

## Katharine Edith Brand

Katharine Edith Brand, a librarian in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress from 1944 to 1956, died 7 March 1988 at the Virginian retirement home in Fairfax, Virginia.

A native of South Dakota, Brand received her secondary education in Oregon and Connecticut. She graduated from Smith College in 1921 and from Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School in Boston in 1923.

In 1925 she moved to Amherst, Massachusetts, where she became secretary and research assistant to Ray Stannard Baker, who was the authorized biographer of Woodrow Wilson and the editor of his papers. In 1939 she accompanied the Wilson papers to the Library of Congress and was the privately supported custodian of them until 1944, when she was appointed to the library staff as a specialist in contemporary American history. From 1950 to 1956 Brand was head of the Manuscripts Section. For a period of several months, she acted as assistant chief of the Manuscripts Division.

At the time of her resignation, an article in the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* (vol. 15, no. 12 [19 March 1956]) noted that

the public service generally, the Library of Congress collectively, and the Manuscripts Division particularly are grateful to Miss Brand for the years of her association. Her contributions have been significant; they will be enduring. To her, more than any other individual, are due the development, application, and standardization of those technical procedures whereby large bodies of personal papers are organized, described, and adapted to meet

ganized, described, and adapted to meet the broadest needs of intensive research. . . . Katharine Brand has endowed every undertaking with part of herself—with energy, competence, loyalty, discrimination, wisdom, integrity and a great heart.

Brand prepared, under contract, the provenance essay on the papers of Woodrow Wilson, which was published in 1973 in the *Index to the Woodrow Wilson Papers*. The Wilson collection is one of the library's most widely used collections of presidential papers.

Katharine Brand helped found the Patrick Henry branch of the Fairfax County Library and was a member of the Friends of the Library in Vienna. She was a member of the American Historical Association, the American Association of University Women, and the editorial board of the *Society of American Archivists*.

Brand left no immediate survivors.

The Sophia Smith Collection is the repository for Brand's papers, spanning the years 1900 to 1986 and occupying four linear feet. A gift from her cousin, Phoebe Adams Wing, they consist of diaries and memorabilia from her school days; published and unpublished writings, including an autobiographical sketch; and correspondence and other papers documenting her professional work. There are also transcripts of oral history interviews with two friends, Carol Piper and Dorothy Eaton. For more information, write or call Susan Boone, curator of the Sophia Smith Collection (Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063, [413] 585-2975).