

Maag head reference librarian retires after 35 years

By BOB THOMAS
Staff Reporter

Hildegard Schnuttgen, Maag head reference librarian, retired March 31 after completing 35 years of service at YSU. Over the years, countless numbers of students and faculty alike have been pulled from the depths of scholarly despair by her perpetual enthusiasm and genuine love of research.

Dr. Bege K. Bowers, English, who specializes in 19th century British materials, is just one of many YSU faculty members who have turned to Schnuttgen to locate obscure references for their research projects. Bowers describes her as "absolutely the best anyone could ask for. She would make it her 'project' to get whatever you thought was impossible to find." According to Bowers, it has been customary for prospective University employees to be introduced to Schnuttgen because her remarkable personality and obvious dedication to her work have helped interviewers present a positive campus image.

Long-time co-worker Debra Beronja, Maag government documents, characterizes Schnuttgen as the most knowledgeable person that she has ever come in contact with.

"I have learned more from working with her than I could have learned in any class," Beronja said.

Schnuttgen has been a familiar face at YSU since 1958. Even those too timid to venture into Maag's Reference Room



Mrs. Hildegard Schnuttgen

would probably recognize her because of her ardent support of student activities. Whenever possible, she attended University sponsored concerts, exhibits and theatrical productions.

Originally from Wurzburg, Germany, Schnuttgen came to the Youngstown area in 1957 to live near her sister. Her brother-in-law is currently a judge in Struthers. Her first position at Maag was Head of Acquisitions, which she held for five years before becoming Head of Circulation. In 1969, she obtained the position of Head Reference Librarian, which she said "is what [she] always wanted."

Her many accomplishments include co-authoring *A Bibliography of Chaucer,*

1974-1985 (Shoe String Press: Hamden, Conn., 1988), with recently retired YSU English professor Dr. Lorraine Baird-Lange. She has had numerous abstracts and translations published and has served as a bibliographic assistant with the New Chaucer Society for several years. When asked what she felt was her greatest accomplishment, Schnuttgen said, "I have helped so many faculty and students with their research projects over the years. I leave very happy. I have had a very satisfying, wonderful and interesting career."

Schnuttgen has been widely honored for her many talents and impassioned dedication to her work. She is the reci-

ipient of the only festschrift ever published at YSU: *Women in History, Literature, and the Arts*. (A festschrift is a literary work, usually of a scholarly nature, which is written specifically for a designated honoree.) The book is a collection of essays by several internationally known literary scholars.

Her assistance with a great variety of scholarly research projects has earned her several book dedications. Among these are books by Baird-Lange; Dr. James Henke, English; and Dr. Morris Slavin, history. Schnuttgen has received distinguished service awards from a wide variety of campus-based organizations.

On Schnuttgen's last day at work, a brief half-hour concert was presented in her honor by the Dana School of Music. The two-part classical program was performed at The Butler Institute of American Art and featured Allan Mosher, bass-baritone singing an aria from Bach's Cantata No. 56 and selections from Schumann's "Liederkreis," Op. 39. During the performance, Mosher presented Schnuttgen with a rose and recognized her many accomplishments at YSU.

Schnuttgen was also honored by her colleagues at a retirement reception at The Butler Institute of American Art on May 10. A short classical program was performed by the Dana String Quartet under the direction of John Wilcox, music. The event was organized by a committee of Maag staff members chaired by Beronja.

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