

friends. All miss him—and I suspect each carries special memories of Fred, in which there is pleasure that he passed our way and sadness that only in memory can he do so again.

MARY LYNN MCCREE  
*Jane Addams Papers*

### Nancy C. Prewitt

I lost a dear friend this winter with the passing of Nancy C. Prewitt, retired Associate Director of the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection at the University of Missouri–Columbia. I admired her professionalism, her willingness to volunteer, her strength of character, and the depth of her convictions. Many of us are in her debt.

A graduate of the University of Missouri, Nancy spent virtually all of her professional career with the Western Manuscripts Collection, which she joined in 1946. At that time, WHMC was a one-person repository with little to distinguish it from the myriad other small archival institutions in the United States. Nancy left WHMC temporarily in 1948, returning ten years later as assistant director. It was still a one-person operation.

During the next twenty-three years, WHMC evolved into a modern, progressive repository under Nancy's leadership. Collections, for example, grew markedly with the addition of modern political collections documenting Missouri's contribution to national government: organizational, labor union, and business records providing a source for the history of local, state, and regional activities; and many excellent individual manuscript collections. Between 1958 and 1981 the repository added nearly 1,200 collections.

By the close of Nancy's tenure, Western Manuscripts had developed a capable, proficient staff and a budget to support expanding archival programs. Among her achievements, Nancy took the most pride in the transformation of

WHMC into a nationally recognized and respected territory. She could claim an equal measure of credit for teaching scores of novice archivists, for instilling in them a sense of dedication, and for motivating them to contribute to the profession.

Nancy was active in the Society of American Archivists, the Midwest Archives Conference, her community, and the university; but what is most important is that her career in all of its features was marked by enthusiasm, intellectual curiosity, and loyalty to her work. She served the archival community honorably. I will miss her.

FRANK H. MACKAMAN  
*The Dirksen Congressional Center*

### Karl L. Trever

Karl L. Trever, founding member and Fellow of the Society of American Archivists, editor of the *American Archivist* from July 1949 through October 1956, and a staff member of the National Archives from 1936 to 1964, died of a heart attack in Arlington, Va., on 24 October 1983. Karl was 80 years old and is survived by his wife of 57 years, Myra, one son, two daughters, a sister, ten grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Born in Halle, Germany, in 1903, of American parents, Karl grew up in Appleton, Wis., where his father was a history professor at Lawrence College. He obtained a bachelor's degree from that institution in 1923 and a master's degree two years later from the University of Wisconsin. He taught history and political science from 1923 to 1933, including a stint at Illinois Wesleyan University (1926–30) and another at Boston University (1930–33). While in Boston, Karl completed three years of further graduate work at Harvard toward a doctorate in history.



Karl joined the staff of the Library of Congress as a reading room assistant in 1933. In 1936 he accepted an archivist's position in the National Archives, where he worked with State Department records. From 1938 to 1944, under the direction of Philip M. Hamer, Karl was in charge of the National Archives library. From 1944 to 1947, he served as an assistant to Oliver W. Holmes and helped plan the training of foreign archivists, and he was involved in some of the early work in international affairs that finally led to the creation of a United Nations archives as well as the International Council on Archives. Karl was a section chief (1947-51) in the Natural Resources Records Division, where he was responsible primarily for records accessioned from the Department of the Interior. From 1951 to 1957, he was Chief of the

Exhibits and Publications Division. His last position, held from 1957 until his retirement in 1964, was that of Special Assistant for Presidential Libraries for Wayne C. Grover, Archivist of the United States.

Even before he became editor of the *American Archivist*, Karl had been an active member of the Society, serving on the Editorial Board from 1943 to 1949 and also compiling the "News Notes" section of the journal. Karl's interest in and dedication to the Society was certainly a factor in his appointment by the Council. It was also true that Grover played an important part in the selection for he, as Archivist of the United States, was, after all, contributing part of Karl's services. At a minimum his assent was necessary. Karl was a good choice. His relations with the first editor, Theodore

Pease, and the second editor, Margaret Cross Norton, were very good. In addition, Karl's circle of professional friends, his ability to speak and write well, his modest manner, and his knowledge of the existing literature all augured well.

The first National Archives staff member to serve as editor, Karl, with Grover's cooperation, was able to maintain the objectivity and independence the position required. Grover apparently never interfered with Karl's editorial policy; but Karl, on several occasions, successfully resisted attempts by certain individuals of higher rank in the National Archives either to influence the selection of book reviewers or to change the content of critical articles. Thus Karl set a high standard for those editors from the National Archives who followed him. Among his innovations was the section "Writings on Archives and Manuscripts," a special feature of each October issue, and he also began to prepare an index to the *American Archivist*. When Karl relinquished the editorship in 1956, the Council presented him with a life membership as a token of their appreciation. Karl was made a Fellow in 1958.

Karl published a number of articles on administrative history, archival training, and even on the *American Archivist* itself. Most of his writing, however, such as annual reports (1951-56), encyclopedia articles, and numerous speeches, was ghostwritten by him for others.

Although Karl had some line functions as Chief of Exhibits and Publications, his career from 1951 until his retirement was closely interwoven with that of Grover, who used Karl increasingly in a staff capacity to develop and implement new policies or outreach programs. As early as 1952 he and Grover shared the wish to increase the number of visitors to the National Archives. Grover's goal was to have the number of yearly visits exceed a

million. While the figures continued to mount, the million figure was not achieved until 1962.

Some of the significant events in which Karl played an outstanding part from 1951 were: the transfer of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States to the National Archives on 15 December 1952 and their enshrinement along with the Bill of Rights; the publication of "Charters of Freedom" in 1952; the exhibit of large-size facsimiles of the three Charters in hundreds of new public buildings throughout the United States; the flood-lighting of the National Archives building, 1954; the production of the color and sound motion-picture film "Your National Archives" in 1955-56 and its extensive circulation in the United States and overseas; the preparations for and the dedication of the Truman Library in 1957, the Rayburn Library in 1957, and the Eisenhower Library in 1962; and the transfer of the Kennedy pre-presidential papers to the National Archives in 1961.

After his retirement from the National Archives in 1964, Karl continued his longtime activities with wildlife organizations and, accompanied by his wife and other family members, frequently took part in ornithologically-oriented tours both in the United States and abroad. As time permitted during 1965-76, Karl worked part time assisting the editors of the Ulysses S. Grant and Jefferson Davis publication projects by searching methodically among the holdings of the National Archives for any correspondence or documentation pertinent to their projects. The lists prepared by Karl are still impressive and most useful.

Karl's colleagues both in the United States and abroad who knew and worked with him will miss a true professional and a superb, kindly human being, who placed no bounds on his friendship. Karl will be remembered with great affection,

especially by those younger archivists with whom he so graciously and willingly shared his knowledge, his experiences, and the delightful anecdotes he had accumulated during a most productive career.

ALBERT H. LEISINGER, JR.  
*National Archives (retired)*

**Archives & Manuscripts: Conservation,**  
by Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler

This manual emphasizes the need to consider conservation as an integral part of existing archival and curatorial functions. Chapter headings include: The Nature of Archival Materials; Causes of Deterioration; Creating a Suitable Environment; Storage of Archival Materials; Conservation Treatments. Illustrated instructions for 12 basic conservation procedures, an extensive bibliography, and a list of conservation supplies and suppliers are also included. This 144-page manual is available for \$7.00 to SAA members, \$9.00 to others.

**Museum Archives: An Introduction,** by William A. Deiss

This new publication is intended to encourage museum administrators to preserve historically valuable museum records. The author, who is assistant archivist for the Smithsonian Institution, discusses why a museum should have an archives, how to start an archives program, and basic procedures involved in the operation of a museum archives, such as arrangement, description, reference, and conservation. \$4.00 to SAA members, \$6.00 to others.

*Coming this fall!*

**Archives & Manuscripts: Administration of Photographic Collections,** by Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler, Gerald J. Munoff, and Margery Long

This manual addresses all aspects of managing photographic materials, from appraisal and accessioning through research use and exhibition. The emphasis is on means of administering historical photographs from an archival perspective, stressing the development of systems to organize, access, and preserve entire collections, rather than an item-by-item approach to single images. Chapter titles include: History of Photographic Processes; Appraisal and Collecting Policies; Arrangement and Description; Preservation; Legal Issues; Managing a Photographic Copy Service; and Outreach, Exhibit, and Publication Programs. A bibliography, glossary, supply list, and list of funding sources are also included. \$14.00 to SAA members, \$18.00 to others.

To order or to receive information on other SAA publications, contact The Society of American Archivists, 600 S. Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605.