

# WHEN HOPE WAS GONE

*In the moral void which engulfed the world, Harry Bingham was one of the few stars piercing the darkness*

Thomas Mann. Max Ernst. Nobel Laureate Otto Meyrhopf. Marc Chagall. When the Gestapo knocked on doors in 1940, it was at the homes of the intelligentsia.

But one American Foreign Service consul's defiance of strict U.S. State Department mandates helped save these revered minds and thousands of innocent others during early, hellish years of World War II.

In his book *Courageous Dissent*, Robert Kim Bingham, Sr. gives a son's account of his father's extraordinary actions. Not only risking his career but his life, Hiram Bingham IV never hesitated to issue visas to refugees fleeing Adolf Hitler's bloodthirsty campaign.

Bingham, whose actions were posthumously honored by both the U.S. Postal Service with a commemorative stamp and by the U.S. State Department's "Constructive Dissent" award, was stationed in Marseilles, France when he began sheltering Jews in his villa, obtaining forged identity papers to help them in their dangerous journey across Europe. Bingham also worked with the French underground to smuggle Jews out of France into Spain or across the Mediterranean, even contributing to their expenses out of his own pocket.

An unassuming man, Bingham rarely brought up his actions with any of his 11 children he had with his wife of 54 years, Rose. After his death, family members found thousands of letters and official documents attesting to his quiet heroism. Along with verbatim reprints of these documents in the appendices, Robert Kim Bingham has included a timeline of Bingham's involvement in France during his tenure there.

*"Harry Bingham...risked his life and his career, put it on the line, to help over 2,500 Jews and others who were on Nazi death lists."*

- Colin Powell, U.S. Secretary of State

*"I want particularly to...thank you personally for your sympathetic help to the many men and women including members of my own family, who have turned to you for assistance."*

- Excerpt from a letter written by Thomas Mann, author and Nobel Prize recipient, to Hiram Bingham

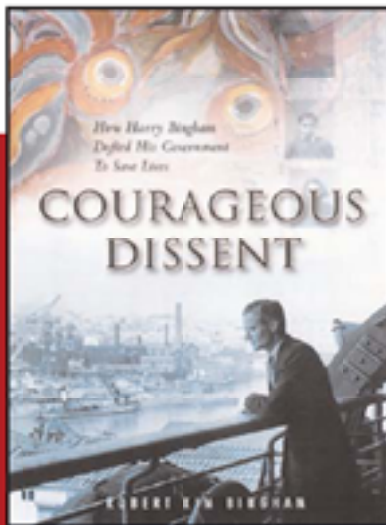
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

*Robert Kim Bingham, Sr.*, is an attorney with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, who previously served 32 years as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice.

His first-hand experience following government policies and procedures helped open his eyes to his father's compelling story and triggered his successful seven-year campaign to obtain a U.S. commemorative stamp bearing the image of his father, Hiram Bingham IV, issued on May 30, 2006.

The author wrote *Becoming an American: The Legal Process* (Vantage Press, 1986,) and has contributed numerous articles to legal publications on immigration and nationality law.

Mr. Bingham and his wife Anne have been married for 42 years and are the parents of two and grandparents of five.



## Courageous Dissent:

*How Harry Bingham  
Defied His Government  
to Save Lives*

by

Robert Kim Bingham

Softcover

ISBN:

0-9613602-3-2

ISBN 13:

978-0-9613602-3-8

\$20.00

Available from:

Triune Books

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