

Book Lists Cora Lutz Among Medieval Scholars

BY WANDA FINNEY

This past summer, the University of Wisconsin Press published a massive reference volume entitled *Women Medievalists and the Academy*, edited by Professor Jane Chance of Rice University. The volume contains 72 essays on women medievalists, thus bringing to light a long-neglected chapter in the history of women's scholarship. Wilson College is well represented in this volume for it contains a 10-page essay (pages 671-681) on Professor Cora Lutz by Professor Deanna Evans of Bemidji State University (Minnesota). Many alumnae and friends of the College remember Dr. Lutz as a woman of intellect, grace and wit who taught in the Classics Department from 1935 to 1969. Students and faculty alike admired her, as evidenced by the fact the 1955 *Conococheague* is dedicated to her and in 1962 she received the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. What many may not know is that Dr. Lutz was also a respected medieval scholar, being regarded as an authority on the commentaries of

Martianus Capella, a fifth-century North African Roman scholar. Moreover, Dr. Lutz had a second career after her retirement from Wilson. At the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, which holds one of this country's foremost collections of medieval manuscripts, she meticulously cataloged, for the first time, pre-1600 manuscripts, thus providing the basis for the full-scale catalog later prepared and published by Dr. Barbara Shailor '69, who was one of Dr. Lutz's former students and protégées. Shailor went on to specialize in Latin paleography, and served as director of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale until her recent appointment as deputy provost for the arts at Yale in 2003.

Material from the C. Elizabeth Boyd '33 Archives provided Professor Evans with basic biographical and professional information in the early stages of her research. That research began in June 2001 when Wanda Finney, archivist at Wilson College, received Professor Evans' first reference request. The

resources that Finney was able to make available to her included a list of Dr. Lutz's publications held by the C. Elizabeth Boyd '33 Archives and the John Stewart Memorial Library; her curriculum vitae; an obituary written by one of Dr. Lutz's former students, Julia Billings Crothers '38, for the Summer 1985 issue of the *Alumnae Quarterly* and a photograph of Dr. Lutz. In addition, Finney worked with the alumnae office to put Professor Evans in touch with Dr. Barbara Shailor.

The published chapter contains valuable biographical information and chronicles the professional struggles and successes of one of Wilson's foremost teacher-scholars.

Professor Deanna Evans' work will ensure that Dr. Lutz's achievements are more widely known than ever before.

Books by Cora Lutz available in the John Stewart Memorial Library, Wilson College, as circulating copies, all published by Archon Books, Hamden CT, are: *Essays on Manuscripts and Rare Books* (1975); *Schoolmasters of the Tenth Century* (1977); *Oldest Library Motto and Other Literary Essays* (1979).

Non-circulating copies of books and articles held by Archives:

Essays on Manuscripts and Rare Books (1975)

Schoolmasters of the Tenth Century (1977)



Dr. Cora Lutz

Photo courtesy of C. Elizabeth Boyd '33 Archives, Hankey Center, Wilson College