

IN MEMORIAM

Carroll E. Reed

It is always a sad task to announce the death of a respected and valued colleague, but the task is doubly sad when that colleague was also a dear and long-time friend such as Carroll E. Reed was to me for forty-six years, ever since we met as graduate students at Brown University.

He was born in Portland, Oregon, on 8 November 1914. In his youth, the family moved to Seattle, Washington, where he finished high school in 1932 and then attended the University of Washington, receiving a bachelor's degree in German in 1936 and a master's degree in German and Linguistics in 1937. In the fall of 1938 he went to Brown University in order to study with the eminent Germanist, linguist and dialectologist Hans Kurath, under whose guidance he and I wrote joint dissertations on *The Pennsylvania-German Dialect of Berks and Lehigh Counties, Pennsylvania*. The doctorate was awarded in June 1941 and he remained at Brown for another year as an instructor.

In the summer of 1941, Carroll went to Washington, D.C., as a civilian cryptanalyst in the United States Military Intelligence Service. With the end of World War II, he decided to return to the academic life and in January 1946 he began an assistant professorship in German at the University of Georgia, a position which he relinquished after one semester in order to return to the University of Washington. He was promoted to associate professor in 1952 and to full professor in 1959. From 1961 to 1966 he also served as associate dean of the Graduate School. In the year 1953-54, he held a Fulbright research professorship at the University of Marburg, Federal Republic of Germany.

In the summer of 1966, Carroll accepted the challenge of the chairmanship of the Department of German at the University of California-Riverside. He resigned this position in 1971 to become Distinguished Commonwealth Professor and chairman of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He served in the latter position for five years, then continued the professorship until he retired in 1983.

In November 1984, Carroll began to have trouble seeing. When his ability to read began to deteriorate, he underwent a full medical examination that disclosed an inoperable tumor in the brain. The disease ran its course with shocking speed. He sank into a coma on 5 May and died on 7 May 1985. He is survived by his wife, seven children and numerous grandchildren.

The death of Carroll E. Reed is a great loss to our profession as a whole and to the field of German-American studies in particular. He was an exceptional teacher at all levels and a good number of doctorates were obtained under his tutelage.

He was a productive scholar and the quality of his work cannot be called into question. Ever since he and I began our fieldwork in southeastern Pennsylvania during the summers of 1940 and 1941, he was known as an outstanding authority on Pennsylvania-German language, literature and general culture. His grammatical analysis of the Pennsylvania German spoken in Berks and Lehigh Counties, based on his part of our joint doctoral dissertations, is still the most extensive, most reliable and most readily useable treatise on this subject. He was the first to investigate thoroughly the reciprocal influences of the German and the English spoken in southeastern Pennsylvania; he coined the term "double dialect geography" for his method of investigating such phenomena.

Carroll still had so many plans, he still had so much to offer that we must deeply regret his death. The span of seventy years seems lamentably short for him. We need teachers and scholars with his commitment to truth and loyalty—we need them badly. One of the bulwarks against mediocrity has fallen. Yes, whether we knew him personally or not, we must mourn his loss. It is as yet impossible to express what the death of Carroll E. Reed has meant to me.

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