

PATRICIA MILLER KING

Patricia Miller King was born in Brooklyn, New York, in July 1937 and attended school there. She received her B.A. *magna cum laude* in 1959 and her M.A. in 1961 from Radcliffe College. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She received the Ph.D. from Harvard University, writing her dissertation on Hugh d'Amiens, a twelfth-century archbishop of Rouen, under the direction of Giles Constable.

In the following years she worked as a research assistant to Barbara M. Solomon, assisting in the editing of Timothy Dwight's *Travels in New England and New York*, and to Bernard Bailyn, and was a teaching fellow at Harvard. She was an assistant professor at Wellesley College in the 1970-71 academic year.

She became director of Radcliffe College's Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America in 1973 and served until her death. In 1993 the position was endowed by the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation. During her directorship the library tripled its holdings in manuscript and print materials relating to all aspects of women's lives and in 1990 received the Distinguished Service Award from the Society of American Archivists. In a period of growth and ferment in the field of women's studies, Pat ensured that the collection grew to represent the broad range of points of view that were being voiced. At the same time the collecting, preservation, and cataloguing of historical materials continued. The library also maintained an extensive program of lectures, fundraising activities, conferences, and exhibitions relating to women.

She oversaw the renovation of the library in 1987, shepherding the collections, users, and staff smoothly through all the disruptions that such work entails, with her usual calm efficiency and foresight. She served on many Radcliffe and Harvard committees, where her ability to focus on what needed to be done and to help fellow members reach agreement made her a welcome and valuable participant. She was a skilled writer of grant applications and

a generous helper to seekers after funding. Her special interest in computer technology was a great help to the library as the library catalogue underwent conversion from cards to a computer-based system.

Her research interests were many. As director, she was involved in the Black Women's Oral History Project, the Mamie papers, and the Women of Courage exhibition. In 1991 she took part in the International Symposium of Women's Libraries in Istanbul and subsequently oversaw the planning of the second symposium at the Schlesinger Library. Unfortunately, she died before that June 1994 conference was held.

She was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society in October 1980 and served on its membership committee. She was also on the membership committee of the Massachusetts Historical Society. She chaired the board of the National Council for Research on Women from 1989 to 1992. She served as consultant on the *History of Women* micropublication project and was for many years a reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities. She also served as an associate editor of *American National Biography*. In the community she served as a member of the corporation of the School Volunteers for Boston and as a trustee of the Boston Heart Foundation.

Pat King died of lung cancer on May 3, 1994, at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, after a long and courageous battle. She is survived by her mother and brother, her daughter, three stepchildren from her marriage to Dr. Samuel W. Stein, who predeceased her, and three grandchildren. Her family meant a great deal to her, but she lived very quietly. For many years she rose before dawn to take her daughter, a prize-winning figure skater, to practice sessions at the Skating Club of Boston. Her life was largely spent making it possible for other people to do their work. She is greatly missed by her family, by everyone at the Schlesinger Library and by the many people who benefited from her wise presence in the life and work of the college.

Barbara Ketcham Wheaton

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