MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

PROFESSOR RICHARD LORECK (1920-1976)

Richard Loreck died of cancer on March 21, 1976. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen; a son, Stephen; his parents; and a sister, Mrs. Phyllis Shebesta.

Dick was born in Milwaukee on November 11, 1920 and lived here until his death. He loved Milwaukee; he knew it and quoted its history; he spoke proudly of its urban heritage. It was natural, therefore, that most of his education was in Milwaukee schools, including a Bachelor's degree in history from Marquette University in 1949. He received a Master's degree in library science from Drexel Institute of Technology in 1951. He began working as a page in the Milwaukee Public Library in 1941 while going to college and continued there until 1960 except for a military leave to do Coast Guard duty in World War II. To broaden his knowledge of books and publishers, he ventured into the business world during 1960-65 as an area representative for Commerce Clearing House, Inc., a publishing firm that specializes in law materials. His professional desires were rekindled in 1965, and he joined the UWM Library staff as an Assistant Professor. He became a Professor in 1973.

Dick came to UWM in the midst of its expansion to meet the demands for university education in the Milwaukee area. He took as a personal challenge the goal that library resources should meet the teaching, learning, and research needs of the campus. As Assistant Library Director for Technical Services, he provided leadership in building at UWM the second largest academic library collection in the State of Wisconsin. Through careful quantity purchasing and the use of innovative acquisition techniques, he made it possible for the UWM Library to develop sound core collections that will provide the support for building research holdings as UWM's graduate programs increase. His informal style of administration was conducive to eliciting unique and positive performance from his staff. When appropriate, however, he could be irate, stern, and demanding.

His contributions to scholarship were not extensive because he believed it more important to bring books and people together. He spent many off-duty hours in discussion with anyone approaching him with an interest in a book, an author, or a subject. When discussion lagged, he read the literature of countless fields of human endeavor, including a mystery or a western novel. This enthusiasm led him to make frequent use of a four-letter word: BOOK.

Dick realized that the boundaries of the campus were not the limits for the practice of librarianship or of bibliophily. He participated in professional and community activities. His friendship and acquaintance with a wide variety of Milwaukeeans brought many valuable gifts to the UWM Library. A major interest of his was the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table where his bibliographic and historical knowledge was given full play. This activity inspired him to
arrange for the establishment of the Allen M. Slichter Collection of Civil War Materials at the UWM Library.

Those of us who knew Dick as a colleague and a friend will remember him as a man of gentle nature, sensitivity, and soft humor. It is unfortunate that he could not be with us a few months longer to realize the culmination of his efforts to add the one-millionth volume to the UWM collection. Even in his last days, despite unabated pain, he directed and guided the selection of that single, milestone volume. In honor of his untiring effort to develop the best library resources possible at UWM, the UWM Library is establishing the Richard Loreck Memorial Fund, which will in some measure benefit future generations.

The Richard Loreck Memorial Resolution Committee

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