

But Mary had not been feeling well for several days, and upon her return to Atlanta her staff insisted that she check into the hospital for a rest. From the moment of her hospitalization her condition was serious. Then came the dreaded diagnosis: acute nephritis. Even so, her friends knew of her seemingly unbounded energy and many of them did not take her illness seriously at first. But a greater Judge had made His decision and Mary Bryan knew it. In her final weeks of suffering she was comforted by hundreds of messages of love, which flowed into Atlanta from all over the Nation. Always at her bedside was her friend, Beatrice Lang—affectionately known as “Bebe” to members of the Society.

Among her many friends who came to pay their respects at the First Methodist Church, Decatur, on the morning of July 30 were colleagues from throughout the country. Then, the following morning, according to her wishes, Mary Givens Bryan’s physical remains were interred in the ancient Oak Grove Cemetery at St. Marys in the southeasternmost tip of her beloved Georgia. It had been near this spot that she had for years found rest and comfort when, for a few days at a time, she could be persuaded to leave behind the toil and cares of her office.

There will be no need for another monument to Mary Givens Bryan, for she built two in her lifetime. The greater one is in the minds and hearts of all her friends and colleagues. The other one is the magnificent Georgia Archives Building. She worked herself to death in building both of them. It is appropriate (and Mary’s colleagues will be glad to know) that a movement was begun immediately to dedicate the new archival showplace as the Mary Givens Bryan Archives Building.

H. G. JONES

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EMMETT JOSEPH LEAHY

1910–1964

Emmett Joseph Leahy, pioneer in records management and a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists, died on June 23, 1964, of a cerebral thrombosis.

Leahy was born in Washington, D.C., on December 24, 1910, to parents from southern Ireland. In 1928 he was admitted on a probationary status to the Brothers of the Christian Schools, a teaching order of the Catholic Church. He withdrew from the order in 1934, before assuming a permanent status; in the meanwhile he had attended La Salle College (Pennsylvania), had received his bachelor’s degree from Catholic University, and had taken graduate work at Catholic University and the University of Pittsburgh. He later took additional graduate work at Harvard University and The American University.

After a short period with the Federal Trade Commission, Leahy in July 1935 joined the staff of the National Archives, where he remained until his appointment in September 1941 as Director of Records Coordination in the

Department of the Navy. Commissioned in October 1942 as a lieutenant commander in the United States Naval Reserve, Leahy continued as Director of the Office of Records Administration until his release from active duty in November 1945.

Following two years in the Management Consultant and Microfilming Divisions of Remington Rand, Inc., he founded and became Executive Director of the nonprofit National Records Management Council and concurrently established and became head of the Business Archives Center, a commercial records depository. In 1953 he established his own management consulting firm, Leahy and Co., and also Leahy Archives, Inc., which absorbed the Business Archives Center. He was president of both of these organizations at the time of his death.

The real contributions made by Ed Leahy to the archival profession go far beyond the career outlined in the preceding paragraphs. Leahy was in the forefront of the movement to establish records management in the Federal Government. He was chairman of the Society of American Archivists' Committee on Reduction of Archival Material, later the Committee on Records Administration. In this capacity he published in 1941 a report on *Records Administration and the National Emergency* and defended before the Bureau of the Budget the committee's *Proposal for Establishment of Records Officers in the Principal Departments and Agencies in the Federal Government and a Council of Records Administration in the Bureau of the Budget*. Later in 1941, when the Civil Service Commission established an Interdepartmental Committee on Records Administration (now the Interagency Records Administration Conference), Leahy represented first the National Archives and then the Navy Department on the Committee and served as a member of the steering committee. In collaboration with Robert H. Bahmer and Forrest R. Holdcamper he also prepared National Archives *Bulletin* no. 3, *The Care of Records in a National Emergency*.

As Director of Records Administration for the Navy Department, Leahy was responsible for many innovations in records management. The Archival Service, under his direction, established the first intermediate records centers in the Federal Government or anywhere else, and through them released thousands of square feet of floorspace and thousands of filing cabinets, both badly needed for the war effort. His Records Management Analysis Service provided technical assistance with mail, files, and related problems in Washington and all the Naval Districts. His Microphotographic Service branched out from filming records for security or space-saving purposes to prepare millions of microfilm copies of engineering drawings for the repair of ships, aircraft, and ordnance. He also introduced the use of microfilm in administrative processes and for copying captured documents for intelligence purposes. His Correspondence Management staff promoted the widespread use of form and guide letters and paragraphs through a system called "Correspondex," thereby releasing critically short manpower. For these and similar achievements Leahy was awarded the Navy Commendation Ribbon at the close of the war.

Leahy returned to assist the Federal Government again in 1948, when he

served as chairman of the Task Force on Records Management of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government (Hoover Commission). The three basic recommendations of that Task Force led to the establishment of a Federal records management program guided by the National Archives and Records Service of the General Services Administration, the enactment of the Federal Records Act of 1950, and the requirement in that act that each department and agency maintain an adequate records management program.

Six years later Leahy headed a similar Task Force on Paperwork Management for the Second Hoover Commission. In Part I of its report this Task Force recommended expansion and strengthening of the Government's records management program, with special emphasis on controlling the creation of records. Part II of its report recommended methods for easing the burden of paperwork imposed by the Government on industry and the public, a problem still being attacked by the executive and legislative branches of the Government.

Leahy's influence extended far beyond the Federal Government. Through his management consulting organizations he advised and assisted State and local governments, foreign governments, and numerous commercial clients. He lectured on records management at New York University and the University of California. He was active in the American Management Association, the American Historical Association, and the Society of American Archivists. He was a charter member of the Society, served for a period as reviews editor of the *American Archivist*, contributed articles to this journal, and as previously noted was active in committee work and was elected a Fellow of the Society. The informal gatherings in Ed and Betty Leahy's suite were features of many annual meetings of the Society.

Far more could be said, but he will be remembered best for two contributions. With his ambition, zeal, lively imagination, and a real flair for the dramatic, Leahy was for a quarter of a century, and in the best sense of the word, the foremost promoter of records management that the profession has yet produced. His second legacy was his influence on his associates, whose loyalties he earned, whom he encouraged to develop and to apply their best talents to the task at hand, and who—dozens of them—carry on today his crusade for better records management.

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WILLIAM FREDERICK GOETZ

1904-1964

The Reverend William F. Goetz, Archivist of The American Lutheran Church, passed away very suddenly on January 26, 1964, while attending the