



Wilson Davis Snodgrass

January 15, 1932 - November 24, 2008

Wilson Davis Snodgrass was born January 15, 1932 in Angleton Texas to Ruth (Davis) and Joseph Barton Snodgrass and passed away November 19, 2008 in Dallas from a very rare bone marrow disease. He grew up in Huntsville and graduated from Huntsville High School. He received his BA in 1952 from Sam Houston State University and later on his Masters in Library Science from University of Texas. After graduation he entered the service and was stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. After the service he worked as a cataloger from the University of Texas in El Paso. Later he moved to Dallas . He retired as associate central university librarian and director of processing at Southern Methodist University. He joined the staff at SMU as a cataloger and worked there for more than 37 years. He spent much of his last year serving as acting systems librarian. A member of ALA, ACRL, and ALCTS, he served on ACRL's Chapters Council, the Research Committee, and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, which he chaired in 1986 – 88. In 2001 he was honored at the Damon Arts Library for his work for the library with the unveiling of the Wilson Snodgrass Opera Vertical File. He had a passion for the opera at an early age so he became very active in the Dallas Opera. He was also very fond of cats. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville for over 66 years where he began playing the piano while he was still in high school. He was preceded in death by his parents and his nephew Vernon Ray Hutchinson. Survivors include his sister Martha Snodgrass Hutchinson and William Collier of Dallas close friend and life partner along

with many other relatives and many friends. Wilson Snodgrass will lie in state Sunday afternoon from 1 to 6 PM. Services will be held Monday November 24, 2008 at the Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home Chapel at 10 AM with Rev. Ken Jack of the Huntsville First Presbyterian church officiating. Interment will follow at Brooke Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his name to: Dallas Opera - 8350 North Center Expressway, Suite 210 – Dallas, Texas 75206 or their website www.dallasopera.org or Little Woman Home for Animals – 66 Evelyn Lane – Huntsville, Texas 77340. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences may do so at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Wilson Davis Snodgrass*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I send my deepest condolences to Bill and Wilson's other family. I've known Wilson for over 50 years. I just learned of his passing and am shocked. Would like to be in touch with Bill.*

Margaret Ulmer - January 26, 2009 at 04:22 PM



“ *When I lived in Texas, I would often see Wilson and Bill at the opera. I truly enjoyed our discussions (for Wilson was, of course, very knowledgeable), and greatly looked forward to our meetings. He would often post to opera-l, and even after I moved to Chicago, we could always communicate via e-mail. While I was still a future librarian, Wilson gave me my first introduction to the then new and wondrous OCLC shared cataloging sytem. Wilson, rest in peace, but keep on enjoying the great operas in the sky. Thank you!*

Frank Drake - December 08, 2008 at 09:23 AM

PM

“ I only knew Wilson for the last two years but I will miss his love for the opera and ability to share his passion with us at The Dallas Opera. Many patrons are quick to share their opinions about anything that disappoints them about an opera, but Wilson shared with me and others at The Dallas Opera his delight and appreciation for the times he enjoyed the opera. And I learned so much about what he thought made great opera and I feel privileged to have enjoyed sharing his love of this art form.

I know I will miss him deeply after only knowing him for a short time, so I can only imagine the loss his family and dear friends must be enduring. As I remember him, I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

Paula Murphy - November 25, 2008 at 12:09 PM

MH

“ My dear brother Wilson, I miss our daily e-mails and weekly phone visits. I have so much to tell you but it will have to wait. I want to thank you for always being there when needed by Mother, Dad, Vernon, Bill or me. You shared your love and wisdom with all your family and friends. You helped me move to Little Woman Home for Animals and that was the last thing you were able to do for me. This was your wise decision and I realize that you were making sure that I would live where I would be safe and have people who would help me when you no longer could. I love living here and helping with all the animals. You were taken from me too soon but the last few months were hard for you. You are now at peace and no longer suffer. I love you dear Wilson and the kitties and I miss you so very much. Time to tell you thanks for all the good years we had. Good-bye dear brother, I love you very much. Your sister, Martha

Martha Snodgrass Hutchinson - November 24, 2008 at 05:56 PM

HS

“ I treasure the visits to Trinity and Huntsville when we were young - playing with cousins Wilson and Martha Ann. Good memories.

Hugh Lee Selman - November 24, 2008 at 12:44 PM

JT

“ We were sad to hear that Wilson was so ill. Sadder still to learn of his passing. We will not be able to come, but know that you have been in our prayers and stay in our hearts.

James Tate - November 23, 2008 at 05:54 PM

RS

“ My friendship with Wilson goes back more than 50 years. We met in 1954 when we were both studying in the Graduate School of Library Science at UT: he was finishing and I was beginning. We quickly discovered a mutual interest in music, specifically opera. We kept up with each other over the many years and it was always a delight to have letters, clippings and later e-mails from Wilson with comments on opera performances and recordings.

Louis and I would look forward to seeing Wilson and Bill at the operas in Dallas, Houston, Ft. Worth or Santa Fe for comments and perhaps a dinner before the performance. He also introduced us to Sarasota (FL) and St. Louis opera festivities.

And now, good-bye dear friend.

Ron Seeliger and Louis Harrison

Ronald Seeliger - November 23, 2008 at 02:16 PM

DO

“ To Bill Collier, Martha Hutchinson and all others in Wilson's family, I offer my deepest sympathy. Even though my husband Akira and I met Wilson in person only a handful of times, he was a great friend. Wilson was generous of spirit, supportive, loyal, and fun to know. I'll miss him very much.
--Douglas Oliver

Douglas Oliver - November 22, 2008 at 06:21 PM

HK

“ I was introduced to Wilson Snodgrass by a mutual friend, Ronnie Seeliger, about 35 years ago when I lived in Houston. We were all big opera fans, so we'd meet in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Santa Fe to share opera experiences.

I left Houston in 1987 to move to Washington state. But I kept in touch with Wilson via e-mail. Our most recent contact was about the opera FRAU MARGOT that had its premiere in Fort Worth. Wilson had seen it and recommended it highly. Based on Wilson's recommendation, I bought the recording and discussed the opera's merits and deficiencies on-line. Wilson always had great insight to the complexity of opera performance and production. We always had interesting discussions via e-mail and I will miss them.

*H. David Kaplan
Federal Way, WA*

H. David Kaplan - November 22, 2008 at 05:20 PM

RO

“ I am the son of Bob and Virginia Oram, who were good friends of his in Dallas. Although I didn't see him very often, he was invariably kind, dignified, and yes, erudite (especially about music!). He was the kind of person who makes me proud to be a fellow professional librarian.

Richard Oram - November 22, 2008 at 04:18 PM

LS

“ We pray God's peace and comfort to you in these difficult days. We regret that we cannot be there for the memorial service.

Your cousin Tommy and Barbara

Lyn and Barbara Stanley - November 22, 2008 at 09:46 AM

MM

“ *My sweet cousin, Martha,*

So dear is Wilson in all of our hearts. What a wonderful man he was, kind and loving.

Since we are family I need not elaborate on my feelings for him, except to say I enjoy the arts (including plays, opera, ballet, etc.) It must run in the family.

He was a very interesting person to talk with and mother and I always loved his letters. They were a work of art themselves. We read them over and over again.

If all goes well, sweet cousin, Gordon and I will see you Monday morning at SHMFH.

With love and affection,

Mary and Gordon

Mary Carter Mizrany - November 21, 2008 at 05:31 PM

OG

“ *Mr. Snodgrass will be missed by the many members of opera-I.*

-og-

Opera Gal - November 21, 2008 at 12:12 PM

NA

“ I think I first met Wilson in 1993, when he came to Los Angeles for a librarians' conference. We had been members of an Internet opera discussion group called Opera-L and exchanged emails. Wilson was a soft-spoken gentleman with an erudite knowledge of opera, and I liked him instantly.

My husband Doug and I met Wilson and Bill in Albuquerque and Santa Fe a few times over the years, and it was always a great joy and a rare treat for me to talk with Wilson about opera and other things. Even after they stopped going to Santa Fe, we exchange emails. Although he mentioned "anemia," I did not know about his illness, and his passing came as a total shock.

Being in Tokyo now, I won't be able to attend his memorial service, but I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to Bill and other members of Wilson's family. I shall miss him. --NAKAMURA Akira

NAKAMURA Akira - November 21, 2008 at 09:18 AM

EC

“ I first met Wilson in Huntsville ca. 1950/51 when I was in junior high school, then on the campus of Sam Houston State Teachers College, as it was known then, and where my father was Chair of the biology department. I had been an opera fan since the age of eight (*Carmen* in San Antonio in 1946), and, after moving to Huntsville from Austin there was a sense that no one in Huntsville shared my interests.

But I did meet a few people to did share those interests, and one of them was Wilson Snodgrass. He had a collection of operas on LP and he shared the listening experience with me. It was at his house, just a block from where my family lived, where I first heard a recording by Maria Callas.

There was a ten-year hiatus in my acquaintance with Wilson after my mother and I moved back to Austin, following my father's death in 1953. Wilson was kind enough to attend my father's funeral service in Austin. In 1964, when I moved to the DFW "Metroplex" to begin teaching German at what became UT-Arlington, I found that Wilson was head librarian at SMU. We saw each other from time to time at concerts and operas. It was only last summer that I learned of his last illness. I do mourn his passing, and I shall certainly miss his E-mails about music. --Edward A. Cowan

Edward A. Cowan - November 20, 2008 at 08:01 PM