

## Roger Herzel

Roger Herzel was born in Batesville, Indiana, but left the area as a young child and did not return to Indiana until he was an adult academic professional. After spending formative years in Pennsylvania, Roger entered the liberal arts program at Haverford College in Pennsylvania in 1959, where he received a B.A. in French literature in 1963. He continued on directly to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, for graduate study in French literature. After Johns Hopkins Roger was an instructor in French and then English at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Bennett College, and Cedar Crest College, between 1965 and 1971. As his education, teaching experience, and fascination with French literature advanced, he became increasingly interested in seventeenth-century French literature, and French plays and theatre in particular, especially the work of Molière. Roger entered the Ph.D. program in theatre at Cornell University in 1971, where he served as a teaching assistant in the Departments of Theatre and English, and as a visiting assistant professor of drama at Ithaca College. At Cornell Roger studied under Professor Marvin Carlson who would later head the Ph.D. program in theatre at Indiana University. Roger received the Ph.D. from Cornell in 1974.

Roger's first continuing faculty appointment was as an assistant professor at the State University of New York at Albany in 1975, where he was promoted to associate professor in 1979. In that same year he became editor of *Theatre Survey: The American Journal of Theatre History*, the scholarly publication of the American Society for Theatre Research, the most prestigious scholarly society in the discipline of theatre history in the United States. When Roger moved to Indiana University in 1986, he brought the editorship of *Theatre Survey* with him. It remained here until 1990.

Roger's publications began to appear in 1970 in a series of books and refereed journals, including *Educational Theatre Journal*, *Theatre Survey*, *Modern Language Notes*, *PMLA*, *Dix-Septième Siècle*, *The Age of Theatre in France*, *Western European Stages*, and *Seventeenth-Century French Studies*, among others. His article entitled "'Much Depends on the Acting': The Original Cast of *Le Misanthrope*," published in *PMLA* in 1980, won the William Riley Parker Prize awarded by the Modern Language Association of America. Roger's monograph, *The Original Casting of Molière's Plays*, was published by UMI Research Press in 1981.

Over the years Roger has presented refereed and invited papers internationally at the conferences of the American Society for Theatre Research, Société d'Étude du XVII<sup>e</sup> Siècle, North American Society for Seventeenth-Century French Literature, World Congress of the International Federation for Theatre Research, and many others. He has presented in Paris, New York, Toronto, New Orleans, Stockholm, Dublin, Newport, Canterbury, Washington, D.C., Lyon, Glasgow, Amsterdam, and Cambridge. He has been a very important voice for seventeenth-century French theatre and scholarship throughout the Western world.

Roger joined the faculty of the Department of Theatre and Drama at Indiana University as a professor in 1986, replacing his former mentor, Marvin Carlson. While here he served as director of graduate studies for the department from 1986 to 1997 and again from 2002 until 2004. He has also been on the faculties of performance studies, comparative literature, and West European studies since 1994. Roger has taught undergraduate theatre history, and graduate seminars and classes in his specialization of seventeenth-century France and Molière, but also Greek, Roman, and medieval drama and theatre, Elizabethan theatre, eighteenth-century European theatre, nineteenth-century French theatre, and numerous specific topics. Many theatre graduate students have benefited enormously from their work with Roger Herzel, and he has chaired numerous Ph.D. dissertations since 1987, many of them on French theatre topics. He has made his program an important place to study French theatre in the United States.

Twice a research fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies, in 1977 and 1982, Roger has also received fellowships and grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the State University of New York, and Indiana University. In very recent times Roger contributed the entries on *Molière* and 16 other seventeenth-century French actors to the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Theatre and Performance*, as well as articles in *Cahiers du Dix-Septième*, *Le nouveau Moliériste*, and *Seventeenth-Century French Studies*. Roger continues to work on a new book that will probably follow him into retirement: *Molière: His Career in the Theatre*, contracted by Cambridge University Press.

Roger Herzel has been an excellent teacher, formidable scholar, and reliable and wonderful colleague for all of us in the Department of Theatre and Drama at Indiana University. We will certainly miss his keen eye for details and his unwavering fairness to colleagues and students, and in the Ph.D. program especially we will miss Roger Herzel the man, whose contributions have shaped much of what we continue to do. We send our best wishes to him for all that lies ahead.

*Ronald Waincott*