MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR DONALD A. WOODS

Donald A. Woods, Professor Emeritus in the Library and former Director of the Library and University Archivist, died at his home in Whitefish Bay on December 18, 1980, at the age of 71. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Mathers Woods, a son and a daughter, and five grandchildren.

Donald Woods served UWM and its predecessor institutions, Milwaukee State Teachers College and Wisconsin State College, Milwaukee, with distinction from 1945 until just a few months before his death. He was Head Librarian of the Teachers College and State College from 1945 to 1956; the first Director of the UWM Library from 1956 to 1962; Chair of the Department of Library Science from 1956 to 1963; and University Archivist and Director of the UWM Area Research Center from 1963 until his retirement in 1977. He gave the Library the continuing benefit of his long experience by working part-time in the archives from his retirement until the summer of 1980.

Among the notable achievements for which Professor Woods will be remembered are moving the Wisconsin State College Library from Mitchell Hall to Mellencamp, a building he helped plan; launching the UWM Library on its tremendous growth; and setting up the University Archives. As University Archivist he developed a comprehensive knowledge of UWM's history which researchers on- and off-campus, staff members, and local residents relied upon for many years. Professor Woods particularly enjoyed compiling a book of documents on UWM's history and providing background information about student life for the producers of the television series Happy Days. He was especially proud of the two editions of UWM Buildings: Some Pertinent Facts, which he compiled in 1968 and 1977.

All who worked with Professor Woods will long remember his pleasant disposition, unfailing courtesy, and gentle sense of humor, and the Library staff will cherish their memories of his cooperativeness, his work on the executive committee, and his devotion to the welfare of the Library and the University.

Donald Woods was born in Jacksonville, Illinois in 1909. His association with libraries began early. At the age of seven he got his first library card and while in high school he worked in the local library.

In 1932, Professor Woods received an A.B. from Illinois College, and in 1933, a Bachelor of Library Science degree from the University of Illinois. His first library job was at Knox College from 1935 to 1938. He then spent one year as a sales representative for the Library Bureau before going to Superior State Teachers College as Head Librarian in 1939. In 1945, he earned a Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Illinois and also moved to Milwaukee to begin his 35 years of service to UWM and its predecessor institutions.

Professor Woods was active in the American Library Association, the Wisconsin Library Association, the Society of American Archivists, the Midwest Archives Conference, and the Special Libraries Association. He was President of the Wisconsin chapter of the Special Libraries Association from 1955 to 1957.

During his long career he published a number of articles on libraries in professional journals. He was a member of the Whitefish Bay Library Board,
and, as an avid Civil War buff whose family had ties with Abraham Lincoln, a member of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and Wisconsin's Civil War Centennial Commission.

In an interview in 1977, Donald Woods described parts of his past: "It is practically impossible to connect me with anything romantic, exciting, or adventurous. I love my wife and children and don't stop in saloons on the way home. However, in my past I have been a taxi driver, a hotel bellhop and waiter, a ship's bellhop, a night clerk, a brewery worker, a paperboy, a soda jerk, and a messenger boy in the stock market in October, 1929. I have slept in boxcars, a railroad watchtower, cars, trucks, and on the ground. In 1926, I helped build a 200 foot smoke stack for 60¢ an hour, twelve hours a day, and quit when they put me to work on the ground, because it was too dull." Add to this his contributions to the establishment of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, especially his service as the institution's first library director and archivist, and one has a portrait of a man who will be greatly missed and long remembered by friends and colleagues.

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