

A TRIBUTE TO PAST-PRESIDENT CARRIE-MAY ZINTL

The members of the Editorial Board were delighted when our President, Judge Wittstadt, proposed that the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland dedicate *The Report 42* to Past-President Carrie-May Zintl. One can think of many reasons why this honor is appropriate. Carrie-May was unique among us as the first female elected to membership in the Society, the first female to be elected to membership on the Executive Committee, and also the Society's first female President. The main reason for honoring her, however, is her unstinting service to the Society over the years. Many of us remember the meetings she chaired during her tenure as President, especially our festive centennial celebration in 1986. Thanks to her admirable organizational abilities, her unflinching sense of humor, and her special warmth, the meetings she planned and organized were always

convivial as well as stimulating occasions.

When Carrie-May became President of the Society in 1978 she was following in the footsteps of her father, Professor William Kurrelmeyer, who served as President of the Society from 1937 to 1951. We remember him as the President during whose tenure the Society not only resumed publication of *The Report*, after a hiatus of ten years, but also sponsored Professor Dieter Cunz's carefully researched and elegantly written *History of the Germans in Maryland*.

While Professor Kurrelmeyer was serving as Chairman of the Hopkins Department of German and as Editor of *Modern Language Notes*, Carrie-May came to know many members of the Hopkins faculty and most of the prominent members of the German-American community. Among the frequent visitors to the Kurrelmeyer home on Linden



*Carrie-May with Hopkins President William C. Richardson as she received the President's Medal, May 2, 1991
Courtesy Jay van Remselear
The Johns Hopkins University*

Avenue were Pastor and Mrs. Julius Hofmann and their children, Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Strube and their two daughters, and the Hopkins Assyriologist Paul Haupt. When the Modern Language Association was meeting in Washington, Philadelphia or New York, colleagues en route to and from the meetings regularly stopped off in Baltimore to visit the Kurrelmeyers. Some were house guests. Carrie-May accordingly had many warm memories of dinner parties in the house on Linden Avenue, of musicales with her mother at the piano, and also of early meetings of the Maryland Goethe Society which were held in the Kurrelmeyer home.

Carrie-May was graduated from Western High School on May 31, 1920, at age fifteen. In those days a high school diploma entitled one to teach as a substitute in the Baltimore City schools. Carrie-May was thus able to begin her teaching career three days after her graduation by working as a substitute. Throughout her four years at Goucher she continued to offer her services as a substitute whenever her academic schedule allowed. In the fall of 1924 she began graduate work in Classics at Hopkins. The following year she took a leave of absence to study abroad, spending the spring semester of 1925 at the University of Munich, the winter semester 1925-26 at the University of Vienna, and the spring semester of 1926 at the University of Leipzig. She passed her board oral examination and received her doctorate in Classics in the spring of 1929.

1929 was also the year of Carrie-May's marriage. In the spring of that year her fiancé, Ernst Zintl of Marienbad, had also completed his work for the doctorate in biochemistry at the University of Prague. In December the two were married in Baltimore. After the wedding they left for Marienbad, where, as Carrie-May used to put it, she was "to live and to be the **junge Frau in Haus Paracelsus**," the Zintl family residence.

On July 16, 1931, Erika Margarete Zintl was born. Joy over the new arrival was soon followed by grief, for Ernst Zintl died shortly after his daughter's birth. In September, 1932, the young widow returned to Baltimore with her parents and Erika. Like her mother, Erika Zintl received her elementary and secondary

education in Baltimore schools and her B.A. from Goucher College. After having received her bachelor's degree she obtained an M.A. degree in Latin American history at the University of Pennsylvania and continued her graduate studies at the University of London. While studying in England she met and later married John James Pearce. She still resides in England. Deborah, the elder of her two daughters, made Carrie-May three times a great-grandmother, and she was very proud of her handsome little great-grandsons.

Carrie-May began her teaching career as Assistant Professor of Classics and German at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Her second post was as Professor of German and Classical Mythology at Mount Saint Agnes College. When Mount Saint Agnes united with Loyola College in 1971 Carrie-May became a member of the Loyola faculty and taught classical mythology there for two years. After her retirement from Loyola she joined the faculty of Johns Hopkins University as a lecturer in Greek and Roman mythology and taught there until 1987.

Over the years Carrie-May devoted a great deal of time to community service. While Erika was attending Public School No. 14 Carrie-May was President of the P.T.A. During World War II she was a Block Captain for Civilian Mobilization and also served as Rat Warden. A lighter moment in those days was an episode which occurred one day when her father was alone in the Linden Avenue house. Hearing the doorbell, Professor Kurrelmeyer went to the door, and when he opened it he saw a child standing on the steps. The child informed him that he had come to report on rats in the apartment building in which he lived. It just about broke up her father, Carrie-May said, when the child asked, "Does the rat lady live here?"

For many years Carrie-May gave generously of her time to the German-American organizations of Baltimore. She was Treasurer, Secretary, and finally President of the American Goethe Society of Maryland. As the successor of Dr. Otto Ortman she also presided for several years over the annual meetings of the Julius Hofmann Memorial Fund, which had been established to encourage the

study of German in the schools and colleges of Baltimore City and the State of Maryland. Until shortly before her death, she also chaired the annual sessions of the Scholarship Committee of the German Society of Maryland which distributes to worthy Maryland college students of German-American ancestry the funds which the German Society provides for scholarship aid. In 1971, the German Society expressed its gratitude for Carrie-May's work by awarding her its medal for distinguished service. She was at the time the only living female member of the society to have received this honor.

Carrie-May was honored three times by Johns Hopkins. A framed citation of appreciation from the Hopkins Alumni Association hung in her living room in the Carrollton. On her mother's Steinway stood a silver bowl which the Hopkins Administration presented to her on the occasion of her retirement from the university in 1988. On May 2, 1991, she was honored for the third time when the President of the University, Dr. William C. Richardson, awarded her the President's Medal at a luncheon in Nichols House. After the investiture Dr. Richardson read the following citation which beautifully summarizes Carrie-May's long academic career:

Classical scholar, faithful teacher, and lover of books, you have been a lifelong friend and loyal supporter of the Johns Hopkins University.

You learned your devotion to Johns Hopkins from your father, Dr. William Kurrelmeyer, an eminent Germanist who received his B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from this university and served on the faculty until his retirement as professor emeritus in 1944.

It is little wonder, therefore, that you came to Johns Hopkins for your own Ph.D. in the classics following your undergraduate studies at Goucher. You spent a year teaching at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, before returning to Baltimore, where you taught at Goucher and then at Mount Saint Agnes College. When Mount Saint Agnes closed in 1971 and many of its faculty were integrated into Loyola College, you assumed a dual role, teaching both at Loyola and at Johns Hopkins.

Your service at Hopkins continued until your retirement in 1988. Your well regulated seminars in classical mythologies and your end-of-the-term parties are now a part of the rich traditions and history of this university.

Dr. Carrie-May Zintl, in recognition of your many distinctive contributions to this institution, and in celebration of your full and exemplary life in scholarship and teaching, the Johns Hopkins University is proud to award you the President's Medal.

William C. Richardson
President

Toward the close of her acceptance speech Carrie-May said that she could not help wondering what the deceased members of her once extensive family might say, if they could see her standing there in Nichols House after having just received one of Hopkins' highest honors. President Richardson expressed the feelings of all present when he answered, quite simply, "They would say they were very proud." All of us who knew and worked with Carrie-May were also proud. We are happy, too, that by dedicating to her *The Report 42* we can also express our esteem and our warm gratitude for her service to our Society.

William H. McClain
Chairman of the Editorial Board