



Obituary

Jack Walsdorf (1941-2017)

The Walsdorf family

John 'Jack' Joseph Walsdorf, 76, formerly of St. Anna, died on Sunday, 9 July 2017, of a pulmonary embolism in Portland, Oregon. Born on 19 June 1941, the sixth child of Johanna (Wollner) and Dr. I.A. Walsdorf, Jack attended grade school in St. Anna, Wisconsin, and graduated from Kiel High School. As a fullback on the football team, he took lifelong pride in being named all-conference.

Jack had a passion for reading and his life evolved as a book lover's journey. In 1964 he graduated from Wisconsin State College, Oshkosh, and then received his master's degree in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He began his career as a Reference Librarian at the Milwaukee Public Library. In 1966, through an exchange program, he went to the city of Oxford, England, working as a Lending Librarian. At the end of the exchange Jack got a job working for the bookseller Blackwell's of Oxford. Jack worked for Blackwell's for thirty-one years; his last position was Vice President of Academic Sales in America.

In 1989, the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Alumni Association named him Man of the Year. After leaving Blackwell's, he worked for another bookseller, Alibris (2003-2006), and travelled far and wide with his 'Book Lover's Road Show'. He also lectured about collecting books, private presses and printers, especially William Morris. Jack published a dozen books, as well as articles on both printing and collecting. A lifelong collector, Jack was addicted to the 'joy of the hunt' and acquired his own library, which at one time numbered over 7,000 books. In addition to the pleasure of reading, he loved the look and feel of

books as well as giving them to friends and acquaintances.

Jack shared his interests with both of his children and his partner of twenty-six years, Marylou Colver of Lake Oswego, Oregon.

He is survived by his daughter Quinn Walsdorf of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and granddaughters Emily and Alison Walsdorf of Portland, Oregon; brother William and sister-in-law Mary Walsdorf of Broomfield, Colorado; and sister Catherine (Molly) Meyer of Green Bay; sister-in-law Ruth Walsdorf of New Holstein; and former spouses Karen Sykes and Bonnie Allen. His parents; son John (JJ) Walsdorf; sister Marian Schmitz; brothers Jim and Tom Walsdorf; and brothers-in-law Tom Meyer and Joe Schmitz preceded him in death. We will miss his strong opinions as much as his gentle, ribbing humour.