MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR
PROFESSOR RACHEL SCHENK

Rachel Katherine Schenk, Emeritus Professor of the Library School at Madison, and Professor of the School of Library and Information Science of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, died September 21, 1973, at the age of 74. She came to The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1965 and served as acting director of the newly-established graduate library school until 1966 when a director was appointed. She continued to teach until 1967 and thereafter served in a consultant capacity until 1969 when she retired. Before coming to Milwaukee, Professor Schenk was associated for many years with the Library School at the University of Wisconsin-Madison: first as an assistant professor in 1945, as acting director in 1950, director in 1951, & full professor in 1959. She retired in 1963. It was under her guidance that the Master's program in library science on the Madison campus received accreditation by the ALA Committee on Accreditation. On the Milwaukee campus she played an important role as acting director during the transition period from the undergraduate to graduate program in library science where her administrative experience and wide knowledge of libraries and library practice were invaluable.

Rachel Schenk was born in New Philadelphia, Ohio, a Swiss settlement, February 24, 1895. After graduation from high school, she taught in Ohio schools for five years and attended summer sessions at Wooster College and Kent State College. In 1923, she served first as an assistant and then as acting librarian of the public library in New Philadelphia and later as librarian of the Free Library of Girard, Ohio, 1925-27. During this period she received her diploma from Chautauqua Schools for Librarians at Chautauqua, New York, where she was instructor and librarian for the school during the summers 1927-34. In 1927 she joined the library staff at Purdue University as an assistant cataloger and received there her B.S. degree in 1932. Miss Schenk received the B.S. in Library Science degree at Columbia University of Library Service and the M.A. degree in 1945 at the University of Chicago.

She was active in the Wisconsin Library Association, serving for four years on the Salaries and Personnel Committee and for many years on the Joint Committee Certification. The Wisconsin Library Association presented her with the first Citation of Merit at the October 1960 meeting in Milwaukee as well as the Special Service Award in 1969. She was a lifetime member of the ALA, the American Association of University Professors and served on committees of the Association of American Library Schools.

Rachel Schenk possessed in rare measure the ability to share other people's interests, the job of learning, and the love of books - all of which made her the outstanding librarian, teacher, and friend she was. Her collection of beautiful, valuable books and manuscripts on fine printing and private presses will continue to be enjoyed by students, since she gave generously of those treasures to both library schools. Wherever she was in Wisconsin or Trinity College, Dublin or on the streets of Greece, she was hailed by colleagues and graduates whose names she always remembered. Her fund of anecdotes and experiences was inexhaustible, while her practical judgment, sympathy, and fairness bolstered the spirits of many a former student. Her interest in people was direct and personal, active and unflagging. So was her interest in life. Rachel never ceased participating in library activities and was planning yet another of the travels she so loved when she died.
She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Edgar Nixon of Rhinebeck, New York. A memorial service will be held in Madison, Wisconsin on Sunday, November 11, 1973, at the Memorial United Church of Christ. Contributions to the Rachel K. Schenk Memorial Scholarship can be sent to the Library School, Helen White Hall, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

The Resolution Committee requests that a copy of this Memorial Resolution be sent to Mrs. Nixon.

Joseph G. Baier
Barbara G. Bartley
(Chairman)
Theodore Snavore
Donald A. Woods
Shirley M. Ziffer