



Mr Hamilton Fish Armstrong

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Mr Hamilton Fish Armstrong

Supplementary obituary, *The Times*, 28 April 1973, 16g



Hamilton Fish Armstrong, 1931

Hamilton Fish Armstrong Papers, Public Policy Papers,
Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library

HAM ARMSTRONG, as your brief obituary notice conveys, was probably best known to the world as the widely respected editor of the authoritative *Foreign Affairs*, but he was more than this. Such shining integrity, purity of heart and motive, political insight, kindness, public spirit, courage and personal distinction, and what I can best describe as moral charm, can seldom have been combined in any public man. His utter lack of pomp and solemnity, his spontaneity, candour, humanity and eager interest in people and ideas melted resistance on the part of those, particularly the

MR HAMILTON FISH ARMSTRONG

suspicious young, who began by thinking of him as a pillar of the American 'establishment'. No man was less affected by fame and influence in high quarters. His long and honourable life remains one of the greatest moral assets of his nation; he commanded almost universal love and admiration.

In politics his views were liberal and fearless: he fought American isolationism before and after the Second World War, his pro-British sympathies were unswerving, he was a stout ally to the Free French when they had few friends in the United States, and he was particularly illuminating about Yugoslavia (which he knew intimately since his wartime service in Serbia in 1917), especially in *Tito Against Goliath*. He was a very civilised man, sensitive, responsive and vulnerable; and a warm-hearted friend who in congenial company could be exceedingly gay. His courtesy, generosity and extraordinary personal charm are only in part conveyed by his published reminiscences. His marriage to Christa von Tippelskirch, who survives him, made him very happy. Their hospitality was proverbial, wide and delightful.

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