

Memorial Resolution
POLLY S. GRIMSHAW
(September 14, 1931 - August 17, 2006)

Polly Swift Grimshaw was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on September 14, 1931. Because her mother was in the diplomatic service, she attended 23 different schools in three countries. A favorite recollection of Polly's was attending part of the Nuremburg trials while living in occupied Germany as a teenager.

She received her B.A. at the University of Missouri, where she met her husband, Allen Grimshaw. She also entered the library world there, working as a student in the library reference department and later in the Western Historical Manuscript Collection. After completing her master's degree in library science at Drexel, she began her professional career as a reference librarian in the Social Sciences and History Division of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

The Grimshaws moved to Bloomington in 1964 when Allen joined the Department of Sociology at Indiana University, and on January 4, 1965, Polly assumed her position as bibliographer for sociology, anthropology and folklore with the Indiana University Libraries. The first incumbent in that position, she was to hold it (with various title changes and added responsibilities) until her retirement at the end of 1995. She was active in establishing the program in Women's Studies (now Gender Studies), and assumed library responsibility for it. She was promoted to the rank of Librarian in 1978.

Polly was closely associated with each of the departments she served, participating in their professional organizations, offering library instruction to classes, and participating in team teaching. Her contributions were recognized with the added titles of Adjunct Professor of Women's Studies in 1986, and Adjunct Professor of Folklore in 1992.

Her colleagues in the library learned much from Polly's steady vision of the role of the IU library collections as a unified whole, serving users whose needs are not delineated by narrow subject divisions or classification schemes. She communicated that vision through her own ongoing learning and her constant readiness to serve library patrons at any level who turned to her for assistance. Generations of students benefited from her special gifts for sharing her knowledge, depending on her and learning from her as they progressed through a wide variety of academic programs. Her unique contributions were recognized by her colleagues in 1988 when she was presented with the Jenkins Award for "outstanding contributions to the Indiana University Libraries and to the library profession."

The outstanding reputation of the Folklore Collection, due in no small part to Polly's expert curatorship, led to an increasing volume of questions from reporters, librarians and scholars around the world, via mail, telephone and e-mail. In 1989 the folklore volume of the MLA Bibliography moved to Bloomington to be compiled under Polly's supervision. A vastly improved publication resulted. Polly's advice on building folklore

collections was also sought by librarians in smaller institutions around the country, who benefited from her acquisitions lists, her counsel and her encouragement.

Polly's special interest in Native Americans and their interaction with white settlers led to the 1991 publication of her book, *Images of the Other: A Guide to Microform Manuscripts on Indian-White Relations*.

Polly participated actively in a wide range of library and campus service activities, serving on the Bloomington and University Faculty Councils, the committee charged with establishing faculty status for librarians, the committee that drew up the campus Affirmative Action guidelines, and many others. In addition to their formal contributions, the legendary hospitality of the Grimshaws facilitated and brightened campus life for many years.

Despite the increasing toll of her long illness and its attendant difficulties, Polly was with us frequently on campus after retirement, continuing to enjoy meetings, lectures, receptions, operas and other activities. She also continued to be warmly interested in the lives and activities of all her many friends. Her special delight was her four young grandsons, whose visits she looked forward to eagerly.

In recognition of her commitment and devotion to Indiana University and to her profession, be it resolved that this resolution be a part of the minutes of the Bloomington Faculty Council, and that copies be sent to her husband, Professor Emeritus Allen Grimshaw, and to her sons, Andrew S. Grimshaw and Adam T. Grimshaw.

Nancy Cridland
Associate Librarian Emeritus