Obituary

Dr BevAnne Marie Hansen Ross

BevAnne Ross, a former President of the American Society of Indexers, died on 3 June 1995 at the age of 71, after a long and brave fight against cancer. BevAnne was the first recipient of the Hines Award, which was established by the ASI in 1994 in memory of the outstanding indexer Ted Hines, to recognize continuous dedicated and exceptional service to the Society and to the indexing profession in the United States. It was good that BevAnne's friend and former student, Nancy Mulvany, was able to present the Hines Award plaque informally to BevAnne one month before her death.

The formal presentation of the award took place in Montreal on the same day as a memorial Mass for BevAnne at St Anthony de Padua Church, Novato, California. Nancy Mulvany gave the eulogy at this Mass and she spoke of the help she had received from BevAnne first as a student, then in order to get started in the profession and then when she (Nancy) was elected President of ASI in 1988. Nancy described BevAnne as one of the few people who had truly made a big difference to her life and said that she hoped, if she had learned nothing else from BevAnne, that she had learned the art of generosity.

BevAnne was much more than an outstanding indexer. Her teaching has been mentioned, but she was also a prolific author and editor. Her most recent book, *Presidential campaigns and the media*, reflected her interest in politics. Until her death she was active in the national, state and local Federation of Republican Women. She served on the Board of Directors of the Californian Federation of Republican Women and as National Legislation Chairman. She had been a member of the Board of Directors of Business and Professional Women (BPW), and President of its Washington, DC, State Federation.

In 1992 she was a delegate of the American Institute of Parliamentarians to Russia and Prague, Czechoslovakia, and I remember receiving a postcard of Prague from her and showing it to a Czech student at Liverpool John Moores University.

I had known BevAnne's name for many years before I actually met her. This was in May 1989 when, as President of SI, I was honoured to be invited to the 21st annual conference of the American Society. I was made welcome by many American friends, not least BevAnne. We struck up an immediate rapport. I was impressed by her warm and friendly personality; her delightful sense of humour; and her love of photography (as exemplified by her activity with her camera and the photographs which she sent me after the conference). Her desire for better relations between our two societies matched my own. Her expert knowledge of indexing and her ability to communicate this knowledge were demonstrated in the excellent paper which she gave at this conference.

There was an earthquake shortly after the San Francisco conference and I remember telephoning BevAnne and being pleased to hear her voice. I was equally pleased to welcome her and some other members of the American Society (including Nancy Mulvany) to the Edinburgh conference in 1990.

BevAnne's death is a sad loss not only for the American Society of Indexers but also for the world of indexing. I shall miss the letters I used to receive from her. We send our condolences to her family and to our friends in the ASI.

Ken Bakewell