



C. Herbert Finch, 1931-2005

C. Herbert Finch died peacefully on April 27, 2005. A member of the Cornell University Library staff from 1964 until his retirement in 1996, Herb came to Cornell as Associate Archivist in the Collection of Regional History and University Archives. In 1967, he became Curator and University Archivist; from 1970 to 1976, Archivist in the Labor Management Documentation Center (now the Kheel Center); Assistant University Librarian for Rare Books, Manuscripts and Archives from 1972 to 1983, Assistant University Librarian for Collection Development and Management, 1983 to 1988; and Assistant University Librarian and Archivist, 1988 to 1996. From 1976 until 1980, Herb

served as the Library's first Development Officer, the first person in the country specifically charged with library fundraising.

At Cornell, Herb developed many of RMC's premier collecting areas including city and regional planning, ornithology, human sexuality, and university history. He founded the New York Historical Resources Center, which conducted the Historical Documents Inventory, a project to survey manuscript repositories across New York State. The resulting statewide guides received the Society of American Archivists' C.W.F. Coker Prize for outstanding finding aids in 1991. He also instituted a Historians-in-Residence program to take historians into local community projects. In his role at the Kheel Center, he worked closely with railroad unions and served as adjunct professor of collective bargaining. He pioneered in the creation of microfilm editions of manuscript collections, working on early NHPRC grants for the George Bancroft Papers (1965), the Andrew Dickson White Papers (1970), and the Charles Abrams Papers (1975).

When asked about his most important responsibility in the Library, Herb always spoke of helping his colleagues to do their best work. He offered the necessary administrative support and the freedom for his staff to find a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction in their work.

Herb cared deeply about the quality and accessibility of Cornell's scholarly resources. In 1976, an AP story quoted him at the joint meeting of the Society of American Archivists and the International Council of Archives. He said: "an archivist, to know what papers to keep, needs a solid grasp of history and must have 'archival imagination' and, finally, intuition. You just have to develop a gut feeling that some day someone will say, 'Blessings on that archivist.'" Scholars and students who use Cornell's collections will be blessing Herb for years to come!

Professionally active as a member of the American Library Association, the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, and, particularly, the Society of American Archivists, Herb also represented the Library and the University in local, state, and national forums. In SAA, he chaired or served as a member of Council, Executive Committee, Program Committee, College and University Archives Committee, Manuscripts and Special Collections Committee, the Committee on Uniform Archival Statistics, and the Urban Archives Committee. He was a participant on every SAA

program for nearly twenty years. In 1969 he was named a Fellow of the Society. He served on the National Archives Advisory Council. He represented Cornell on the South Central Research Library Council and the New York State Historical Records Advisory Commission, which established the New York State Archives in 1971.

After his retirement from Cornell, Herb continued to be active, serving as president of the DeWitt Historical Society, now the History Center. In March, the History Center named a new award, the C. Herbert Finch Award for Excellence, in his honor and named him as its first recipient. He also provided archival consulting services and worked with John A. Woods as an appraiser.

Herb was born on a farm near Boise City, Oklahoma on November 8, 1931. He attended Oklahoma Baptist University, receiving a B.A. in English literature and ministerial studies in 1953, and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, in 1957. In 1957, he left the ministry to begin doctoral studies in modern American labor history at the University of Kentucky, where he also became a field archivist in the University of Kentucky Library.

Herb was an outstanding archivist and an excellent administrator. We will miss his intellectual curiosity, his tall tales, Oklahoma drawl, and good humor. His grace and courage in facing difficult situations remains an inspiration to all of us. He was a good colleague and a good friend. A memorial service and celebration will be held at Sage Chapel on Sunday, July 10 at 11:00 a.m.

~ *Elaine Engst* and *Brenda Marston*



Lenore F. Coral, 1939—2005

On a crisp clear day in early April family, friends, and colleagues gathered to pay tribute to Lenore Coral, Music Librarian of the Sidney Cox Library of Music and Dance, at Cornell University. The memorial service was held in Barnes Hall where carefully chosen musical selections were interspersed with tributes from six different speakers. The music was classical and contemporary, universal and personal; there was a piece composed in her honour, and the piece she herself had commissioned for the dedication of the new Sidney Cox Library in 2000. The chirping of spring birds wafted through the open windows while speakers recalled their friendships, family their recollections, and colleagues her professional contributions to the world of music scholarship.

Lenore touched students, faculty, and colleagues both at Cornell and abroad, with her excellence, uncompromising standards, and generosity.

We learned that her colleagues are compiling a festschrift in her honour, and that the Lenore Coral Fund had already been established as an endowment in her name, back in 2000, to continue her legacy at Cornell. What a tribute to Lenore—a room full of people remembering her with admiration, humour, and love. Would that we all might be worthy of such a tribute. Rest in peace, Lenore, scholar librarian.