

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS MAXIMILIAN LORENZ BAEUMER

Maximilian Lorenz Baeumer, professor emeritus of the Department of German, died on April 10, 2008. He was born in 1917 in Trier, Germany, and studied philosophy, social work, religion, and literature in Trier and in Frankfurt before entering graduate studies in the mid-1950s at Northwestern University, where he completed a PhD degree in German in 1959. He held positions at Bowling Green State University and the University of Kansas, and a Fulbright professorship at the University of Stuttgart, before coming to the University of Wisconsin in the fall of 1965. From 1972 to 1987 he was a member of the UW Institute for Research in the Humanities and from 1984 to 1987 a WARF senior distinguished research professor. Upon his retirement in 1987, he moved to Rochester, Minnesota, where he spent the rest of his life.

Professor Baeumer's long and distinguished career began before he completed his doctoral degree and lasted twenty years beyond his retirement. His first book-length study, published in 1964, the subject of which was the Dionysian in the work of Wilhelm Heine, embraced the two topics that became his life's central work: the Dionysian and Wilhelm Heine. In 1966 his substantial collection of essays on Heine appeared; in 1997 his monograph on Johann Joachim Winckelmann and Heine was published; and in 2006, only two years before his death, there followed his monumental survey of Dionysos and the Dionysian in ancient literature and in German literature, from the Middle Ages to Nietzsche, the Stefan George circle, Sigmund Freud, C. G. Jung, and others. But there was more: an edited volume on topos research that appeared in 1973; an essay entitled "Luther and the Rise of the German Literary Language" and another essay on Goethe as a literary critic, which appeared in 1984; and a 1994 volume on the Reformation as revolution and rebellion, which he dedicated to his friends and colleagues at the Institute for Research in the Humanities. These publications and his approximately 60 articles reflect his elegant style, as well as the breadth and depth of his knowledge. He is also remembered as a successful teacher, who together with his graduate students explored many aspects of the relationship between social conditions and religious, philosophical, and literary movements of the early modern period. In his undergraduate courses, which covered a wide range of topics, he was a popular and demanding teacher whose classes, discussions, and individual conferences with students received high praise.

Professor Baeumer was the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including a research grant from the German Academic Exchange Service and a six-month fellowship from the Herzog August Library in Wolfenbüttel. He was a member of a number of editorial boards, including those of *Monatshefte* and the *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*, and he served as a consultant for the National Endowment for the Humanities. His colleagues remember him as a congenial associate and a scholar whose expertise gave the Department of German vitality in the areas of his specialization. He was known for his industry, his clarity, and his attention to detail. Because of his reputation, he was frequently invited to visit and make presentations at universities and research institutes throughout the world: in the United States, Germany, Italy, Scotland, and Puerto Rico.

When Professor Baeumer retired in 1987, his colleagues in the Department of German and the Institute for Research in the Humanities held a symposium, which resulted in a publication in his honor on the topic of "Utopian Vision, Technological Innovation and Poetic Imagination." Professor Baeumer responded by emphasizing the relevance of utopian thinking for the modern world, explaining that its true value is in providing social criticism that helps us understand how to balance personal freedom with the good of the larger group. He himself spent his life pursuing a better world and making his contribution through his work as a humanist.

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Professor Baeumer is survived by his wife of 62 years, Helene Baeumer, who lives in Rochester, Minnesota.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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