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Remembering Papa Lyman

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Remembering Papa Lyman

20 September 2005 — Lyman W. Newlin

San Fernando Cathedral, San Antonio, TX

Remembrance by Mike Markwith <michael@teldan.com>

It was 34 years ago exactly to this day, January 20, 1972, that **Lyman** became an institution in my family. **Lyman** and I had worked together for about two years prior to this day in 1972 and on this day my first daughter, **Aimee**, was born at 6:30 am. By noon, **Lyman** decreed she was engaged to **Fred Newlin**, his eldest son who was two or three. This is only one reason why I will always be close to **Lyman**.

Lyman was my bookselling mentor and I was not alone as “young lads” mentored by **Lyman**. We met by phone in 1970 but not in person until 1971. He was in New Jersey responsible for Publisher Relations at **Abel** and I was newly appointed manager of Approval book purchasing (or Advance Information Acquisitions) in Portland.

Lyman introduced me to the professional world of bookselling. He also introduced me to New York City in 1971. West coast boy goes east for the first time and has real New York publisher meetings with **Elsevier**, **McGraw-Hill**, **Random House**, and **Academic Press** including lunch at the **Netherlands Club** complete with gin & tonic. He also introduced me to the wonders of room service breakfast: fresh hot eggs, toast, bacon, strawberries, black coffee, and meeting while eating. Glorious.

Lyman and I worked together for **Richard Abel** for three years before I was moved into sales. We enjoyed early morning and late afternoon phone calls (Oregon time) as well as many, many conversations about books and the people who inhabited bookselling lore. He knew them all.

Lyman was a role model, even a hero to this young professional. He was always positive and supportive and never negative about someone (unless that person wanted to give us less discount!). He did not harbor negative feelings though he lost a career (**Abel**), lost many books (fire), and lost income (**Abel**). We should all have **Lyman's** attitude about how we deal with one another.

And he was a damn good democrat.

Lyman was a friend and “father figure.” When we saw each other at conferences, most recently in his motorized cart, it was always: “Hi dad” “Hi son.” He was a robust man who in later life used a cane and then the cart to get around, but he was always a friend to me and so many others. **Lyman** unified people. I believe he played a major role in coaxing **Dick Abel** from “exile” to attend the **Charleston Conference** and share his valuable perspective on bookselling and libraries. It meant a lot to those of us who worked for **Dick** to see him again and **Lyman** was primarily responsible — remember this is the man who could have but didn't carry a negative thought regarding **Abel**.

Lyman never quit working. At age 85 he contacted me at **Swets** to help him with a client of his in Mexico regarding journals (he called them “magazines”). He said to me, “I don't know anything about this journal business, hell I only know Capn' Billy's WhizBang or some such title, but I have a client who has some questions and hope you can help...” I did what I could.

He was a damn good democrat.

Our relationship ended as it began: on the

phone. Last August I called and we talked and reminisced. He told me at **ALA** in Chicago about the new cancer and that he was going to go through chemo. I didn't realize it was the last time we would ever talk. We made plans for dinner in Charleston in November and he said it would be his last conference. He was excited about the new issues in our business as he was excited about seeing friends and continuing his work. But it was just too tough to travel.

Lyman was my friend for 35 years. How many of us meet someone for the first time when that person is 60 years old and can say that they are a friend for 35 years? To say **Lyman** was special doesn't do justice to the word “special” or to **Lyman**. My late mother always said that “growing old isn't for wimps.” **Lyman** was not a wimp.

Lyman had a strong faith in his God, in you and me, in his love for his family. He was an avid naturalist and it may be corny but I find these words of the *91st Psalm* the best way to memorialize **Lyman**:

And he will raise you up on Eagles wings

Bear you in the breath of dawn

Make you to shine like the sun

And hold you in the palm of his hand.

Thanks “Dad.” 🌿

Rumors

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tion and **CrossRef**. Her ability to represent the views of the library world to the publishing world and the views of publishers to librarians during her 30-year career continues to have a profound and positive influence within our industry. Electronic journals as we know them today, and indeed, the electronic delivery of scholarly communication has been shaped by **Karen Hunter's** thoughts and deeds. **Ms. Hunter** has earned both the respect of librarian and publisher colleagues and the **2006 CSA/Ulrichs Serials Librarian Award**. **Ms. Hunter** was a library assistant and librarian at the **Cornell University Libraries** before joining **Elsevier** in 1976. Her undergraduate degree is from the **College of Wooster** and she earned graduate degrees in history, library science, and

business administration from **Cornell**, **Syracuse** and **Columbia** universities respectively. This award for distinguished contributions to serials consists of a citation and \$1,500 donated by **CSA**. The announcement was made by **Marilyn Geller** <mgeller@lesley.edu>, Chair, **CSA/Ulrichs Serials Librarianship Award** and **Collection Management Librarian**, **Lesley University Library**. Congratulations to **Karen**, most deserving of this Award!

Speaking of Awards, **Denise Beubien Bennett**, **Pam Censer**, and **Paul Kirk** have been awarded the **2006 Reference Service Press Award** from **RUSA/ALA** for the most outstanding article published in **RUSQ** (Previously **RQ**) during the preceding two volume years. Here's a citation to the article: “A Class Assignment Requiring Chat-Based Reference”. *Reference & User Services Quarterly*, Winter, 2004, Vol. 44 Issue 2, p. 149-163. Pretty excit-

ing! And remember that the awesome and energetic **Pam** <pam.cenzer@gmail.com> (with cohort **Susan Campbell**) were the mentors at the **2005 Charleston Conference** and will be the same at the **2006 Conference**. They can answer any questions you might have especially if you are a “newbie” planning on attending the **2006 Conference**. Come on down!

Paul Ginsparg, physicist and Internet scholarly communications pioneer, is the latest recipient of the **Paul Evan Peters Award**. This was announced by the **Coalition for Networked Information (CNI)**, the **Association of Research Libraries (ARL)**, and **EDUCAUSE**. The award will be presented on April 3, 2006, at the **CNI Membership Meeting** in Arlington, VA, where **Ginsparg** will deliver the **Paul Peters Award lecture** at the opening plenary. A professor of physics, computing

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