



Louisa Paskert, aide to five CCJM editors, to retire after 34 years

“Don’t think of retiring from the world until the world will be sorry that you retire,” Samuel Johnson said. If that is the case, Louisa Paskert has been ready to retire for 34 years, but is just now getting around to it.

Louisa has been the editorial assistant for five of the Cleveland Clinic’s seven* journal editors, since joining us August 8, 1966. Her first assignment was typing manuscripts for the *Cleveland Clinic Quarterly* (the *Journal’s* predecessor), but she advanced to proofreading quickly. Over the years, Louisa has taken on tasks so many and varied that her contributions touch every aspect of every issue. She transcribes taped lectures expertly; shepherds manuscripts through the peer review process, diplomatically advising authors and reviewers when they’re overdue; handles myriad subscription-related inquiries from readers...and lots more. Word has gotten around the Clinic about her knowledge of grammar, and many medical secretaries call her to resolve English usage dilemmas.

Louisa has maintained her interest in languages and literature ever since her days at Western Reserve University (now Case Western Reserve). It’s not everyone who spends lunch hour reading the French version of *Reader’s Digest*, just to keep in practice. Despite deciding to leave college after 2 1/2 years in favor of European travel, then marriage and family, she ultimately earned a bachelor’s degree in English, in 1987, from Cleveland State University. Her affinity for language has been passed on to her daughter, Theresa, who is a college English professor. Louisa’s chief avocation nowadays, however, is her granddaughter, Claire, age 8.

It’s been said that a man (or woman) is known by the company that keeps him on after retirement age. Louisa will always be known as one whose company kept her on as long as possible. Thankfully, she’s willing to continue with the CCJM part-time “for a while,” as her successor Erma Richardson, learns the ropes. And I will always know her as one whose company I’ve enjoyed and whose help I’ve appreciated.

LINDA K. HENGSTLER
Editor and Publisher

*Howard Dittrick, MD, 1944–1947; Edwin P. Jordan, MD, 1947–1950; John Beach Hazard, MD, 1950–1969; George C. Hoffman, MB, BChir, FRCP, 1969–1981; James S. Taylor, MD, 1982–1992; Herbert P. Wiedemann, MD, 1993–1995; and John D. Clough, MD, 1995–. (No designated editor, 1932–1943.)