

Miners are retiring from YSU after 19 years in English dept.

After 19 years of service to YSU Dr. Ward Miner and his wife, Dr. Thelma Miner, both professors in the English department, will retire in June.

Miner and his wife have done extensive travelling throughout their careers and have lived in several foreign countries, including France, Finland, Denmark and Iceland.

In the summer of 1951 they made a literary pilgrimage to Britain. In August of the same year they travelled to Paris, France where they lived for the next two years.

In Paris, the Miners did research at Biblioteque Nationale for the book *Transatlantic Migration: The Contemporary American Novel in France*, which they jointly authored and published in 1955.

Their research was made possible through a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies. While in Paris the Miners also travelled to Spain, Holland, Belgium and Germany.

In April, 1953, the Miners came back to the United State, and from 1953 to 1955 she taught at Vassar College.

In 1955, Ward Miner was awarded a Fulbright professorship

granted through the state department, which allows the recipient to teach at a foreign university. The award was developed by Senator Fulbright and its purpose was to make use of American money that was escroed in foreign countries.

In Turku, Finland, Ward Miner taught at both the Swedish and Finnish speaking universities.

After their return from Finland in 1956, The Miners taught at the University of Kansas for one year and then came to YSU, where Thelma Miner became an assistant professor in 1957. In 1965, she became a full professor. Ward Miner was elected Chairman of the English dept. from 1963 to 1968. He has also been in charge of graduate studies from 1968 till present. He has been advisor for the American Studies program from about 1960 till this quarter. He also has been the Fulbright advisor on campus since 1961.

The Miners received two Fulbright professorships to Denmark, where they taught at International People's College at Elsinore, Denmark. They returned to YSU in 1961.

From 1966 to 1967 the Miners lived in Reykjavik Iceland on a

Fulbright professorship awarded to Ward Miner. There he taught at the University of Reyjavik, which is the only university in Iceland.

They recall one of their most memorable occasions during their spring vacation of 1961, when they flew to Greece and attended the celebrations in Athens on Easter-eve. They described the

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processions and celebrations as very beautiful and unforgettable.

Ward Miner published a book in 1952 entitled *The World of William Faulkner*. While working on the book in 1949, he spent the summer in Oxford, Mississippi--Faulkner's home--and had an opportunity to meet and talk with Faulkner.

Dr. Thelma Miner published *The Uncollected Poetry of James Russel Lowell* in 1950.

In 1962 Dr. Ward Miner published *William Goddard: Newspaperman*, a biography of William Goddard a newspaper printer and editor during the Revolutionary War in Providence RI, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Both Miners have published articles and book reviews in professional journals such as *American Literature* and the *American Quarterly*.

Ward Miner's distinguished career goes back to the University of Colorado where he received his B.A. He earned his M.A. from the University of Chicago and his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Thelma Miner earned her B.S. degree from Dickinson College and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. The Miners met at Temple University where they were both teaching. They were married on Oct. 27, 1950. Ward Miner has also taught at the Colorado School of Mines and Queens College in New York.

His teaching career was interrupted for a few years during World War II when he was in the Air Force. He served as a navigator of B-17's and flew a tour of combat duty out of England over Germany.

In June of 1944 he participated in the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

During her career, Thelma Miner has taught at Temple University, Vassar College and the University of Kansas and Dickinson College.

Ward Miner has an entry in *Who's Who's* and Thelma Miner is entered in *Who's Who Among American Women*.

The Miners are planning to retire in June and move into their small house on the shore of the Penobscot Bay in Mairie.



photo by scott morrison

Dr. Ward Miner and Thelma Miner, professors of English at YSU, will retire in June after nineteen years of service. Both are highly experienced travelers and have lived in several foreign countries.