

devotedly. His wife, his three daughters, and five grandchildren survive him.

John B. Hench

DONALD FRANCIS McKENZIE

Don McKenzie was one of the outstanding figures in the field of the history of the book: as practitioner (from his two-volume *The Cambridge University Press 1696-1712: A Bibliographical Study*, 1966, to *The Complete Works of William Congreve*, forthcoming); as theorist ('Printers of the Mind: Some Notes on Bibliographical Theories and Printing House Practices,' 1969; *Bibliography and the Sociology of Texts*, 1986); as teacher (senior lecturer, associate professor, and professor of English language and literature, Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand, 1961-86; reader, then professor of bibliography and textual criticism, Oxford 1986-96); and not least as entrepreneur and leader (he was the prime initiator of *The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain*).

McKenzie came to the academic life through the encouragement of his supervisors in the New Zealand Post Office's Public Relations Department, where he went as an apprentice after leaving school. As a student reading English, McKenzie's growing love of theater was fostered by the Wellington Shakespeare Society. After completing the M.A., he took a junior position in Victoria University College, from which he won a Leverhulme scholarship to go to Cambridge as a research student. Philip Gaskell, his supervisor, suggested that the archives of Cambridge University Press had not been studied; McKenzie's study of the records of production, the finished books, and the book trade laid the foundation for much of the rest of his own scholarly career.

Closer to the interests of the Society, one might say that Don's New Zealand origins have been of fundamental importance for his insight into the dynamic, global role of text in colonial and

postcolonial cultural and political history ('text-led imperialism,' in his words).

Beginning in the 1980s, several honors came his way: memberships in learned societies, among them the British Academy; invitations to lecture and to give professional service. Don was a member of the advisory board for the Society's Program in the History of the Book in American Culture for six years from its formation in 1983. He was elected to membership in the Society in 1995, as the Society began formally to expand its constituency abroad. His contribution to the Society was largely behind the scenes. Though unable to present his views in a Wiggins lecture (though invited to do so), his point in 1983 that the Society's Program should enlarge its concept of 'book' to embrace his idea of the more culturally inclusive 'sociology of text' was well taken by the Program's organizers. Even more critically important was his successful recommendation to the Cambridge University Press that it undertake the publication of *A History of the Book in America*, in part as 'a kind of matrix for other histories of the book in English, whether in Africa, the Indian sub-continent and the Far East, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand.'

Donald Francis McKenzie was born in Timaru, New Zealand, on June 5, 1931, and died suddenly in the Taylorian Library, Oxford, on the afternoon of March 22, 1999. He is survived by his wife, Christine, and stepson, Matthew, as well as by his elder son, also Matthew, by a former marriage, to Dora Haigh.

To end on a personal note. An energetic, even (as has been said) gleeful, combination of friendliness and missionary zeal, his was an exemplary scholarly life of the late twentieth century, from which I for one for over thirty years, have benefited immeasurably. I know that many other historians of the book received similar benefits from his inspiration.

Ian Willison

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