

July 8, 2008

ITEM 140-1005-R0708

Professor Emeritus of Arts and Humanities: Kenneth Lockridge; The University of Montana-Missoula

THAT:

On the occasion of his retirement from the Department of History at The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation to Professor Kenneth Lockridge for his years of dedicated and valued service by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION:

Since earning his Ph.D. in history from Princeton University at the age of twenty-four, Professor Lockridge has lit up the firmament of the profession with a brilliant array of achievements. Included among his voluminous publications is *A New England Town: The First Hundred Years* (1970), which a 1975 poll of historians identified as one of the ten most significant books in American history of the previous five years. This classic work has sold more than 150,000 copies to date. His subsequent books and articles have augmented a reputation that makes him one of the most respected authorities in the field of Early American history. He has been honored with translations of his work in Germany, Italy, France, and Sweden. Many of his journal articles have been reprinted in scholarly anthologies. His published works include: *Literacy in the Pre-Modern West* (1974), *Settlement and Unsettlement in Early America: The Crisis of Political Legitimacy Before the Revolution* (1981; paperback edition 2003), *The Diary and Life of William Byrd, II, of Virginia, 1674-1744: Personality and Culture in a Silent Land* (1987), *On the Sources of Patriarchal Rage: The Commonplace Books of William Byrd and Thomas Jefferson and the Gendering of Power in the Eighteenth Century* (1992), and *The Commonplace Book of William Byrd II of Westover* with Kevin Berland and Jan Gilliam eds. (2001).

Professor Lockridge's publishing record makes him one of the university's premier research scholars. He epitomizes Leopold von Ranke's rule, that, more than anything else, the capacity to produce original scholarly research gives a teacher the right to stand before a classroom audience of university students. Ranke thought that the mental qualities and discipline necessary for writing scholarly books and articles would strengthen teaching and give it a truly professional character. Professor Lockridge's illustrious career presents us with a concrete example of how right the German historian was. The books that Professor Lockridge has written give him an authority in the classroom that students recognize and to which they respond. He teaches not

only other men's ideas, but his own, which have had a shaping effect on the field of Early American history. As a teacher at the University of Illinois, Chicago, at the University of Michigan, and at The University of Montana for the past 43 years, he has excelled in every phase of work in the classroom. At UM he has become renowned in particular for his capacious gifts as a teacher of writing. The art of writing is a special pedagogical concern of his, and students have the opportunity in his classes to learn about historical research and literary style from a consummate master. He received a Golden Key Award for Faculty Teaching and Achievement in 2005 from the students, in recognition of his outstanding work as a mentor.

Professor Lockridge also has been an outstanding giver of service in the History Department. He has been extremely generous in mentoring our younger colleagues. His intellectually luminous presence uplifts the Department's Faculty Reading Group, a forum in which faculty read and critique each other's work. He has impressed with his capacity to penetrate to the heart of historical subjects well outside his field. Moreover, he has shown great dedication in tackling departmental committee assignments. Whether the task involves a departmental job search or the Assessment Committee, on which he serves as the unflagging and incorruptible chair, Professor Lockridge is a Hercules for work.

He combines in one huge and prolific talent the manifold qualities of a Renaissance man, the living embodiment of what the university at its best can be. It has been a rare privilege to have had him in our midst for these last seventeen years. They passed too quickly.

The History Department is honored to recommend Kenneth Lockridge for emeritus status.