

# Former IU librarian Cecil Byrd dies

H-T Report

Cecil K. Byrd, former Indiana University librarian and president of the American University in Cairo, Egypt, died Wednesday in Bloomington. He was 83.

Byrd had retired from the university in 1980, but continued as professor and librarian emeritus at the Lilly Library until his death.

He was born Oct. 23, 1913, in Winchester, Ky. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Anderson College and both a master of arts and doctorate in history from IU.

Following his graduation at IU, Byrd was appointed curator of rare books and special collections at the university, but his work in that capacity was interrupted by World War II. Byrd served in the European theater as a communications and

executive officer on the USS LST 338.

Upon his return to IU, he assumed a new position as assistant director of libraries. In 1956, he persuaded J.K. Lilly Jr. to give his collection of rare books and manuscripts to IU, helped negotiate the Lilly Library's relationship with the Lilly Endowment for ongoing acquisitions, and was actively involved in the design and construction of the Lilly Library building.

Byrd was also instrumental in the gift to IU of the Mendel Collection of books on Latin American history, which was donated to the Lilly Library by Dr. and Mrs. Bernardo Mendel.

Byrd's international outlook led him to accept appointments abroad. He was librarian adviser to the National Institute of Administration in Djakarta, Indonesia; building consultant to the National Institute of Development Administration in Bangkok, Thailand, and to Islamabad University in Pakistan; and academic consultant to King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, among other consultant positions.

Byrd resigned his position as university librarian at IU in 1972 to accept the position of dean of faculties at the American University in Cairo. He was named president of that university in 1974 and served until 1977, when he returned to IU as professor and librarian in the Lilly Library.

He was the author of several books and numerous articles for professional journals. His latest book, a joint effort with Ward W. Moore, professor emeritus of medicine at IU, is a pictorial biography of Abraham Lincoln based on the Lilly Library collection and will be published by Dover Publications later this year.

Survivors include his wife, Esther (Sample) Byrd; two daughters, Jean Ferguson of Green Valley, Ariz., and Ann Ott of York, Maine; a son, Tom Byrd of Chicago, Ill.; a sister, Mabel DeArment of Anderson; and four grandchildren.

Memorial services will be 2 p.m. Sunday, April 27, at the First United Methodist Church.

Day Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.



Byrd