

Hardy Carroll:
*"Gladly wolde he learne...
and gladly teach"*

By Laurel A. Grotzinger

Colleagues, family, students, alumni, and a host of others lost a generous and remarkable man when Hardy Carroll died June 27, 2001. Hardy was that unique individual for whom the world was forever a place to discover something new—and who then shared that knowledge with others. In the obituary published in the *Kalamazoo Gazette*, two telling sentences are found: "Hardy had a wide and voracious interest in many fields including: philosophy, religion, science, history, geography and politics. Over the years he impressed and inspired many of his students, family and friends with his knowledge of and observations on many subjects."

Hardy Carroll came to WMU in 1970 and taught for 15 years in the graduate library school where his list of specializations included, among others, information science and technology, language processing, management principles, academic and special libraries, statistics, online databases, and operations research. His life began in Kernersville, NC, on January 24, 1930, where he attended both high school and Guilford College (B.A.)

majoring in philosophy. Additional formal educational experiences included theology (B.D.) at the Hartford Theological Seminary, history at the University of Edinburgh, mathematics and education at Temple University, and library and information science at Drexel University (M.S. in L.S.) and Case Western Reserve University (Ph.D.).

During the years that Hardy pursued his formal education, he also traveled from coast to coast and overseas working in a variety of jobs that included forester; construction laborer; participant, director, and administrator of overseas Quaker work camps; and as a teacher in the Philadelphia Public Schools. When he turned to library science, he had responsibilities as a cataloger at both the University of Pennsylvania and Penn State, as a personnel librarian at Penn State, and then as a graduate faculty member in the School of Library and Information Science at WMU.

From 1985 until his retirement in 1994, Hardy Carroll returned to his library roots and served first the Business Library and then the Waldo Library Central Reference Department in the University Libraries. He had a breadth of knowledge and interest in almost every topic from economics to business to government and law to civilization in general. Hardy's enthusiasm and willingness to share made him a beloved "fount of

information" for students, faculty, staff, and members of the Kalamazoo community. When he retired, he received the special recognition of a State of Michigan legislative resolution honoring him for his service to the Kalamazoo business community and the region as well as the University.

Hardy Carroll truly epitomized the essence of the Scholar from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* who, as Steven Marx wrote in 1993, "lived a contented life without position or preferment." Seldom has any one of us had the opportunity to know another who so "gladly wolde he learne ... and gladly teach."



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