas of recent years, trust might be more important than the size of the gross national product or even the unemployment statistics.

So, "trust me" just may have met a need in enough Americans to make a difference. Whatever else Jimmy Carter accomplishes, I hope he will succeed in establishing that government officials are at least as trustworthy as other mortals.

But I believe he will perform a far greater service if he demonstrates his understanding that our economic and political systems have been strong because we have reposed our trust not in elected leaders, but in the good sense and responsibility of a free people.

Our Constitution, in fact, is based on a prudent distrust of those who from time to time are elected to lead us. To quote Thomas Jefferson, "It is jealousy (for the safety of our rights) and not confidence which prescribes limited Constitutions to bind down those whom we are obliged to trust with power."

The history of the past 40 years has been marked by a gradual withdrawal of trust in the ability of the great majority of our people to manage their own affairs prudently, and to govern themselves wisely through those levels of government most directly subject to their control.

And so we have found ourselves evolving into a government by administrative and judicial fiat. As confirmed by a post-election CBS-New York *Times* poll, it is the resulting sense of powerlessness, and not disillusionment with Watergate-type scandals, that is the principal cause of voter apathy.

There is nothing, in my judgment, that Jimmy Carter can better do to restore public confidence and rejuvenate the economy than to demonstrate the same faith in the strength and wisdom and self-reliance of the American people as did the framers of the Constitution. As President, Carter can best go about showing that he really trusts the people by working to:

- Reverse the concentration of power in Washington. Major areas of responsibility must be returned to levels of government more accessible to the people if we are to have government that is truly responsive to their will.

- Liberate the economy from the heavy burden of overregulation. We have had the most productive economy in human history because our people, as producers, consumers and investors, have been free to pursue their own best interests in their own way, so long as they did not interfere with the freedom of others to do the same.

- Reduce the burden of taxation and inflationary spending. If Americans are to be truly free to make their own eco-

nomical decisions and to maintain their financial independence of government, they must be able to retain far more of what they earn, to spend and save as they see fit.

He comes to Washington as a self-proclaimed "outsider"; and his Southern, rural Baptist background must have given him a view of human nature and government that is in keeping with that of the framers of the Constitution when they warned against the dangers of consolidated power in a central government.

The important question is whether he will bring this perspective with him to the White House or trade the truths he learned in Plains for the destructive myths that held sway in Washington for much too long.

Trust him? Right now, that is all we can do. Trust has been too long withheld from the American people by their government. Carter can, if he wishes, change all that.

The Los Angeles Times

Vietnam Veterans Should Be Proud

By JAMES H. WEBB

From an address in acceptance of the 1976 Outstanding Veteran award from the Vietnam Veterans Civic Council:

The most important part of an award such as this is its symbolic value as notice to the community. I don't need to elaborate in front of this assemblage about how incredibly difficult it has been for the Vietnam veteran. His anonymity and lack of positive feedback about himself and his fellow veterans have intensified all the other difficulties he has faced, including those shared by non-veterans. With the exception of a few well-publicized disaster stories, he is invisible.

To my mind, the roots of this problem go back 10 and 11 years, when the veteran suffered the irony of having people, who directly opposed both his views and his acts, become accepted as his spokesmen, in the name of the "generation gap," since he and they were from the same age group.

But it's obvious that it wasn't age that separated views on Vietnam, and especially on what to do about it: It was culture. And the cultures that fought Vietnam have traditionally lacked access to the media and power centers of this country. As a result, their views have gone unheard and it has been presumed that, on the whole, "youth" embraced the views of the anti-war faction.

The lack of positive feedback persists. A Vietnam veteran looks for success stories within his own age group and finds that, by and large, they belong to people from one of two sub groups. Either the person managed to avoid the war altogether, with no stigma for doing so, and was able to devote full time to his field without the interruption of being in the service, or he actively opposed the war and has now converted his anti-war activities into credentials—much as the veteran of World War II did with his campaign ribbons.

The anonymity persists. I recall my most frustrating moment as a Vietnam veteran. The day after Saigon fell and it was finally over, a local newspaper ran what was tantamount to a special edition

on "What Vietnam Did to America." On the front page were two human-interest stories. One detailed the frustrations of a draft resister. The other was about a person who had quit his civil service job because he had "lost faith" in the American system of government, and then, sadly, had to become a lawyer. The center of the front section had two full pages of interviews—at least 50 of them—with people from across the entire spectrum of American cultures.

With one exception. There was not one interview with a Vietnam veteran. It was as if he had ceased to exist along with the government of South Vietnam—or perhaps was merely considered irrelevant in determining the effect on the rest of society of the very issue that had touched him the most directly and intensely.

And the whole notion of invisibility persists in other forms as well. We read repeated editorials and articles urging amnesty for the ones who fled. I realize that there is much room for differences

of opinion on this issue, even among veterans. But no matter what a Vietnam veteran's position on the amnesty issue, he cannot help but feel the knife twist every time he reads articles that elevate the ones who fled, collectively, to the level of prophets and moral purists. The phrase that sticks in my mind, used quite often, is that they "obeyed a higher law, that of their own consciences, and fled."

The unwritten implication, again and again, is that the Vietnam veteran has a lot to be proud of. If the anti-war elements in this country had opposed the war with the same maturity and patience that he displayed in fighting it, perhaps 10,000 more of his contemporaries might be alive today. People being what they are, and emotions what they are, Vietnam would have been a less volatile issue, and the war would have ended sooner.

I earnestly hope that awards such as this will encourage the community to accord the Vietnam veteran with dignity and respect. He has *always* deserved it.

Book Review

The Human Side of von Mises

By MURRAY N. ROTHBARD

For those who are passionately concerned with ideas, and especially those engaged in a lifelong struggle for freedom, the opportunity is all too rare to step

Mises, one of the great minds of this century and the outstanding champion of human freedom of our age.

"My Years with Ludwig von Mises"

By Margit von Mises
Arlington House
191 pages, \$9.95

back for a moment and consider the persons who are our mentors and guides. This is particularly true of Ludwig von

Mr. Rothbard is Professor of Economics at the Polytechnic Institute of New York. He has written widely on history, economics and social criticism.

In this charming and poignant memoir of their life together, his devoted widow, Margit, points out that when Mises died in October 1973, none of the articles and memorials about him dealt with Mises the person. In her preface, she explains why, and why she wrote this book:

"My husband was a very reserved person. While he was kind and friendly to all, he was extremely self-restrained and uncommunicative about his own life and

*L'Informateur, Avril, 1977
Paris, 17
35, Avenue Macé
France*

des idées et des hommes

Ainsi que nos abonnés l'auront remarqué, les pages de couverture de ce numéro sont des pages spécialement conçues pour les nouveaux lecteurs de l'Informateur.

Tous ceux qui voudront bien nous aider à étendre la diffusion de notre journal pourront s'en servir comme utile moyen de prospection. Nous les en remercions à l'avance.

La Rédaction

Un livre sur la vie privée de LUDWIG VON MISES

Nous sommes très heureux et très honorés de publier en exclusivité l'article suivant, que le Professeur Louis Rougier a bien voulu confier à l'Informateur et qui concerne l'un des plus grands économistes des temps modernes.

Ludwig von Mises ne fut pas seulement un des plus grands économistes de son époque. Il fut un esprit universel. Economiste, psychologue, sociologue, épistémologiste, son maître ouvrage HUMAN ACTION fait appel à l'ensemble des sciences sociales. Le premier, en 1920, il démontra que le planisme bureaucratique centralisé était dépourvu de toute rationalité économique, faute de pouvoir calculer les coûts comparés des biens et des services que seul peut déterminer le mécanisme du marché. Dans un premier grand ouvrage LA THÉORIE DE LA MONNAIE ET DU CRÉDIT, il compléta la doctrine autrichienne de l'utilité marginale et établit une théorie des cycles économiques qu'il devait développer par la suite. Son séminaire à l'Université de Vienne essaima toute une floraison de jeunes économistes à travers l'Europe et l'Amérique.

Or, ce professeur incomparable, dont les débuts furent fulgurants, qui prononça tant de conférences, anima tant de séminaires, écrivit tant d'articles, publia tant de livres, forma tant de disciples, dont l'accès fut toujours accueillant, était par contre un homme très réservé, très peu commu-



par le Professeur
Louis ROUGIER

Mises avait 59 ans. Il devait commencer une vie nouvelle, dans un pays étranger, sans situation fixe. Certes, il était connu par ses publications, mais la rigueur de sa pensée, n'admettant aucune concession, fit qu'aucune grande chaire d'économie ne lui fut offerte, à la différence de ce qui était arrivé pour ses propres étudiants de Vienne qui l'avaient précédé aux Etats-Unis de quelques années: G. von Haberler à Harvard, Fritz Machlup à Buffalo et à Princeton. C'est alors que l'affection de Margit, faisant fonction de secrétaire, fut pour lui d'un secours décisif. La Fondation Rockefeller pendant trois ans, l'Association nationale des Industriels, ses articles, ses conférences dans les deux Amériques, ses livres, son séminaire à l'Université de New York de 1948 à 1969

lui permirent de réaliser pendant trente ans le travail le plus productif de sa vie. Parmi les nombreux ouvrages qu'il publia, il faut citer OMNIPOTENT GOVERNMENT, BUREAUCRACY, THEORY AND HISTORY et surtout la traduction anglaise, considérablement augmentée et souvent entièrement réécrite du livre qu'il avait publié à Genève en allemand NATIONALÖKONOMIE en 1940 et qui parut à l'Université de Yale sous le titre de HUMAN ACTION. Un des chapitres les plus impressionnants du livre est celui du sabotage typographique volontaire de la seconde édition qui procura à von Mises beaucoup de nuits blanches.

Von Mises forma quantité d'élèves dont certains sont devenus des économistes notoires, comme Sennholz, Rothbard, mais sans doute le plus fidèle continuateur et défenseur de sa pensée est-il un professeur de droit de Mexico, Gustavo Velasco.

Cette trop rapide analyse et l'espace mesuré ne permettent pas de rendre compte de la richesse d'informations, du pittoresque des descriptions du livre de Margit von Mises. Cette aisance de style s'explique par le fait que Margit fut actrice avant son mariage et traductrice de plusieurs pièces de théâtre de l'anglais en allemand. Elle raconte avec charme et humour leur séjour à Mexico, leurs divers voyages dans l'Amérique du Sud. Elle fait revivre quantité de personnages qui marquèrent profondément cette époque.

Personnellement je suis très sensible à l'évocation de tout ce passé, quand je lis: « Un des derniers livres qu'il lut avec grand intérêt fut THE GENIUS OF THE WEST de Louis Rougier. Il l'avait déjà lu dans l'édition française et il le considérait comme « a great and valuable book ».

Louis Rougier



Ludwig von Mises

nicatif au sujet de sa vie privée. Sa veuve, Margit von Mises, constata que, lors de son décès survenu en octobre 1973, dans les nombreux articles nécrologiques qui parurent, aucune allusion ne fut faite à sa vie familiale. Elle considéra de son devoir de combler une telle lacune. Elle fit en écrivant un fort beau livre, bien illustré, qui est déjà un best seller aux Etats-Unis, MY YEARS WITH LUDWIG VON MISES (Arlington House Publishers).

Leur rencontre eut lieu au cours de l'automne 1925 à Vienne, lors d'un dîner chez un journaliste, le Dr Fritz Kaufmann, qui, par la suite, devint un économiste distingué en matière de monnaie, de banque et de finance. Une longue intimité s'en suivit qui devait aboutir à un mariage en juin 1938, à Genève, où von Mises occupait, depuis 1934, une chaire à l'Institut de Hautes Etudes internationales, dirigé par William Rappard. Ce ne fut qu'une très heureuse étape pour von Mises et sa femme, avant leur départ, via Lisbonne, pour les Etats-Unis, où ils arrivèrent le 2 août 1940.

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Il est difficile de résumer en quelques phrases cette action et notre raison d'être. Si certains chefs d'entreprise, lecteurs de votre journal, souhaitaient un plus large exposé sur nos buts, nos moyens, soyez assuré, Monsieur le Directeur, que nous serons toujours à votre disposition.

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Avez-vous remarqué que l'on n'a jamais autant parlé de nationalisation en France, c'est-à-dire au pays de la libre-entreprise. Si j'ai bien compris les récentes déclarations, la nationalisation est ce système miraculeux qui permet selon les uns de restructurer les grandes entreprises et selon les autres de les démembrer. En tous les cas, elle offre l'avantage de renvoyer les actuels patrons à leurs chères études. Au lieu et place de quoi, nous, - je veux dire -, vous et moi, devenons propriétaires. J'étais déjà personnellement propriétaire de la SNCF, d'Air-France, d'Air Inter, de la RATP, de la Compagnie générale transatlantique et des plus grandes banques. D'ailleurs sans que ces sociétés ne me consentent le moindre rabais sur des tarifs périodiquement relevés sans que l'on me demande jamais mon avis. Or, voici qu'on me promet le renforcement de mon portefeuille. Alors, j'appréhende que ce soit au détriment de

mon porte-monnaie. Tant il est vrai que la nationalisation amène l'Etat à subventionner les firmes au lieu de puiser dans leurs tiroirs-caisses. Comme la gauche est honnête, elle ne déposera pas purement et simplement les capitalistes, elle leur remettra des actions en échange de leurs usines et de leurs bureaux. La grande controverse ouverte entre le Parti communiste et le Parti socialiste réside donc dans le fait de savoir: si ces nouvelles actions donneront droit ou non à une répartition des bénéfices. Ce qui n'est pas un gros problème, puisqu'on sait que les entreprises nationalisées sont presque toutes en déficit. Mon bonheur ne sera vraiment complet que le jour où à la seule question importante: « est-ce que je paierai la viande moins chère quand mon boucher sera nationalisé », un économiste distingué voudra bien me répondre.

Philippe BOUVARD (R.T.L., 15-2-77)

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LES DISQUES

Les Symphonies « Parisiennes » de Joseph Haydn

En 1784, le Directeur des « Concerts de la Loge Olympique », à Paris, commandait à Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) six Symphonies que le musicien composa pendant les années 1785 et 1786. Ce sont les six Symphonies n° 82 à 87 dites « Parisiennes » dans lesquelles s'épanouissent l'ampleur et la richesse qui s'étaient déjà manifestées dans quelques œuvres précédentes. Affranchi, pour cette commande, de la tutelle du Prince Esterhazy, dont il était le Maître de Chapelle, Haydn donna libre cours à son inspiration et produira, avec ces pièces, les modèles les plus parfaits de la grande Symphonie classique. Ainsi s'ouvrait pour lui la période des suprêmes chefs-d'œuvre. Il écrivit encore, pour Paris, cinq autres symphonies (n° 88 à 92), avant de composer les douze « Londoniennes » (n° 93 à 104), les dernières œuvres qu'il nous laissera dans le domaine de la Symphonie.

Après l'exécution des « Parisiennes » le « Mercure de France » émettra ce jugement : « Chaque jour, on sent mieux, et par conséquent, on admire davantage les productions de ce vaste génie qui, dans chacun de ses morceaux, sait si bien, d'un sujet unique, tirer des développements si riches et si variés ; il est bien différent des compositeurs stériles qui passent continuellement d'une idée à l'autre, faute d'en savoir présenter une sous des formes variées, et entassent mécaniquement des effets sur des effets, sans liaison et sans goût ». Dans la musique de Haydn, le souffle mélodique, la perfection absolue de la forme, l'imagination inépuisable, la variété et la solidité de l'orchestration aboutissent tout naturellement à la grandeur. En outre, le caractère dominant de toute son œuvre est la joie, plus encore, la gaieté, une gaieté qui vient du cœur.

— la Symphonie n° 84, en mi bémol majeur, dont le premier mouvement, marqué par une mélodie douce et chantante, puis par un brío orchestral éclatant, est suivi d'un « Andante » d'une tendresse toute mozartienne, auquel succède un brillant « Menuet », le « Finale » présentant une admirable facilité d'invention ;



par Louis NOBLET

— la Symphonie n° 85, en si bémol majeur, « La Reine de France », appellation découlant du fait que Marie-Antoinette semblait goûter particulièrement cette œuvre, dont le second mouvement, « Romanze », est construit sur une chanson à la mode en ce temps-là : « La gentille et jeune Lisette ». Dans le dernier mouvement, « Presto », d'une légèreté typiquement haydnienne, tous les genres se mêlent habilement ;

entre autres caractéristiques, l'« Adagio » ne peut être écouté sans une profonde émotion.

« La Voix de son Maître » a confié l'enregistrement de ces six « Parisiennes » à Daniel Barenboim, conduisant The English Chamber Orchestra, qui a choisi d'en faire ressortir tout ce qu'elles contiennent de jeunesse, d'allant et de poésie — alors que d'autres chefs, comme par exemple, Antal Dorati (chez « Decca »), se sont attachés à mettre l'accent sur la majesté qui s'en dégage. Vous n'en éprouverez pas moins infiniment de plaisir à les écouter dans la conception, très attrayante, qu'il vous propose (trois disques en coffret, C 167-02751/3).

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Trois œuvres attachantes de Carl Maria von Weber

Carl Maria von Weber : quand on prononce le nom de ce musicien d'Outre-Rhin (1786-1826) on évoque tout de suite « Le Freischütz », opéra qui remporta l'un des plus grands triomphes que connut jamais un compositeur. On pense aussi à « Obéron », autre opéra qui valut également à son auteur un immense succès. Weber devait mourir à Londres quelques semaines après la création de cet ouvrage. Il n'avait que 40 ans ! Comme Lord Byron, il était de santé fragile et était, comme Chopin, miné par la phtisie. Il souffrait, de plus, d'une brûlure du pharynx, provoquée par l'absorption, par mégarde, d'acide nitrique, qui lui avait fait perdre sa belle voix.

En l'emportant, par sa production lyrique, sur les partisans de l'opéra italien, Weber a été le fondateur de l'opéra allemand. Par son esthétique, il a représenté l'esprit germanique sous une de ses formes les plus fécondes : celle du premier romantisme. Son influence fut grande sur Berlioz, Schumann, Liszt, Mendelssohn, Wagner (à qui il reviendra d'inventer la mélodie continue)...

Mais Weber ne nous a pas donné seulement des opéras. Il a été aussi un symphoniste (on lui doit deux Symphonies de jeunesse) et son goût des timbres le fit écrire pour la plupart des instruments. Un disque « Philips » vous permettra d'apprécier sa maîtrise dans ces domaines.

Vous y trouverez la **Symphonie n° 1 en ut majeur, Op. 19**, composée à 21 ans, en 1807, comportant un magnifique « Andante », où une cantilène, chantée par le hautbois, révèle déjà le grand Weber, tandis que les cors font surgir l'image des forêts allemandes, le « Finale » faisant entendre un déchaînement enthousiaste. Wilfried Boettcher, au pupitre du New Philharmonia Orchestra, en souligne les qualités d'invention instrumentale et la vigueur des rythmes.

Autre œuvre inscrite sur ce disque : la célèbre **Invitation à la Valse**, écrite en 1819 pour le piano et que Berlioz orchestra en 1841, forme symphonique sous laquelle elle est généralement jouée aujourd'hui. Ce chef-d'œuvre de la musique de salon revêt tout son charme entraînant sous la baguette de Charles Mackerras dirigeant le London Symphony Orchestra.

Vous écouterez enfin le **Konzertstück pour piano et orchestre en fa mineur, Op. 79**, terminé en 1821, dans le même temps où était créé « Le Freischütz » et contant le retour vers une châtelaine de son chevalier, parti aux Croisades depuis des années. Une petite marche bien connue annonce l'arrivée de l'être tant attendu. La partition contient en outre de nombreuses trouvailles orchestrales que mettent en relief Colin Davis, à la tête du même orchestre que ci-dessus, et le pianiste Nikita Magaloff, dont l'instrument a pour rôle de personifier la châtelaine et qui s'acquitte de sa tâche difficile avec autant de virtuosité que de sensibilité. Un disque qui ne manquera pas de vous plaire (6539 043).

Louis NOBLET

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Parmi les ultimes compositions de Brahms : les deux « Sonates pour clarinette et piano »

« Je n'ai pas eu la témérité d'écrire un concerto pour vous, mais j'ai écrit deux sonates et j'espère qu'elles vous plairont » : c'est ce que Brahms (1833-1897) annonçait en 1894, dans la dernière période de sa vie, à Richard Muehlfeld, clarinette solo de l'orchestre de Meiningen, pour qui il avait une grande admiration. Ces deux **Sonates pour clarinette et piano**, la **Sonate n° 1 en fa mineur** et la **Sonate n° 2 en mi bémol majeur** — qui constituent l'Op. 120 — font partie des quatre chefs-d'œuvre que Brahms composa pour cet instrument à vent, les deux autres étant le « Trio Op. 114 » et le « Quintette Op. 115 ».

L'atmosphère mélancolique et désenchantée qui imprègne les ultimes compositions du musicien s'exprime dans ces deux œuvres, principalement à travers le chant nostalgique de la clarinette, qui contraste, par moments, avec une partie de piano puissante, virile ou passionnée — comme, par exemple, dans le premier mouvement de la n° 1 ou dans la cadence brillante du dernier mouvement de la n° 2.

Deux excellents solistes les ont interprétées pour « RCA » : Pnina Salzman, pianiste (élève, dès l'âge de huit ans, d'Alfred Cortot, puis, par la suite, de Magda Tagliafero) et Yona Ettlinger (qui, après avoir travaillé à Paris avec Louis Cahuzac, a été pendant de longues années, clarinette solo de l'Orchestre Philharmonique d'Israël), et assure la direction de l'Orchestre de la Guildhall School of Music.

Peut-être pourrait-on souhaiter, dans le jeu d'Ettlinger, une émotion plus profonde encore, en particulier dans les variations de l'« Andante » final de la Sonate n° 2. Mais, dans l'ensemble, la prestation des deux artistes est très belle et traduit bien le style décanté et la prenante mélodie de cette musique du compositeur de l'Allemagne du Nord, alors à l'automne de son existence (FRL 1 0131).

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Rappelons que les six « Parisiennes » de 1785-86 comprennent, dans l'ordre où elles sont classées aujourd'hui (et qui ne correspond pas exactement à celui de leur composition) :

— la Symphonie n° 82, en ut majeur, « L'Ours », surnom donné par les premiers auditeurs, qui avaient comparé à des grognements obstinés d'ours en colère les interventions des basses soutenant le thème du « Finale » ;

— la Symphonie n° 83, en sol mineur, « La Poule », ainsi nommée à l'origine en raison des appoggiatures répétées du second motif du premier mouvement, qui ont fait penser, à l'époque, aux cris de la poule éplorée ;

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— la Symphonie n° 86, en ré majeur, d'une fraîcheur remarquable et d'une fantaisie débridée. Aussi bien, le ton dans lequel elle a été écrite est-il celui de la joie ;

— la Symphonie n° 87, en la majeur, dont,

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