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I became interested in going to Colby College when I was still living in my home town, Denmark, Maine, and attending the local high school, which had only eighteen students and two teachers, one of whom was Carolyn Hill Keyes, a member of the class of 1908 at Colby. It was while studying Latin and medieval European history in her classes that I started to dream of visiting Romanesque and Gothic churches in France and taking courses at the Sorbonne, founded in the thirteenth century. For my last two years of high school, I transferred to Bridgton Academy in North Bridgton, Maine, and began learning French. After I graduated from Colby with a major in French and a minor in Latin, my dream came true. Having been awarded a Fulbright Grant, I was able to continue my studies at the Sorbonne during the academic year 1953-54 in an MA program under the direction of Middlebury College. This program provided me with my first opportunity to study Old French and read medieval French literary texts. After receiving my MA in 1954, I taught French for three years in Maine at the high school level and Latin for one of those years. I came to realize, however, that medieval French literature was my true love and that I would only be able to teach it at the college level. As a result, I enrolled at Columbia University in 1957 as a PhD candidate in French and received my degree in 1962. My thesis was published in 1965 under the title *The Portrait in Twelfth-Century French Literature: An Example of the Stylistic Originality of Chrétien de Troyes*.

In the fall of 1962, I began my career as a professor of medieval French literature in the Department of Romance Studies at Cornell University. After serving for one year as an instructor, I was promoted through the ranks, achieving tenure in 1966 and full professor status in 1975. I retired officially with the title of Professor Emerita in 1997, but I still teach one course per year and advise some graduate students.

In 1976, I married Robert A. Hall, Jr., a professor of Italian and Romance linguistics at Cornell who had lost his wife. He often worked on literary texts and I on linguistic problems, and we shared a great love for music. Consequently, we harmonized not only when it came to intellectual interests but also in the church choir on Sunday mornings. When the minister pronounced us man and wife, I became a stepmother and step-grandmother; and I now have eight step-great-grandchildren. In 1997, my husband died after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease.

During my forty years at Cornell, I have had many satisfactions: (1) the pleasure of enabling my students to read medieval epics, romances, plays, and lyric poems in the original language; (2) the ability to train new PhD's and send them into the academic world to inspire future students; (3) the opportunity to facilitate the work of both the students and the faculty as chair of my department for five years and as director of the graduate programs in Romance Studies and Medieval Studies for seven and four years respectively; (4) the privilege of knowing many fine scholars both here and abroad; and (5) the joy of discovering new knowledge through literary, linguistic, and historical research.

With regard to research, I must mention that in 1976, during my wedding trip to France, I made a discovery in the city of Arles which has caused me to return to Provence almost every year since then in search of more material for a book on the epic legends that arose in the lower Rhône Valley concerning William of Orange, who led Charlemagne's army in southern France. This book entitled *Guillaume d'Orange et les légendes épiques de la basse vallée du Rhône* is almost finished and will hopefully appear in about two years. Since 1976, I have published fifteen articles related to the topic of the book and have received an NEH Fellowship in the United States and several honors in France connected with my work. In 1984, I was elected a member of the Académie de Vaucluse in Avignon; and, the following year, I received the medal of the Amis d'Orange, the local historical society in Orange. On February 21, 1997, I was named a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) by the French Minister of Culture for the remarkable contribution I had made, through my career, to the spread of French culture and to the protection of France's historical and literary heritage. Then, on September 29 of that year, I was decorated by the French ambassador to the United States in a moving ceremony at Cornell. This was indeed a memorable occasion, as was the celebration with my friends in Orange when I returned to France that fall. The ultimate joy, I think, came from the realization that I had been able to give something back to the French people who had given so much to me.

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