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In Memoriam

MARK ALLEN GREENE 1958–2017

By Dennis Meissner, Minnesota Historical Society

Mark Greene, a long-time and highly respected leader in both MAC and SAA, died June 21 in a car accident while traveling between Laramie and Cheyenne, Wyoming. In a career spanning barely 30 years, Mark produced a record of professional service, scholarship, collegiality, archival innovation, and leadership seldom achieved by peers with much longer careers. His early passing is mourned by the hundreds of friends and colleagues who directly collaborated with him, argued with him, were mentored or educated by him, and were led by him in a wide variety of workplaces and professional spaces over the years. It was my great privilege to have been a friend, a colleague, and a collaborator over most of that time.

Mark's career and accomplishments are well known to most of us, his admiring colleagues, but the foundational role that MAC played in the arc of Mark's career is less well appreciated. Like me and many others, Mark cut his professional teeth at MAC, and throughout his career, MAC remained dear to his heart and important to his work. Beginning in the mid-1980s with his tenure as Carleton College archivist, he was a frequent presenter at MAC conferences and authored five articles in *Archival Issues*. It was in his MAC service that Mark developed (1992) and taught the "Fundamentals of Acquisition and Appraisal" workshop that morphed into core parts of SAA's continuing education on appraisal. Mark went on to serve on MAC Council (1992–1994), as MAC president (1995–1997), and as chair of the *Archival Issues* Editorial Board (1999–2003).

Mark eventually replicated these achievements, and many others, at SAA, chairing roundtables, sections, and working groups on his way to being named a Distinguished Fellow in 2002, and being elected president for the 2007–2008 term. In his 2008 presidential address, Mark championed a set of basic professional values that he felt could unite archivists. They were soon adopted by SAA Council and are now professed as core values for the archival profession. Despite this burgeoning string of achievements and his expanding national and international reputation, Mark never lost sight of MAC and its work, remaining close to long-time MAC colleagues and continuing to mentor and engage with newer MAC members. I have heard from many people how touched Mark was by receiving MAC's Distinguished Service Award this past year. At a

time when traveling had become arduous and painful for him, Mark made the trek to Omaha to receive the award and to again enjoy the fellowship with other MACers that meant so much to him.

Truly, notwithstanding a lifetime of achievements and much recognition in recent years, one of the things that kept Mark ticking was the opportunity to keep engaging with younger and newer archivists, and to keep making some positive contribution to their careers and their professional development. He rarely failed to respond to requests for help and advice and was always ready to debate the archival values and opinions that were close to his heart. Any archivist who had Mark as a mentor, adviser, or even critic, was richly blessed. When Mark listened to you, you had his full attention.

In this vein, Mark shines best as a great collaborator. Despite having the brains, energy, and commitment to pull off nearly any project as a soloist, he eagerly collaborated with other archivists because he understood the strength and value of partnerships and, with notable humility, he appreciated and respected the abilities of his colleagues. I, myself, have been the lucky recipient of that appreciation.

Mark was opinionated, pugnacious, and could be a feisty adversary when it came down to archival theory and practice. He never tired of locking horns in important professional debates. But he always approached these arguments in a spirit of fair play and with an end goal of improving archival knowledge and bettering the profession.

In the end, Mark was an archivist's archivist. He confided to me early on that he lacked hobbies and passions outside of archives. Of course, he loved dogs and baseball, and cherished his spouse, Kathy Marquis, who supported, encouraged, and guided him in ways that the rest of us will never truly appreciate. But Mark seemed to get up in the morning thinking about archives and stayed at it the rest of the day. As a result, in the face of daily pain and frustration, Mark was able to make deep and enduring contributions to archival thinking, values, and practice that stretch across all of our archival domains and specialties.

Mark was a rare bird and a great intellectual and material benefactor to the archival profession. We will not soon see his likes again.