

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS JOHN J. BOLL

Professor Emeritus John Jorg Boll died on Sunday, March 17, 2013 at the age of 91. He was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1921. In 1932 his family moved to Baden, Switzerland. They immigrated to the United States in 1936, making a new home in Schenectady, New York.

John received an undergraduate degree from Union College in Schenectady. His studies at Columbia University School of Library Service were interrupted in 1943 when he joined the Twelfth Army Group Publicity and Psychological Warfare unit of the U.S. Army, which became the Information Control Division. After the war, he continued work with the U.S. Military Government as a research analyst for some of the Nuremberg trials. In 1948 he returned to Columbia University, finished his master's degree and went to work at the Library of Congress as a cataloger.

The idea of teaching intrigued John, and he decided to take advantage of the G.I. Bill; he matriculated at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana in 1951 for doctoral studies at the Library School. In 1954 while working on his dissertation research, he took a summer teaching job at Simmons College so he could access archival materials of early New England academic libraries. This was followed by a stint as head of technical services at the University of Texas library. Two years later in 1956, he joined the faculty at the University of Wisconsin Library School (now School of Library and Information Studies) and remained on the faculty at UW-Madison until his retirement in 1992.

John's main area of teaching and scholarship was the theory and practice of providing bibliographic access to the world of information and ideas. He taught in the areas of cataloging, government documents, national and international bibliography, and library architecture (or "planning functional library buildings" as he thought of it). He was known by students to be exacting and challenging as well as compassionate and witty. He claimed his use of wit grew partly out of his "irreverent nature" and partly out of his desire to keep students awake. In any case, it served students well. Known as "Mr. Cataloging," John helped create information professionals who understood both the issues and the practice to a high skill level.

John published numerous articles on cataloging, but he was best known for the excellence of his two-volume text on cataloging published by McGraw-Hill. It was the standard for instruction not only at the UW-Madison but in other universities as well. John also wrote on library education; his 1972 *Library Quarterly* article was cited regularly and often. His other professional passion was an interest in architecture in general and in library buildings in particular. His thesis on college library architecture of the nineteenth century was also cited frequently because of its unique contribution to the literature.

John's involvement with buildings went beyond scholarly interest. He served as a building consultant to Northwestern College in Watertown and was essential to the planning for the library school's space in Helen C. White Hall, serving as the head of the building committee. He dealt with innumerable plan changes that included incredible amounts of detail and many unanticipated issues. His ability to plan for function and with a forward eye is evident in how well the floor continues to serve the school.

The "ultimate gentleman," with a kind word and a smile for everyone, John was much beloved as a colleague. He was dedicated to his students, to teaching, to colleagues, and most of all to his family. He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Ruth, their three children, five grandchildren and a wide circle of friends.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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