Long-time colleague and staff member at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences’ Margaret Herrick Library, Kristine Krueger, passed away on Saturday July 8th after a long illness that robbed her of her lifelong dream to “die at her library desk on her 100th Birthday”. Kristine developed deep and lifelong friendships with many of her colleagues and patrons and is remembered as a brilliant and sometimes brusque researcher and coordinator for the library’s National Film Information Service (NFIS, now called Research and Duplication Services). She was the consummate film studies research librarian through and through, passionate about her work, unflinchingly honest, and above all, compassionate.

Kristine’s career at the Academy began in 1978 when she joined the staff as a library assistant. She moved to the Academy’s legal department briefly but then returned to the Herrick to do what she loved best, guide and help researchers with their projects. In that capacity, Kristine was acknowledged in numerous publications written by cinema studies scholars, fans and the occasional enthusiast who wisely put their faith in her research skills and were rarely disappointed in the results. Her specialty was photo research and if you wrote a book that contains a photo from our archives, chances are good that Kristine had a hand in finding it. She was a relentless detective who would investigate all possible leads to find and solve the most complex research queries and when she got what she was looking for, she would squeal with delight before delivering the news to her patron, never letting on the effort it took to find the missing link.

Kristine had an encyclopedic knowledge of film and could identify individuals in photographs at a glance, remember 50-year-old box-office statistics, birthdays, production dates, Academy history and film history like a veritable Jeopardy champ. Her colleagues sought her out for her expert knowledge and the way that she connected the dots, no matter the query, no matter the difficulty. She loved printed resources, indexes, biobibliographies, almanacs, finding aids, etc., and she knew how to use them! Her personal type-written subject index for the library’s photo collection was used for many years prior to the creation our digital collections index. She introduced many of us to the library’s collections, training some of us directly and others by extension. We are the better for knowing her and accepting her guidance.

In addition to film, Kris loved fashion, designer jewelry, red wine, and great food. She was completely and authentically her own self without any pretention. She spoke her mind and did not hesitate to ask hard questions. You knew exactly where you stood with Kristine and if you were lucky, you might be on the receiving end of her big, booming laugh that could be heard across the staff room when she was extremely amused. She did not spread those mirthful moments thin, and we will miss them along with her fierce spirit, her wicked sense of humor, her cool personal style, and her camaraderie. Kristine was an exceptionally private person, and we have some concern that she will haunt us for making a fuss at her passing. However, we believe that her memory is a blessing, and hope you will join us in paying tribute to her life.

A selection of author acknowledgements in which Kristine’s research skills are cited here:

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“Libraries, as Nikki Giovanni says, may “house our dreams” but they and the archives also house a broad range of necessary research materials. Vital to their use are librarians and archivists, and I was most fortunate in my dealing with them. Kristine Krueger and Barbara Hall guided me intelligently in the use of the collections at the Margaret Herrick Library in Beverly Hills.”


“Kristine Krueger, from the Margaret Herrick Library at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Center for Motion Picture Study and National Film Information Service, boosted this manuscript with rare articles researched from their vast files.”


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“The small army of people from libraries, agencies, and institutions who worked in the trenches to dig up documents or set up interviews included…Kristine Krueger from the Margaret Herrick Library at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences…”


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“The germination, research and writing of this book has encompassed six years and spanned Los Angeles and several other cities. In LA, I am grateful to the staff in general and to individual staff members at a number of institutions who were especially helpful to me in my work…Kristine Krueger at the Margaret Herrick Library…”

“Kristine Krueger, of the National Film Information Service (NFIS), who tracked down the article that included the “infamous” picture of Claudette and Marlene Dietrich, thus enabling me to remove what Claudette referred to throughout her life as the “stigma”.”