

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS LORIN A. UFFENBECK

Professor Emeritus of French Lorin Arthur Uffenbeck died in his Chicago home on September 30, 2008 just five days after his 84th birthday. A native son of Wisconsin, Lorin Uffenbeck was born on September 25, 1924 in Fond du Lac to the late Carl and Erna Groenke Uffenbeck. A graduate of Winnebago Academy, he received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After his service in the army as a correspondent for the *Stars and Stripes* newspaper, he began his academic career at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York from 1957 to 1964, followed by a year at the University of Minnesota, before returning to his alma mater, where he taught from 1965 until his retirement in 1994, having been promoted to Professor in 1969.

Professor Uffenbeck was trained as an historian of French literature and was internationally renowned for his meticulous work with manuscripts and correspondence, including a critical edition of the correspondence of Hortense Allard, published at a time (1965) when little work had been done on women writers. Other critical editions dealt with a major work of the nineteenth-century critic Sainte-Beuve (1973) and the letters of Madame Honoré de Balzac to Champfleury, published in 1989 with his good friend Elizabeth Fudakowska. He also edited a special issue of *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* on Flaubert, based on papers presented at a UW-Madison conference he organized in 1980. Such was his reputation as a scholar that he was elected president of the American Friends Spoelberch de Lovenjoul Library in France in 1987 and president of the Friends of the UW-Madison Library in 1991.

Professor Uffenbeck trained several generations of graduate students in the art of textual editing and, through his own example, instilled the values of working with primary sources, including manuscripts, and employing knowledge of the cultural context to elucidate them. An avid collector of rare books and journals, he would often base his seminars on his own collection, thus giving students hands-on experience with original works. Also a patron of the arts, he scoured Europe in search of paintings and engravings, several of which were, at one time, on loan to the Elvehjem (now Chazen) Museum.

Professor Uffenbeck relished contact with undergraduate students, serving for years as undergraduate advisor and as director of study abroad programs in Paris and Aix-en-Provence. He was best known for a course on Paris, in which he combined maps, literary works, and personal recollections to make the metropolis come to life. Indeed, he co-authored a French cultural reader *A la recherche de Paris*, published in 1966 by Oxford University Press and still in print many years later.

A superb *raconteur* who emulated Balzac's taste for detail and suspense, Uffenbeck would treat his colleagues to tales of his adventures in Europe, then to a ride in the London taxi he had brought back to Madison. He was particularly generous in mentoring junior colleagues in French, and he had many friends around the campus, whom he often invited to dinner at the French House. A very tall man, Uffenbeck walked extensively, usually garbed in a wool turtle neck and tweed jacket, whatever the weather, often on his way to take tea in the British tradition he so loved. A giant in stature, he was in all senses a gentleman.

Lorin Uffenbeck is survived by several nieces and nephews, as well as by his cherished friend Elizabeth Fudakowska. He is remembered fondly and missed deeply by his former colleagues, many still in the Department of French and Italian or enjoying retirement in Madison, and by the legions of former students whose lives and careers were enriched greatly by their contact with him.

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