

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS EARL M. ALDRICH JR.

Earl M. Aldrich Jr., former chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, was born on February 13, 1929 in Portland, Oregon and passed away on July 23, 2012 in Madison, Wisconsin. Professor Aldrich received his BA from the University of Oregon in 1951 and his MA from Mexico City College-Mexico City (University of the Americas) in 1952. From 1952 until 1956, he served in the U.S. Air Force as a language specialist. During the Korean War, Professor Aldrich was posted in the United States and in the Air Force's intelligence branch in Germany, for which assignment he was trained in Russian. He completed his PhD at Indiana University in 1960 and taught at UW-Madison from 1960 until his retirement in 1985. Following his promotion to the rank of full professor in 1968, he served for four years as associate chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and then as chair between 1972 and 1977. He also chaired the Department of Spanish and Portuguese-University Extension Division from 1962 until his retirement.

Professor Aldrich was a scholar of Spanish American fiction and directed seventeen doctoral dissertations and taught courses on Peruvian, Chilean, Uruguayan and Argentine narrative, including seminars on the novelists Ciro Alegría, José María Arguedas, Mario Vargas Llosa, Gabriel García Márquez, Eduardo Mallea, Ezequiel Martínez Estrada and Ernesto Sábato. Professor Aldrich was the author of *The Modern Short Story in Peru*, a widely reviewed study published by the University of Wisconsin Press in 1966. Professor Aldrich was praised as the first scholar to provide a history of a genre which is now understood as a central component of one of Latin America's great literary traditions. "The book," wrote John S. Brushwood in a review in *Comparative Literature*, "is a major contribution to literary studies because it provides detailed information about a segment of Spanish-American literature that is partially known – but not well enough – to Spanish-Americanists in general; and it is important also because it reveals an important body of literature to scholars, and even casual readers, who are not primarily interested in the region that has become Mr. Aldrich's specialty." Based on research begun for his doctoral dissertation, *The Modern Short Story in Peru* introduced texts then scarcely known due to their publication in newspapers, magazines and small editions that were inaccessible outside of Peru. Professor Aldrich's scholarship was celebrated internationally for its "immense documentary value" in discovering "hitherto unobtainable information." Reviewers praised the surprising richness of literary material previously unpublished or dispersed in ephemeral periodical publications but brought to international attention by Professor Aldrich's study. In addition to offering thorough literary analysis and historical perspective on the genre, Professor Aldrich provided subsequent generations of literary scholars with a wealth of bibliographical and biographical material which assured that *The Modern Short Story in Peru* would long remain, as another reviewer predicted, an indispensable reference work and "the most accurate, serious, complete scholarly study on the subject."

In addition to his monographic study of the Peruvian short story, Professor Aldrich wrote articles on the major Peruvian writers Arguedas, Alegría and Ribeyro and on Argentine novelist Sábato, as well as a study of Spanish American regionalist and indigenist writing, *Regionalismo e indigenismo*, published by Editorial La Muralla in Madrid in 1980. For over twenty years he worked as a contributing editor for *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, the most important bibliographical yearbook in the field, published by the Hispanic Foundation of the Library of Congress and the University of Florida Press. He oversaw the *Handbook's* section on the prose fiction of the Southern Cone region, contributing numerous reviews in addition to those he published in other forums. Professor Aldrich also served for two years as editor of *The Wisconsin Spanish Teacher*, a publication distributed to all Spanish teachers in the state.

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As chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese of the University Extension Division, where he held a half-time appointment, Professor Aldrich was responsible for activities including classes in the University of Wisconsin Centers, special credit and non-credit programs, and correspondence instruction, as well as for administrative planning and supervision of personnel. Before arriving in Madison, Professor Aldrich organized and directed Indiana University's first Junior Year in Peru Program, and in 1967 he directed the UW Summer Alumni Seminar to Latin America. In 1967-1968, he served as acting director of the Latin American Language and Area Center. He later led interdepartmental seminars in conjunction with the Ibero-American Studies Program, including a field seminar in Lima, Peru on the theme of urbanization and a joint seminar with the anthropology department on Peruvian chroniclers. He served subsequently on the Ibero-American Studies Program executive committee and its fellowship and admissions committee. He also contributed to UW-Madison as faculty senator and as a member of many extra-departmental committees including the Chancellor's Faculty Committee on University Outreach Functions, the All University Fellowship Committee-Humanities, the Humanities Divisional Committee-Extension and the Faculty-TAA Liaison Committee for Bargaining. He served on various College of Letters and Science committees including the Study Abroad Committee, the Standing Curriculum Committee, the Assigned Fellowship Committee, the Review Committee on Foreign Language Testing and Placement, and the Retroactive Credit Committee, which he chaired.

During his years at UW-Madison, Professor Aldrich was an avid runner, and he will be remembered by many throughout the university community for his conversations before, during and after runs at the Shell. Following his early retirement in 1985, he served as a pastor at Word of Life Church and then at Sweet Orchard Outreach Ministries, and together with his wife Elizabeth, he traveled doing ministry work in Chile, Peru, Argentina and Brazil.

Professor Aldrich is survived by his wife; by his three daughters Robin Staley, Wendy (John) Wilkins, and Jill (Michael) Roberts; by six grandchildren: Jenni (Aaron) Patterson, Caitlin and Ethan Staley, and Alex, Joy and Gideon Wilkins; and by his brother, David (Shirley) Aldrich. He was preceded in death by his mother and father and by a brother, Donald Aldrich. Professor Aldrich will be remembered by his colleagues as he was described by one of his recommenders when he came to the department, as "a dedicated scholar and teacher, a trustworthy person in all respects, and a gentleman, liked by both students and colleagues."

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