



Cornell University
ILR School

ILR Memory Book Series

From time to time, on-line memory books are made available on the web site of Cornell University's ILR School as a way for past students, colleagues, and friends to post their recollections of faculty and distinguished staff members. The occasion for the memory book may be the person's passing, or it may mark their retirement from active service to the school.

This series collects the comments left by visitors to these memory books.

Phil Dankert

Since 1970 Philip R. Dankert has worked building the print and electronic based collections at Catherwood. His experience acquiring the literature in the field of industrial and labor relations and human resources management is unrivaled in this country. By latest calculation, approximately 60% of the volumes on Catherwoods shelves have been acquired during his stewardship of building the foremost library of its type in North America and one of only three such libraries in the world. Phil retired in 2004. We'll miss you Phil.

Visitors to the memory book for Phil Dankert made the following comments between April 22, 2004 to September 9, 2004.

Everything they say about you is true, but there is more, much more. Your passion for collecting has always been an inspiration for me. The friendship you extended has been one of the most important of my professional life. Only wish Madison was not so far away or I would be there on May 6th. All the best in retirement, whatever that will mean for you.

- Jim Danky, Madison, WI Apr 22 2004

Dear Phil, You have been a steady presence in all my years in the Cornell Library. I remember your interviewing me in the Acquisitions Department when I was applying for a job in 1967, and I have been at many collection development meetings with you in recent years. Thanks for being unfailingly supportive and gracious. I wish you all the best in your retirement years!

- Martha Hsu, Ithaca Apr 22 2004

Ever since a couple of years ago, when it was announced that you had won an award for community service, I've been inspired by the example you set of professional achievement combined with major contributions to community life. You are the kind of person I would like to be! Thank you for showing it can be done.

- Margaret Nichols, Ithaca, NY Apr 22 2004

Phil, I sure wish you the best in what i know will be an active retirement. Thank you for all you have done for me, for the School and for the greater Ithaca community. You have been a treasure in each capacity.

- Vernon M. Briggs, jr., Ithaca, New York Apr 22 2004

Dear Phil, It was a real pleasure working with you on the MyContents project and to be able to observe your steady straightforward way of working. I've also enjoyed our occasional opportunities to chat on various subjects. Best wishes as you go off to hike around the world, or whatever you choose to do in your retirement!

- Terry Kristensen, Ithaca, NY Apr 22 2004

Phil: It has been a great pleasure knowing you all these years. And the times we have worked together both on Cornell and SCRLC activities have been fun and instructive. All the best in your retirement years and hope to see you on the slopes at Labrador on Sundays!

- Jean Currie, SCRLC, Ithaca, NY Apr 22 2004

Dear Phil, Many years have passed since I got to know you and Ginny when our children were on athletic teams together. Thank you for the steadiness of your good will and for the quality of your contributions to the ILR School and to the Ithaca community. Warm regards, Andrea

- Andrea Fleck Clardy, Boston, MA Apr 22 2004

Dear "legendary" Phil, Thank you for being an exemplary librarian. Your contributions are too many to enumerate and your pleasant personality is hard to match. Congratulations!!

- Ali Hadi, Cairo, Egypt Apr 22 2004

I'll never forget the daunting task, when I first came to ILR Extension in Albany, of understanding what would be crucial to our Labor Studies program as regards supporting materials. Phil, your expertise and generosity helped us build an excellent program and your advice has been invaluable. The best to you for an active and wonderful retirement. We will all continue to benefit from your contributions for many years to come!

- Gordon McClelland, Guilderland, NY Apr 22 2004

Dear Phil, A secret source told me you were about to enter that exalted state we all aspire to -- retirement. Given where I am, I won't lie and say that I wish were there to bid you bon voyage on your new journey, but know that I am thinking of you (enviously). It was a real pleasure working with you at Cor-

nell. You should be rightfully proud of the fine work you did building the ILR Library collection into the treasured resource it has become for so many students, scholars and community folks. Congratulations and best of luck. With warm regards.

- Allen Riedy, Honolulu Apr 22 2004

Phil, Now that you are retiring and will no longer be riding the bus, where I am going to get all of my news on what is happening on Dart Drive and in the community? It has been a pleasure getting to know you. I wish you all the best and please on one of your many walks, do stop by and say hello. Congratulations!

- Eileen Keating, Ithaca, N.Y. Apr 22 2004

Thanks, Phil, for all the support you provided to the Extension offices over the years. For over thirty years we always knew we could count on you. All of us in the Great Lakes District wish you many years of peace and enjoyment with your family.

- Linda Donahue, Rochester, NY Apr 22 2004

Phil: I will really miss your coming over to select the Labor subject books from Otto Harrasswitz. You were always a delight to have around, making such labors fun. May your retirement bring you much happiness and time to do only what you want to do. I hope you get to enjoy rhubarb pie a lot.

- Judith Adams, Harford, NY Apr 22 2004

Will you still come to the Social Sciences Team meeting? No, I didn't think so, but they won't seem the same without you.

- David Block, Ithaca, NY Apr 22 2004

Dear Phil, I would just like to let you know that it has been a pleasure working with you all these years. It will not be the same "Cornell" without you. Good luck and enjoy a truly well earned retirement!

- Mary Wesche, 110 Olin Library Apr 22 2004

The VERY BEST to you, Phil, as you retire after serving Cornell so well, and very obviously enjoying every minute of it. It has been nice knowing you all these years. I will miss seeing your smile in the morning when we got coffee and a "little something to eat" both in the Conference Center and in the basement of Ives.

- Martha Smith, 101 Juniper Drive/Ithaca, NY 14850 Apr 22 2004

Dear Phil, I have very much enjoyed meeting you and working with you during the last few months. Best wishes on your retirement.

- Roswitha Clark, Cortland, N.Y. Apr 23 2004

Phil, It looks as if your contributions while at Cornell have been great and that does not surprise me at all as I have watched you give of your personal time to be a fire policeman for Lansing Fire Department. Thank you for all you do in keeping our scenes safer out there and all the best to you for a blessed retirement. I am sure that your contributions will go on and on!

- *Becki Bills, Lansing, NY Apr 23 2004*

Phil, I wish you only the very best. It has been a pleasure knowing you for "all these many years". Please stay healthy and enjoy the time with your family and friends.

- *Jo Jaynes, Ithaca, NY Apr 23 2004*

It hardly seems possible that you are actually retiring ... Working with you has always been a pleasure. The ILR School, the Library and the community have all been better off for your time with us. I hope you enjoy a very active, healthy and pleasant retirement.

- *David Banush, Ithaca, NY Apr 23 2004*

Phil, Your good work and good deeds are going to be sorely missed around here. You have been a real asset to the school. Thanks for being such a pro.

- *Bob Hutchens, Ithaca Apr 23 2004*

I would like to wish Phil an active and fulfilling retirement. I enjoyed meeting Phil at the 2002 and 2003 CIRL meetings. In his career, he has made significant contributions to industrial relations librarianship and scholarship.

- *Brian H. Morrison, Ryerson University Library, Toronto, Ontario, Canada Apr 26 2004*

Phil, I wish you the very best in retirement. I enjoyed serving on the United Way committee with you, and having you as a good friend in the School. You just seem to embrace each new adventure bravely, with humility and zest. You have an awesome approach to work and life, fun spirit and magnetic appeal. I know you'll bring the same to all you do in retirement. Blessings.

- *Barry Taylor, Princeton, New Jersey Apr 26 2004*

Congratulations on your retirement!! I am sure the next chapter of your life will be equally full with adventures large and small. Soon I imagine you will wonder how you ever found time to go to work during the career chapter of your life. The Cornell ILR Library has been blessed to have your long-term dedication. You really cared about the library and the collection and it shows. In addition to giving your time and effort to the job, you also gave your heart. That makes yours a great library and you a great person. I am so fortunate to have known you at CIRL and learned from you.

- *Nancy Barkey Young, LIR Library, Michigan State University Apr 26 2004*

My best to one of the best! Congratulations and many good wishes on your future adventures in living! Will miss you CIRL-ing with us all!

- Cindi Wolff, Berkeley, CA Apr 26 2004

Phil: I always thought that all the chatter about retirement was just a lot of hot air, and still can't believe that you're busting out while you're still just a kid. Anyway, thanks for all the help and good times over the years, including all the fun we had developing those young characters on the diamonds and in the hockey rinks. I know you'll have the same great success with retirement that you've had with everything else. If you ever decide to take up golf in your spare time, give me a call.

- Lee Dyer, Ithaca Apr 27 2004

Your vast knowledge of collection development in IR/HRM is a wonder to all, and your impact on the Catherwood Library will be everlasting. Thanks for being a gracious host whenever CIRL met in Ithaca, a genial dinner companion, the "go to" person whenever collection information was needed, for your willingness to do favors for colleagues that you probably shouldn't have done, for being a good friend. My very best wishes for a long and rewarding retirement.

- Margaret Chaplan, Champaign IL Apr 27 2004

Phil, Now that you are retiring Kaleidoscope will have to look elsewhere for material. It seems like every other issue had something in it about your awards, avocations (hiking the Finger Lakes Trail), volunteer work, and United Way contributions. You have been an example for many people. Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement.

- Elizabeth Teskey, Cornell Law Library Apr 30 2004

Phil- Congratulations on your retirement. It is well earned. It has been a great pleasure working with you the past six years. You brought the highest in integrity to your job, always making sure that the library had the best in resources and that we as a publisher provided the information and service that you deserve. Not only did you do a great job, you became a friend as well. I wish that all of our customers could be like you. I wish you all the best, and great joy in your retirement.

- Jeff Caulkins, Rochester May 3 2004

Phil: I regret very much that I will not be able to attend your retirement reception this Thursday. Unfortunately, the reception conflicts with my last class of the semester. I most certainly want to congratulate you on a truly remarkable career, and I want to wish you a healthy and happy retirement. It's difficult not to be a bit nostalgic on such an occasion--there are only a handful of people I've known for over forty years, and you've been an especially good friend and colleague. The School will miss your valuable service. Sandy and I send you and Ginny our warmest best wishes and fondest regards. Dave

- Dave Lipsky, Ithaca May 3 2004

Dear Philip: I received today in the post the invitation which you have sent me for your retirement reception. Thank you. I wish I could attend, but I have never been to the USA and at my age I am afraid of going to unknown places. I travel only to the places which I know in France and Belgium, and of course in Israel when I have no choice. I also try to travel as little as possible due to my health problems. I hope

that you will have an excellent and much-enjoyable reception party. My word, 41 years of service to the university, that's amazing. One of the great praises to you should be, that you put your individual stamp on the collections and that these collections are much better and much more complete and wide due to your own selection policy. I have tremendous admiration for your love of old books, and I think that it is not very likely that they can find - even if they wanted - someone to replace you who has similar enthusiasm for old books. I shall miss you as a librarian, but I hope that we shall keep somehow in touch by e-mail. I hope that you will have many years of good health to enjoy your hobbies and outdoor activities during your retirement. Best wishes.

- Yair Abramski, Leicester, England May 4 2004

Phil, Congratulations on your retirement! I have enjoyed working with you during these crazy years of e-journals and big deals. I wish you all the best. Enjoy some good skiing, hiking and all the other activities you love.

- Mary Ochs, Mann Library May 4 2004

Hey, Phil-- Pulled the wool over their eyes, didn't you? You, retirement age? C'mon! Barbara and I already anticipatorily miss your visits. I wish you a great many very happy post-ILR years. (By the way, I'm sorry I won't be able to make it to the reception. I will be out of town, at a less happy event, May 5-7.) Brian

- Brian, May 4 2004

Well Phil, I guess you beat me out the door. But then you have been here a lot longer than I have. Hope retirement is as much fun as your 40+ years of work at Cornell have been. Best wishes for a happy and long retirement.

- G. David Brumberg, Ithaca, NY May 4 2004

(The following note was received by the Catherwood Library director): I have used five college and university libraries. Tops for its focus on user service was the Industrial and Labor Relations Library. Phil Dankert has been part of that user orientation, polite and helpful, persistent, and indefatigable in locating the remotest reference. His shoes will be hard to fill. Add my name to the no doubt-stentorian chorus, "Well done."

- Duncan MacIntyre, Ithaca May 4 2004

Congratulations on your pending retirement! You are among those who have been at ILR "forever." I am certain you will not have a shortage of things to do that you enjoy. I've enjoyed working with you these many years. You will be missed (and envied!). Best wishes to you and your family.

- Claudia Strednak, ILR Extension May 4 2004

Yes, I almost remember when you started at the Library! Remember Sylvia Fabisoff (Central Serials Records), the check-in table, the parties at Leon Macomber's, the Shipping Room fun (but of course you didn't participate). The noise level of the non-electric typewriters and the smell of Mr. Sweet's pipe

smoke coming from his office. Dot Wilkins and hand accessioning of books! Eleanor Heishman?, Betsy Olive, Ellen Thomas, Henk Edelman, Dr. Reichmann?, Mr. Ross (were you here in Olin then? Can't remember. Anna Stuliglowa, Tony Nesitao (spelling??), Glen Reed. Being able to see everyone in room 110 Olin from one end to the other!! and knowing everyone there! Better quit before I fill up a whole page. WOW, time really does fly when you're having fun. Congrats on the retirement. Enjoy!

- Jackie Morris, Berkshire, NY May 4 2004

Phil: I regret not having gotten to know you better. At my first solo Academic Assembly, you came right up to me and started talking and making me feel welcome. I've often seen you walking along Dart Rd., many times in cold, stormy weather, and yet you seemed to be enjoying yourself. Good luck, enjoy retirement, and watch out for those cars.

- Thad Dickinson, Hotel Library May 4 2004

Dear Phil, I am very sorry that I could not be at your retirement party--I am away for a short vacation. I am certain that your care in building the Catherwood collection will be missed. I expect to see you using the Music Library now that you will have more time on your hands. Enjoy your retirement.

- Lenore Coral, Ithaca May 4 2004

Phil, I can't believe you're retiring. It has been a great pleasure working with you, and I hope and trust your retirement will bring you great satisfaction and happiness because you deserve it. You are the only person I know with a park named after him. I look forward to the day when I drive past and see you there in your "Enjoy My Park" T-shirt, whittling away on another piece for your set of Ted Williams figurines! All the best to you, stay jazzy, and stay in touch!

- Kevin Miller, Ithaca, NY May 4 2004

Dear Phil-- You will definitely be missed, but I hope you find retirement a rewarding time. Keep those of us who aren't very far behind you posted on what life is like after Cornell! all best, Anne

- Anne Kenney, IRIS May 4 2004

Phil, It'll just be toooooo quiet here in the director's office without you! It has been a real pleasure to have known you most of my life. As you will recall, I was a mere baby when I started working here all those years ago. And I even knew and worked with Ginny before you two were married. I can't believe the years have flown by so quickly. Here you are retiring and I won't be far behind you. Take good care of yourself and enjoy each day of your well-earned leisure. And don't forget to keep in touch!

- Linda Young, Owego, NY May 4 2004

Phil, Wishing you all the best at your retirement. It is absolutely amazing the number of days, months, years, the decades you dedicated to ILR. It is a richer place because of you and thank goodness your work remains for all those who will walk through the Catherwood doors in search of knowledge. How very proud you must be for all you have accomplished over the course of your career. Many colleagues

will miss you, Phil, especially during coffee and lunch. No one dared break your golden rule -- no talking shop during break time!! Enjoy your new job, visit the kids and grandkids and slowly turn a new chapter in the book of life. Congratulations, you so deserve all the kudos and praises. Blessings

- Ann Herson, Ithaca, NY May 4 2004

May you enjoy your retirement and do all you had hoped! How time has passed while we've been here on campus, me a tiny bit longer than you but that's life. I wish you and your wife both the best in the years to come. Tell her I said hi!

- Joan Brink, Lansing May 4 2004

Hi Phil-- I wish that I could be in Ithaca for your reception; I would love to see you so rightfully honored! You have made so many contributions to the Library and the Community. I don't know many people with parks named after them. Your work with the various youth groups in the Ithaca area is truly impressive as are, of course, your wonderful contributions to the Cornell Libraries. I wish you all the best in retirement and look forward to a winter visit back home so that we can ski a few runs together!

- Paul Constantine, Seattle May 4 2004

Phil, We have known each other for many years, all the way back to Olin Library with Mr. Sweet and Dr. Reichmann. It was great working with you all those years and having you as a friend. Take good care of yourself and Ginny and may you enjoy retirement for many years to come.

- Mary Ann Pratt, Watkins Glen, NY May 5 2004

Congratulations, Phil. You have made so many meaningful contributions to the CUL and the Ithaca Community. It is indeed a pleasure to have known you in many of these capacities the past 25+ years. Enjoy your retirement and I know we will see a lot of you doing new things!

- Jeanette & Scott Miller, Ithaca May 5 2004

Have a great retirement it is well deserved. Your contribution to ILR and our community is something to be proud of. You are a man of many avenues but your boulevard is filled with a smile of kindness of a caring person. Take care and enjoy.

- Carol Foster, Candor, NY May 5 2004

Phil: Thank you so much for all the help you have given researchers and students at ILR over the years. You have been an "institution" here, synonymous with the service and professionalism that Catherwood is so well-known for, and we will miss you. You also gave years of service to the ILR staff and faculty softball team, but maybe we'd best not get into that now-defunct venture!! Best wishes in your retirement.

- Robert Smith, Ithaca May 5 2004

Hi Phil Congratulations, its been many good years for us at Cornell, I've made my home at Olin Library for 40 years and you have finished up at ILR. I've always admired you for your friendliness and constant compassion for life. Give my regards to "Ginny", she remembers me before you were married, we lived at the same residence for women downtown. I know you will live life to the fullest and please come around and say "hello" to us at Olin. God willing, I'll be retiring soon. May the Good Lord Bless You and Keep you in his arms. Life is not a race, but a journey to be savored each step of the way. Take care....

- Dawn Haight Johnson, 677 Valley Rd.,Brooktondale,NY 14817 May 5 2004

Well, Phil, we have been library friends since 1963. Yes, I remember your arrival in Ithaca. You were a new librarian from New England driving a Volkswagen, wearing black horn rim glasses, and sporting a crew cut. Time does pass quickly, and many changes have taken place in 41 years, but our friendship has remained. Over the years library staff certainly have had many happy and humorous times with you at ILR, especially in the (old) break room. In particular, we all enjoyed watching you unsuccessfully cut into a Styrofoam birthday cake. And, outside library functions were always fun and exciting also, except for the Christmas party YOU organized at Dasher Cox! Although I will continue to see you after retirement, at work I will miss our daily "briefings" at coffee and lunch breaks. Needless to say, the library will not be the same without you; and I will miss you immensely. I sincerely hope your retirement is happy and healthy.

- Helen Hamilton, Ithaca, NY May 5 2004

Phil, Generations of Cornell students and scholars will benefit from your dedicated collection building for the Catherwood Library. Indeed, the resources you brought to the ILR Library in your long career have immeasurably added to the renown of that world class collection. I have enjoyed working with you from the era of paper and microfilm to the current chaos of cyber collections. I envy your escape but wish you all the best in your retirement. Janie

- Janie Harris, Ithaca May 5 2004

Dear Phil, It has been so nice working with you. Stay healthy and active and happy. Enjoy your grandchildren and best wishes for a wonderful retirement.

- Angie Wagner, Groton NY May 6 2004

Dear Phil, I doubt you remember this but not long after I came to Cornell back in '77, you and Christian Boissonnas stopped by my house and, seeing no smoke detectors, arranged for me to purchase one from the Cayuga Heights Fire Department. Volunteering at the Fire Department was one of the many contributions you've made over the years. The library, the university and the entire community are better and friendlier places because of you. Congratulations and enjoy your retirement.

- Ed Weissman, Ithaca NY May 6 2004

Phil, Congratulations on an amazingly productive career! You will be sorely missed at Cornell. Best wishes for a long, healthy, and fulfilling retirement!

- Marijo Wilson, Ithaca, NY May 6 2004

Phil, I am away from the Library today, so will not be able to attend your retirement reception. I want to let you know here therefore what a joy it has been working with you over the years, but also to bear witness to what you have accomplished. -- The longer a selector works with a collection, the more intimate the relationship becomes; they condition each other, create each other in a way, and the values and perspectives of the selector eventually become those of the collection. The selector speaks to the community through the collection, and the longer the selector works on the collection, the further into the future the selector is able to communicate. -- This is the case, of course, with any research library collection development effort. But your case is different. You have had an opportunity and an ability to affect your subject in ways that most selectors could only dream of. It is partially because you have built the same collection for thirty-five years: hundreds of thousands of decisions as to what does and does not constitute this collection and this subject. But it is also because this is not just any subject. It is not biology or physics or English literature, for which there are models everywhere as to what the subject consists of. For ILR, you have created the model of what the subject is, based on the constantly changing input of the School and on your own subject expertise and bibliographical skills. -- If we look at the total international scholarship on the subject of the relations and culture of the workplace, a significant portion of it is produced by scholars in the ILR School. They are the top leaders in the field. And those scholars understand, define and change the subject, based to a great extent on the knowledge they have derived from the collection you have built. The total effect you have had on subject by virtue of that collection, therefore, is and will remain enormous. -- This what you have done, Phil. I hope you realize it, and that you are proud of it, because we are surely proud of you. What more could one ever aspire to in a career of education and public service? Thank you so much for a job so very well done.

- Ross Atkinson, 201 Olin Library May 6 2004

Dear Phil, We go back a ways both in CUL and in town! Most will probably comment on their working relationships with you at Cornell but we want to thank you for your "good works" beyond the University. You've organized and led our community children through scouts, a slew of Youth Bureau activities and weekly skiing at the Peak (we wonder how many know you started that school--ski program?). In just about every way you've touched the hearts of Ithaca/Lansing kids. Your tireless efforts on behalf of our children will never be forgotten. You are the ultimate "good neighbor and model citizen". Thank you so much for all your time and energy. You have created wonderful memories for all of us. Congratulations and enjoy your retirement. --Warren and Lynn Brown

- Lynn & Warren Brown, Ithaca May 6 2004

Dear Phil. So sorry I couldn't squeeze in a visit for your retirement celebration. I have very fond memories of my 4+ years as a Reference Librarian at Catherwood from 1989-1993 and my first professional position anywhere!. Those Thursday morning Planning Group meetings, little jokes sent in the interoffice mail, waxing nostalgic about Canada! How will they ever replace you and all that knowledge in your head? Heaven help your successor. All the best in your retirement! Linda Lowry

- Linda Lowry, Stevensville, ON, Canada May 6 2004

Congratulations Phil! You've talked about doing this and looked forward to retirement for quite some time. Enjoy! Its been a pleasure working with you. Its been fun listening to you stories about your kids and your grandchildren. I'll miss our daily chats at lunch and discussions on everything from politics to family. May you have many, many years of happiness and health to enjoy in retirement.

- *Marcia, Locke, NY May 7 2004*

Phil: It has been a pleasure working with you over these years. Your involvement with the Central Europe Human Resource Education Initiative and the Slovaks who visited here at Cornell was wonderful. We have been so lucky to have someone with your gifts and talents here at ILR. Best wishes for a playful and enjoyable retirement! Warm regards, Linda

- *Linda Gasser, Ithaca May 9 2004*

Dear Phil, I told you I was not going to do this, because my theory is if I don't write in your book, you won't leave. Although I have been here only 10 years, I have an enormous respect and admiration for your entire body of work. I know we tease you a lot about it, but we do have the best collection in our field. That's something to be proud of. Additionally, you have given so much to your community in all your many volunteer activities. And still, you find time to ski and hike! The best part is that you do it all with a smile and an enthusiasm that not many people can muster. I will miss you more than you know, even though you are one of those misguided Red Sox fans. Best of luck in your retirement. If anyone deserves it, you do! deb

- *Deb Lamb-Deans, Lansing May 10 2004*

Dear Phil, It was seventeen years ago in October that you hired me to work in Acquisitions. It certainly has been a challenge and learning experience. I have been privileged and honored to work with you. I wish you health and happiness in your retirement. Enjoy and don't look back!!! The "lunch bunch" will miss you very much. Fran

- *Fran Secord, Burdett New York May 11 2004*

Phil, I'm so fortunate to have shared so many years with you at Cornell as friend and colleague. It is a pleasure and privilege to have known and worked with you during my career at Cornell. CUL and ILR will miss your valuable expertise in collection development and many professional contributions. Little could Gormly Miller have imagined the contribution you would make to Cornell when he hired you 41 years ago. Have a wonderful retirement, keep busy, stay in touch, and above all, revisit the West sometime and pick up where you and I left off in 1967! Your long time friend, Ed

- *Ed Spragg, St. George, Utah May 11 2004*

Dear Phil, I am sorry that I am unable to attend your retirement festivities today, and I want to be sure that I have a chance to express my appreciation for the forty-one years of dedicated service you have given to the Cornell University Library. You are the librarian with the longest tenure at Cornell and one of only five librarians hired during the 1960's who is still working here at Cornell. You began your career at Cornell in July 1963, shortly after your graduation from the MLS program at Simmons College.

Gormly Miller, who was then Assistant Director of CUL, offered you two positions to consider: one as a Catalog-Reference Librarian at Mann for \$6000 starting salary and another as Acquisitions Librarian in Olin for \$5724. You chose the Acquisitions position and wrote back asking for assistance in finding a small apartment saying that you would be “willing to go as high as \$85 to \$90 per month”! Five years later you were recruited to join the Catherwood Library as a Reference Librarian. In 1970 you assumed responsibility for collection development as the ILR Bibliographer. You were named Assistant to the ILR Librarian with overall administrative responsibility for the Circulation Department, Student Employment and Extension. In 1981 you were named Collection Development and Acquisitions Librarian, the position you hold to this day. Over this forty year span you have lived through a number of major changes in CUL. The academic appointment and promotion process changed dramatically with the adoption of Procedure 13 in 1978. The introduction of computers into library work had a large impact. In 1985, Shirley Harper, ILR Librarian, wrote in your performance review: “At this point some tasks in his unit lend themselves well to microcomputer use. He has organized several applications with the help of our micro specialist and has himself, adapted well to use of both the micro and the RLIN terminal, despite being a hunt-and-peck typist.” You have further weathered the changeover to NOTIS and then Voyager during the past 15 years, all while continuing to build one of the finest collections in industrial and labor relations in the world. As Gordon has said, you have built more than 60% of the collection at Catherwood through your dedication and knowledge of the book trade. I join my colleagues in saluting your extraordinary career in the Cornell University Library and wish you the happiest of retirements. You have certainly earned a rest! Sincerely, Sarah E. Thomas Carl A. Kroch University Librarian

- Sarah E. Thomas, Ithaca, NY May 11 2004

It most certainly has been a pleasure knowing and working with you for so many years. I do want to wish you and Ginny the very best in your retirement. Enjoy!!

- Connie Bulkley, Odessa, NY May 12 2004

Dear Phil, I wish I could have been in Ithaca for your retirement but since I don't believe you are really retiring, I hope to see you around the village some time in the future. You have been a model for everyone in so many aspects of your professional and public life. Cornell has been fortunate that you choose to work there and ILR will profit for years to come because of the care and diligence of your efforts. Best wishes. Ann Gray

- Ann Gray, Princeton, NJ May 14 2004

Dear Phil, Thank you for being one of the people who immediately made me feel welcomed and valued when I joined ILR last year. I really enjoyed your retirement party. Even though I've only been here for a short time, I felt privileged to be able to relate to all of George Boyer's compliments with regard to your exemplary service. I truly appreciate all that you have done to go out of your way to ensure that I have the resources that I need to improve my teaching and research. And thank you also for your dedication to maintaining the cross-cultural/international component of Catherwood's collection. I appreciate all of your hard work and will most certainly miss you and your expertise!

- Lisa Nishii, Ithaca, NY May 14 2004

Phil, this is to offer warm and sincere congratulations from Emma Jane and me at a very beautiful and promising juncture in this trip called "life"! We are truly sorry not to be able to attend your Retirement Reception, but, in retrospect, we are even happier now than before that we were able to be on hand last year when you received your SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship. As you know, it is sometimes hard to make ALL the bases, and in this case partly because Ithaca and Williamsburg are not exactly "around the corner" from each other. We did send you a greeting card and note to include among your Retirement souvenirs or memoirs, so please be on the lookout for it, but fearing that it would not reach you before the special day came and went, thought we would supplement it with this e-mail, which, however inadequate, should at least arrive very promptly and in plenty of time. We will surely miss the loving expertise which, over the years, you applied so effectively in looking after our Endowment. Indeed, you "mother-henned" it for us for at least 17 years, and we always looked forward to your annual reports covering the great choice of books, research reports, and documents that you acquired for the Library, always convincing us that without our little, old Fund, there would be NO WAY the Library could have afforded these additional sought after titles. True or exaggerated, we always believed it as if it were the Gospel, and we just "ate it up"! Take it from us, now both 79, and 18 & 1/2 yrs. retired, that entering Retirement is a wondrous time with more opportunities for real happiness and living rewards than you could have ever previously experienced. DO take full advantage of some of the directions in which you might go and some of the emphases that you may give your life now that you will have at least some more time and flexibility. Savor every moment, and have fun pursuing the things that will provide you with satisfaction, challenge, contentment, achievement, relaxation, or whatever, from time to time you may be seeking. Believe me, it can be the best time in life, of all! Hope you heard from us while we were in Antarctica and surrounding areas this winter. We wrote, and now, almost three months later, people are reporting that the cards are beginning to be received. Please let us hear from you at least once in awhile in the future and hopefully we can arrange to cross paths again! Best wishes from Bill & Emma Jane.

- Bill and Emma Jane Carroll, Williamsburg, VA May 17 2004

I didn't get to say goodbye at the end of the Charleston Conference. I want to wish you the best of luck in your retirement, and also to say thank you for all you have done for the Charleston Conference. Hope you come back during your retirement. Rosann

- Rosann Bazirjian, Penn State University, PA May 17 2004

Phil, its been great getting to know and work with you these past few years....you've been a big help in my learning experience here at CUL and an inspiration for both the present and future....maybe one day I can have a park too (yeah right) regards -LJL

- Lee LaFleur, Ithaca May 20 2004

Phil, my very best to you! Enjoy your retirement! I know I'll still see you on the trails around the area and I look forward to it. Cheers, Rhonda

- Rhonda L. Clouse, Ithaca, NY May 24 2004

Dear Phil, I'm so sorry I couldn't come to your retirement party earlier this month - I was in VA with my parents at the time, but certainly had you on my mind. From the "grapevine" accounts, sounds like it was a wonderful celebration with many much-deserved tributes and accolades. If I'd been there, I'd have added mine - you're such a special and dear person who has touched so many people (myself included) and I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to work with and learn from you! I miss you and hope I will have the chance to see you again soon - until then, I send much affection and many hugs - Boodie

- Boodie McGinnis, Cortland, NY May 26 2004

Phil, I remember meeting you for the first time at MIT's Dewey Library when I was Laura Carchia's assistant. I also remember thinking that you had more energy, imagination and know-how than any librarian I had met to date in the field. What astounds me is how that observation stays fresh and holds true even decades later. You are still Number One in my book. And so my inspirational colleague and friend, I say "Congratulations" on all you've achieved, on helping so many people in and out of the library world, on building a great IR collection, and on bringing joy and fun into all the rooms you have entered. I'll miss seeing you at CIRL and telephoning you for sage advice, but I trust that some day we will meet again in Ithaca. Happy retirement! Best, Kevin

- Kevin P. Barry, Princeton, NJ Jun 10 2004

Phil: It has been my great pleasure to know you from one of my first days on the job here. You are always willing to share your knowledge and (only if asked) your opinions. It has been very enjoyable to work with you and I regret that we will only have the pleasure of your company at Cornell for a short while. You will be missed but hopefully will not forget the friends that you have made here. Best wishes. Charlie

- Charles S. Finger, Danby, NY Jun 17 2004

Phil, Congratulations on the next step in your life's journey. I am the Northeast Rep for UMI. Although We have met only twice in my two years, I was impressed with your attention to detail and your willingness to share your knowledge. I hope you enjoy a long, healthy, and happy retirement. Best Wishes, Dennis Capraro UMI

- Dennis Capraro, Slingerlands, NY Jun 18 2004

Dear Phil, This is a personal note of thanks not only for playing such an important role at Catherwood over the last 36 years but also for being such a complete professional in all of your areas of responsibility. What was best for the university seems to have guided all of your decisions to spend resources for the library and the school and we have all learned much from your example. I do not recall your ever refusing any assignment and I am certain that Shirley would have echoed that sentiment. You have a wonderful and ever ready sense of humor which never fails to put a smile on everyone's face. It has been a special pleasure working with you. Clearly, you are irreplaceable and I wish you the very best.

- Gordon Law, Ithaca, NY Jul 1 2004

Phil: Best wishes on your retirement from everyone at the George Meany Archives. Recently, I was “one lake away” in Geneva attending my niece’s graduation from college, but was unable to stop in Ithaca to thank you for all the help over the years. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge how much you have contributed to my understanding of labor periodicals and related subjects. All the best in the future, Bob Reynolds

- *Bob Reynolds, Silver Spring, MD Jul 9 2004*

Phil, I cannot believe that you will be retiring. Given all that you have done here at ILR, all the times we have chatted and eaten together with Helen and others, and the times we traveled together to Detroit, Ottawa, Geneva and elsewhere, your presence in my life will always endure. You will not be a memory. You will remain my friend and colleague. All that surrounds me here at Catherwood Library will be the shadow of Phil. Perhaps you will not be there in person. However, you will always be there. With all my best wishes, Stuart.

- *Stuart Basefsky, Ithaca, N.Y. Aug 6 2004*

Dear Phil, I have now moved to the Tulane Law Library, but will never forget how nice and how helpful you were to me as a new librarian at Cornell. Having spent a good part of several years at Cornell evaluating the law-related resources for scores of countries, I was always impressed by what I discovered to be at ILR, thanks to your expertise and efforts. All the best, Charlotte

- *Charlotte Bynum, New Orleans, LA Aug 7 2004*

Dear Phil, You have always been a most conscientious and supportive colleague, and one who has consistently helped us to keep our products and publications available to the ILR community. We much appreciate your wonderful service and collegueship over the years, and wish you warm regards and best wishes upon your retirement. May the next chapter of your life be even more fruitful and fulfilling! Susanne Bruyere and Colleagues, ILR Employment and Disability Institute

- *Susanne Bruyere, Ithaca, New York Aug 8 2004*

Phil, I can't imagine what it will be like at work without you here. I will miss you very much. My best years at Cornell were working for you. You are a wonderful person and I am very glad I have spent the last 27 years knowing you. Even though I have harassed you about all the “important research material” you collect and pass on to me you have helped to make the libraries collection what it is. I will always remember you saying “anything with three holes goes to Helen”. I will also always remember when the Pyramid mall got the tobacco store and you came to work trying out all the different tobaccos in your pipe. I have enjoyed getting to know Ginny and hearing about your children and their children through the years. Be safe on the slopes, and if you ever decide to give Greek Peak another try give us a call and I'm sure Kevin would love to have you join him. I wish you and Ginny health and happiness in the years ahead. Come back to visit us often. Sincerely, Lynn

- *Lynn, ILR Library May 5 2004*

Dear Phil: Congratulations on your retirement. It was nice working with you on the ProQuest Historical Newspaper database contract. I'm glad it worked out. I appreciated your advice on various collection development issues. Hope you enjoy your new life. See you in the neighborhood. Mihoko

- *Mihoko Hosoi, Ithaca, NY Aug 9 2004*

Dear Phil, Among my fond memories of Catherwood is chatting over coffee and goodies with you and the rest of the crowd in the break room. Your invariable cheerfulness and sense of humor was an antidote to the months of construction noise and dust that we all endured. You can retire feeling confident that you have left the legacy of an ILR collection unmatched anywhere. I remember that we reference librarians always heard the surprised and appreciative comments from faculty and visitors alike when they discovered a publication in our library that no one else had. I'm sure your professional and personal qualities will be sorely missed at Catherwood and among your colleagues in the wider IR librarian world. Enjoy your freedom and keep up that hiking and skiing. I wish you all the best for your retirement.

- *Constance Finlay, Monroe, New Jersey Aug 9 2004*

Dear Phil: I have hesitated long enough in writing this message. You see it was difficult for me (as I know it is for many of our colleagues) to think about Catherwood without you. I will always remember, with great fondness, our collecting trips around the country together, particularly our adventures in Cincinnati that week in 1990 when the Reds won the World Series. To this day I don't know if it was the shrieking of the delirious fans outside the hotel that kept us up all night or our overindulgence at the hotel buffet. Not that such trips were all that much fun most of the time. You will, no doubt recall, a certain terrifying ride back to Ithaca from DC in a loaded rented truck with seriously defective steering or having to construct a wooden ramp on which lug 500 metal transfiles down two flights from an attic to where we could load them on an elevator. Your comprehensive knowledge of the Catherwood Collections has always made our work together especially fruitful and productive. Nowhere did I see greater evidence of the value of that skill, however, then when we went through the ILGWU Library together a few years ago. Working by myself, I would have brought much more of that great library to Ithaca which would have been a waste of time and effort. Just by looking at the titles, you were able to winnow out at least half of the thousands of volumes involved by simply stating we already had them in Ithaca--a remarkable feat of memory. Of course I did have to throw in several volumes just to make sure that we really had them, but, when the volumes arrived, your batting average on what we had in our library stacks proved to be one that any major leaguer would be proud to have. Speaking of pride, I think you know how proud we all are of the honor that the Village of Lansing gave you in naming that park for you a few years ago. Knowing a little bit about how many hours you have spent as a youth leader, a fire fighter, and a village officer for your community I can't say that I was really surprised that this would be acknowledged nor in this special way. There are all kinds of hard working volunteers in the world, but I imagine that there are few who are also as gracious, selfless and truly modest as you are. It pleased me that there were others besides your friends at Catherwood that realize this and value you for it. There is little doubt that you will use the opportunity that retirement offers to continue to work tirelessly to

make the world a better place. Just remember to slow down long enough to enjoy your grandchildren and your jazz cds and to give all of us who love and admire you a chance to catch up and tell you so. Fondly, and with thanks for the privilege of knowing you, Your fellow book hauler, Rich Strassberg.

- Richard Strassberg, Ithaca, NY Aug 9 2004

Well it's about time -- Phil's been telling us he was retiring for years and I was worried he'd turn into one of these old codgers who has to get dragged out of here. But then Phil has never had any trouble enjoying life and getting into mischief beyond the workplace. Or serving the community in his own relentless ways. I remember when the park around the corner from my house put up a sign saying something like "Phillip R. Dankert Park," I thought that it must be his father or grandfather, or just a namesake, or maybe he had come into a fortune and could "buy" himself a park (the way that some of our generous but slightly vain contributors get classrooms and such named after themselves). But Lansing Village assures us it was solely because of overachieving meritorious contributions to the community. Wow, as crusty as he as I guess we need more Phil Dankerts in this world! In any case, my kids used to play in that park, and one day we ran into Phil and I introduced him to them. Later they asked if this was the "park guy," and when I said he was they were floored and said something about getting his autograph. Alas now they are too old for such foolishness, but Phil you should know that you were once upon a time a hero in our house! Thanks for everything Phil -- stay well, take it easy (you deserve it), and see you on the trails . .

- Lowell Turner, Ithaca Aug 10 2004

Phil: Like everyone else---CONGRATULATIONS on your retirement. One of the beautiful things about attainment of retirement is remembering. I've just completed paging through all of the 'Our Memories' that have been posted to date. What wonderful memories from a wide ranging group of friends. I very fondly remember the 'family' that we all had, that I was honored to be part of from 1976 to 1983. I'd name some of the people but not wanting to offend anyone I'll limit it to just two---you and Shirley. Two excellent librarians, two excellent mentors, two excellent thinkers, two excellent friends, but there are/were really dozens. Many fond memories abound like the special double chocolate fudge cake that appeared at birthday parties; Statler coffee breaks with toasted bagels and WAY too much cream cheese, Christmas parties, baby showers that we all took turns organizing. So other readers won't get the wrong idea of working in the ILR Library was all fun and parties -- there are many fond memories of WORK too: special projects each summer, sharing Gordon's desk when we rotated reference duties, two summers of collection inventory for the first time in the history of the collection, and much more. Then on a personal note, you Richard, Gordon, and Helen sharing the onus of taking me to or picking me up from airports in Syracuse, Rochester, and Elmira when I was 'commuting' between Cortland/Ithaca and Kansas City. Many very fond memories to say the least. Then best memory is of course a friendship that started in the fall of 1976 and continues today even though I left Cornell and ILR in 1983. A friendship that lasts long-distance for over 20 years is something to be truly appreciated. Receiving a phone call from and placing a phone call to you and Helen to 'just chat' numerous times over the past 20 years

was always a refreshing break. The banter that we shared cemented a true friendship. Of course having Helen there with a trowel to spread some of that 'cement' around was always helpful! Much love and appreciation to you Phil for all that you've done over the years. My best to you in retirement!

- Harold Way, Overland Park, Kansas Aug 12 2004

Dear Phil, I was among the luckiest of undergraduate students at ILR. This was so because I, unlike the vast majority, had the privilege of getting to know you and all of the wonderful professionals at Catherwood Library so very well. I was always impressed with (1) your selfless devotion to ILR and Catherwood Library, (2) the fact that you were so willing to take a mere undergraduate like me under your wing, (3) your good humored reactions to my plots to get the best of Gordon and Harrold and (4) your continued friendship since the day I left ILR in the Spring of 1979. "Good enough" - was never good enough for you and all of the folks at Catherwood and I have never forgotten the training and support that you and others at Catherwood provided to me. You certainly embody the qualities which make me most proud of Cornell, ILR and the Catherwood Library. For these reasons I have always been especially proud of our friendship. Phil - I wish you the very best in retirement and hope to meet up with you in Ithaca and perhaps on occasional visits you may make to DC. Finally, on behalf of the many less fortunate classmates who did not share the privilege that I enjoyed in getting to know you so well - thank you for all that you did to make Cornell & Catherwood, such a wonderful experience for all of us. Although all of us in your Cornell family will miss seeing you in the library - I know that we will enjoy many years of continued friendship! Best of luck in a well deserved retirement. Enjoy!!!!

- Brad Spencer, Washington, DC Aug 20 2004

Dear Phil: In my view the center of any respectable academic institution is its library. The quality of the library in turn depends on the skill of its acquisitions department. Your service in that unit of the ILR Library since you joined its staff has been outstanding and invaluable to faculty members like myself, who often made unusual demands. You always met them promptly and gracefully. We owe you our gratitude for a central role in making the library's collection the outstanding facility that it is. With best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement. Bob

- Robert Aronson, Ithaca, New York Aug 24 2004

Phil, Thank you for being my ally in the war of words with those despicable Yankees fans! I'll miss your visits every morning updating me on all things Red Sox. Have a very happy and healthy retirement! Best Regards, Steve

- Steve Gollnick, Slaterville Springs, NY Aug 27 2004

Dear Phil, I have put off writing this for too long. I guess I wasn't ready to accept the fact that you really are retiring. I have known you for 26 years and will always remember fondly your sense of humor and love of life. The library will certainly be much quieter without you. I wish you nothing but the very best on your retirement. Stay healthy and happy. Sharon

- Sharon Reeves, Genoa, NY Aug 27 2004

Phil There is little that I can say that I haven't already told you. You mean so much to ILR, to me personally and to my family. I appreciate everything that you have done for both Catherwood and the community - we all have been very lucky to have you be part of us. Please do not be a stranger. Ron

- Ron Ehrenberg, Ithaca, NY Aug 27 2004

Like many of us here, I've put off writing to avoid the reality of your retirement. We will all miss your cheerful presence and untiring Red Sox support - although as I pointed out to Steve he is now completely surrounded by Yankee fans. It was a great pleasure to work with you. All the best wishes in your retirement. Mary

- Mary Newhart, Trumansburg, NY Aug 27 2004

Phil, what I will remember about you as a librarian is how willing you were to order any book that I needed. Thank you. Live long and well!

- Michael Gold, Ithaca Aug 27 2004

Phil, I will miss your cheerfulness and our conversations (often reminiscing about the "old days" in Olin CTS") when you came to Collection Development each week to look at (the now obsolete!) Title II cards. Best of luck and good times for you and Ginny. Ada

- Ada, Ithaca Aug 27 2004

Phil, To one of the finest people I have had the pleasure of working with at Cornell. Always on the move; always with a smile; and always willing to help someone!!! Enjoy retirement --- I know it will be filled with activities.

- Allan Lentini, Ithaca, NY Aug 27 2004

I already miss your warm personality and easy laugh, Phil. You know, I think you were also the first person at Cornell to get the word out on the Charleston Conference, one of the best kept secrets in the world of collection development. It was always a pleasure being on the Social Science Team with you, too - your presence and wisdom always benefited every situation. You were always unpretentious, humble and sincere; a "real" person in every sense of the word. I truly hope you enjoy your well deserved retirement!

- Michael Cook, Brooktondale, NY Aug 27 2004

I am trying to figure out how I will adjust to not yelling "PHILIP" after you've snuck things on to the desk and sped away before I could even turn around. It is not the same fussing with anyone else. Hope you enjoy your time with your family and I am sure you will always be busy. Remember to visit. I will really miss you Phil. Best wishes, Melissa

- Melissa Holland, Brooktondale, NY Aug 27 2004

Phil, Working with you for the past seven years has been a wonderful learning experience professionally and a true pleasure personally. I'll miss your energy here at Catherwood, but I know it will be put to good use out on the hiking trails! Hope to see you there -- I'll try to keep up with you!

- *Suzanne Cohen, Ithaca, NY Aug 27 2004*

Will always remember Phil's consistently good nature, the ability to try new things at anytime, and his strong support for my work.....expressed in so many ways over the years. All the best Phil.

- *Sarosh, Ithaca Aug 27 2004*

Phil: your dedication, trenchant humor, and keen perception will be sorely missed. best wishes to you and much satisfaction in whatever you choose for this next phase of life.

- *Maralyn Edid, ithaca, ny Aug 30 2004*

Dear Phil, I have a vivid memory of walking with you and our CIRL friends on "the streets of Philadelphia". It was early evening and we were trying to get a taste of the city before the meetings started the next morning, and you were simultaneously voicing your excitement and your apprehension at the seedy sights of South Street as Kevin and I sang the old Orlons song ("South Street"). Those are the good times I will miss--the comraderie of our CIRL meetings that spread throughout the week and the way you and Margaret anchored those meetings with your experience and wisdom. Of course, I will never be able to think of my first year at Cornell ILR in NYC without remembering your kindness and support. And, you were there again when I came back in 1989 to say 'welcome back' and 'the collection wasn't the same without you'. Well, we all know that the Catherwood collection will never be the same without you, but you have built such a strong edifice that, as Stuart writes, it will remain as a continuous reminder of your role as collection development librarian supreme and ILR colleague extraordinaire. My best wishes for a busy, happy retirement! And, please--if you ever happen to be in NYC, come visit.

- *Donna L. Schulman, Forest Hills, New York Aug 30 2004*

Phil, I hate quitters but do what you have to do. It has been great working with you over the years. Hope you enjoy retirement as much as I do.

- *Larry Williams, Ithaca, NY Aug 31 2004*

Hi Phil, What do you mean you're retiring? There is nothing retiring about you! Whether finding obscure and aged labor pamphlets or new books of little-known photographs, you've supplemented our archival collections with unexpected treasures and I thank you. Now I'll be seeing you out on the trail (way up ahead in the distance...) carrying a pack rather than a box-full of goodies for the Kheel Center. I'll miss you Phil, and your easy joking manner. All health and happiness in your 'retirement' and "Happy Trails!"

- *Barb Morley, Trumansburg, NY Aug 31 2004*

I've always appreciated your enthusiasm and willingness to expand the library's Latin America collection. You made me feel welcome at Cornell and always brought a smile to my face. I wish you all the best in your retirement.

- *Maria Cook, Ithaca, NY Sep 3 2004*

OK, so you outlasted me after all (your 41 years vs my 39 1/2). Thank you for working with me on all those bibliographic puzzles we struggled with before there was an internet to help us out. When I was stumped with our print resources here in Olin Reference, I picked your brain. (Later I learned to try you first!) You were always so enthusiastic about solving any problem, a quality that faculty, students and your ILR colleagues clearly have valued, but I want to know how much I have too. And you were always so on top of things -- identifying the latest publication that might answer a question, or the agency or person who might help. Your personal and professional dedication in developing a superb collection will be appreciated by students in years to come. Congratulations and see you at Village meetings or in CTB.

- *Caroline Spicer, Village of Lansing Sep 3 2004*

Hey Phil- What can I say? The fifth floor will never be the same without you. I have enjoyed working with you, but even more, I have enjoyed getting to know you. I will miss your family photos, your stories and YOU! Keep on hiking!

- *Julie Dean, Ithaca, NY Sep 7 2004*

Dear Philip, You must be counting the weeks and even the days before you will move on to your well deserved retirement. I know the mythical date is September 30, so I want to touch base with you well ahead of time and wish you all the best for the years to come when you will not be active in the library any longer. It was a pleasure working with you and I also have very pleasant memories of the many occasions when we met at various conferences, and, of course, Charleston comes to mind first. Thank you for the cooperation that you have shown to our company and to me personally. I hope that you will enjoy your retirement and heaven knows when our paths will cross again since you will remain to be an ardent traveler. With all good wishes, Knut

- *Knut Dorn, Germany Sep 9 2004*

(Recognition given at Phil's Retirement Party held on 5/6/04). When I was on my job interview at the ILR School, in January of 1982, I asked to take a look at Catherwood Library. My expectations were not high. I assumed that the holdings in American labor history would be good, but held out little hope for the holdings on Britain. I went straight to HV 245 and then HD 1534, to check out the holdings on the English Poor Laws and British agricultural laborers. The major works were there, on the shelves. I wondered why Catherwood had these books, and I got my answer eight months later, when I met Phil Dankert. Ron Ehrenberg and Bob Smith had told me that Phil was a person I should get to know, and they were right. Phil seemed to take an interest in my work almost from the moment we were introduced in the fall of 1982. At that time, he asked me if the library's holdings in British labor history were adequate for my research needs, and if there was anything, within reason, that he could purchase to help

me with my research, and he has continued to ask me these questions for the past 22 years. Whenever I asked that the library consider purchasing books or microfilm that I needed for a research project, Phil tried hard to come up with the necessary money. I didn't always get what I wanted, prices were too high and budgets were too tight. But the important point is that Phil took my requests seriously, and tried to get the material I needed. But he went beyond that, and often sent me flyers about newly published microfilm series on British labor history, series that on my own I would never have known even existed. He also scanned catalogues from antiquarian book dealers, and contacted me regarding certain out of print books that were available and that might fill a hole in the collection. Phil has an excellent knowledge of the literature on British labor history, as he does of several other fields within the ILR School. During an era when budgets were almost always tight, Phil was able to constantly improve the collection at Catherwood. His success on this front is somewhat of a mystery, but I believe that it was due to his hard work and his pride in the collection. As has already been said today, Phil is responsible for building about 60% of Catherwood's collection of 220,000 printed volumes. From 1970 until now, the average price of a book in the field has increased from \$7.25 to \$55. A back-of-the-envelope calculation shows that Phil has purchased about 132,000 volumes, at an average price of \$31.13. That is, since 1970 he has spent approximately \$4,109,160 on books and journals. To put this in perspective, the total is 20% of Manny Ramirez's current salary, and about equal to the combined salaries of Bill Mueller, Pokey Reese, Brian Daubach, and Mark Bellhorn. For those of you who are Yankee fans, it is 46% of Jose Contreras's salary, who's current ERA is 9.47. Let me give an example of how Phil has helped me with my research. For the past several years, I have been working on a project on living standards and social policy in Victorian Britain. Shortly after returning from a research trip to England in the summer of 2000, I ran into Phil and Rich Strassberg, and told them that I had been working at the archives of the London School of Economics, using the William Beveridge Unemployment Collection. I also said, in passing, that the Beveridge collection recently had been microfilmed, so I didn't get to use the actual documents anymore. Phil asked me if the microfilms were available for purchase, but I had no idea. He contacted an archivist at the LSE, and arranged to purchase the collection on microfilm, at a very reasonable price. This is extremely useful material for my research, and in the long run it will save the school money, for the purchase price was little more than the cost of an airline ticket to London. I had never thought about asking for it to be purchased, because I assumed either that the LSE wouldn't sell it, or that the price would be outrageous. It turns out that I was wrong on both counts. Phil took the initiative, and I am very grateful to him for doing it. Phil also is very interested in the teaching needs of the faculty. He often asked faculty what they were teaching, and if there were any books that Catherwood didn't have that the students would find useful for background reading or research projects. He always was prompt in ordering (and in the case of out of print books, finding) the books that I requested. As great of a resource as Phil is to the ILR School, he is an even greater resource to the community. He is a volunteer fireman, he has coached numerous sports teams, and he always seems to be doing some form of volunteer work in Lansing. In honor of his service to the community, he even has a park named after him. The park has led to the creation of a myth about Phil. Some folks believe that he was born in a log cabin located on the site of the park. As a youth, he read books on industrial relations by candlelight. One night, while reading, he set fire to the cabin, but he rushed down to the nearest stream and got water to put the fire out. That night, he vowed to become a librarian, and a volunteer fire fighter. Be that as it may, Phil gives

much more to the community than do the vast majority of us, and we should all thank him for it. This is a happy day for Phil, and for his family, but it is a scary day for me. I have long dreaded the day that Phil retired. He has been like a personal librarian for me, and I know that several other faculty members feel the same way. Some people assume that all schools have librarians that go out of their way to improve the teaching and research facilities for the faculty. However, one of the lessons that I have learned from talking to colleagues at other universities is that this assumption is not correct. There are not many Phil Dankerts out there, and we were extremely lucky to have him with us for over 35 years. Phil, you are one of the people that makes the ILR School a special place. Thank you for all that you have done for me, and for all scholars interested in studying work and workers. You have been an incredible resource for ILR, and we will miss you.

- *George Boyer, Ithaca, NY Sep 9 2004*