MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

MELVIN J. FRIEDMAN

Melvin J. Friedman, Professor of Comparative Literature and English from 1966 to 1995, died at his home in Milwaukee on March 25, 1996. Born in Brooklyn, New York, he was educated at Bard College, received a M.A. from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and French from Yale University.

Melvin J. Friedman taught at the University of Maryland and the University of Wisconsin, Madison, before moving to UWM. Friedman took many research and teaching journeys beginning as Fulbright Fellow in Lyon, France, and thereafter visiting the University of East Anglia, University of Antwerp, University of Canterbury (New Zealand), in addition to professional travel to India, Australia, Israel, and Portugal. Friedman edited journals such as Yale French Studies, Wisconsin Studies in Contemporary Literature, and Comparative Literary Studies. Friedman's membership on editorial boards included Renascence, Journal of Popular Culture, Studies in the Novel, Studies in American Fiction, and Journal of Beckett Studies. Friedman's professional activities were numerous and extraordinarily various: many times Secretary of MLA sections, member of the Fellowship Committee NEA, member of the selection committee of the Ritz Paris Hemingway Award, Vice President of the American Association of Yiddish, and more.

Melvin J. Friedman was a prolific and highly influential author of literary criticism. It may be remarked that he was one of the best-respected critics of American, English, and French fiction, in his time. He wrote with special insight and luminosity on diverse figures such as Samuel Beckett, Carson McCullers, George Moore, Flannery O'Connor, and William Styron. In The Stream of Consciousness: A Study in Literary Method, Friedman made a noteworthy contribution to the study of the interior monologue. He wrote and co-edited a number of books of important essays, including The Added Dimension: the Art and Mind of Flannery O'Connor, Configuration, Critique de William Styron, The Shaken Realist: Essays in Modern Literature in Honour of Frederick J. Hoffman, and The Two Faces of Ionesco. Friedman had an inveterate interest in athletics, particularly football; he argued vehemently against home town parochialism in sport. This interest led him to edit and write for a special issue of the Journal of American Culture.
entitled *Academics View Sport*. His favorite poet remained Mallarme.

Melvin J. Friedman had legions of friends, at UWM and throughout the profession, who mourn the passing of a distinguished and popular colleague. Mel, as he was known to them, was a humorous as well as an erudite man. His fund of stories about the profession was legendary. At the MLA he was literally greeted by hundreds; he was a star show wherever he wandered during the convention. One of his last tasks was arranging the Beckett Society panel at the 1995 MLA in Chicago.

Mel was undoubtedly wry on a number of topics. He kept an amused but vigilant eye on trends in teaching and teachers; he was somewhat scornful of overt departures from the models of his early teaching. He was a congenial spirit, a passionate conversationalist, and he loved to exchange anecdotes. Lunch was an important occasion for him. His life was a magnificent academic and social record, and he was aided in all his endeavors by wife of many years, Judy.

JAMES LIDDY  

JAMES M. KUIST