

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITA GERTRUDE B. HERMAN

Gertrude Becker Herman died in Madison on October 24, 2001 at the age of 86, after a distinguished career of service to children's librarianship. She was the children's literature and services specialist on the faculty of the School of Library and Information Studies from 1968 to 1985, when she took emeritus status. A native of Fond du Lac, with two degrees from the university, she lived for a number of years in New York City, where she served as a children's librarian at the New York Public Library and as the librarian of the Fieldston School.

Professor Herman was an inspired teacher. Her courses on children's literature and on storytelling and oral literature drew students from many university departments, where she was known for her ability to develop critical understanding and appreciation of literature for children. She believed strongly that libraries should help children read and love high quality books, as she taught in her courses on library services to children and young adults. She was a wise mentor and teacher for undergraduate, master's-level, and advanced graduate students. Many successful children's authors, illustrators, librarians, and parents count her among their important influences.

Gertrude Herman was a careful and respected scholar. Her writings and lectures advanced knowledge and understanding in the fields of children's books, folklore and oral tradition, and library services to children and young adults. Especially notable was her research on French popular literature of the 19th century for children, "Les Images d'Epinal." She had a particular interest in illustrations in children's books, and even after her retirement from the faculty, she continued regular contributions on this subject to the Horn Book.

The world of children's literature and children's library services benefited greatly from Gertrude Herman's many activities. Her broad and deep knowledge of children's books made her an effective member of juries and selection committees for national awards, including American Book Awards (Children's Books), Notable Children's Books, the Caldecott Award, and the Wilder Award. She served on the Executive Board of the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) and was a founding member of the Friends of the CCBC. She was especially adroit at planning conferences and workshops on children's literature that drew participants from throughout the United States and beyond.

Gertrude was a supportive colleague and friend to faculty and staff members across the university and beyond. She brought a human touch to committee deliberations and could be counted upon to contribute fair and balanced judgments to faculty meetings. Her grace, warmth, and sense of humor were important elements in the life of the School.

Gertrude was informed and sophisticated in music and the arts, serving in retirement as a docent at the Elvehjem Museum. She and her husband, Henry, who was Associate Director of the Memorial Union, maintained a gracious home in the Highlands. They traveled widely, often visiting friends and colleagues in Europe. Henry and their son, David, died before she did. She is survived by two sons, Peter and John; two daughters-in-law, Mary and Ronnie; a brother, Arnold Becker; a sister, Barbara Nutter; two granddaughters and a great-grandson.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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