

50, 25, 10 Years Looking Back...

Remembering William Benedon, CRM, FAI



William Benedon, CRM, FAI,
circa 1969

Just before this magazine was to go to press, we learned of the April 14 passing of its founder and long-time editor, William Benedon, CRM, FAI, at the age of 92.

Although we acknowledged Bill's 18-year contribution to *Records Management Quarterly* (1967-1984) in the initial "Looking Back" section in January, he made

so many more contributions to the records and information management (RIM) profession and this association for which he should be recognized. ARMA International President Peter Kurilecz, IGP, CRM, CA, highlighted a few of these in a message sent to ARMA members after learning of Bill's passing:

Bill was a trailblazer for our association and profession, serving for two decades as founder and editor of our first periodical, *Records Review*, and its successor, *Records Management Quarterly*; writing the first definitive textbook for the profession – aptly entitled *Records Management*; serving as the association's president in its earliest years and later as the president of the Institute of Certified Records Managers; and being the first person inducted into ARMA International's Company of Fellows.

Through more than 50 years of writing, speaking, training, and mentoring, Bill had a significant impact on the career growth of countless records management professionals and on the development of the records management principles and practices we all use daily. I, personally, saw him as a visionary and a respected voice in records management.

He is remembered on the ARMA International Educational Foundation's website as "one of the founding fathers" of the profession; as the second recipient of the Emmett Leahy Award for his achievements as an analyst and consultant with the National Records Management Council,

and – as supervisor of public records for New Jersey – for writing one of the first records management legislative acts and implementing one of the first state-wide records management programs; and as the originator of ARMA's records management correspondence course.

Bill was widely esteemed by those who knew about and benefitted from his life's work. Upon hearing of his passing, several people posted their thoughts about him on the records management listserv, referring to him as "an icon," "one of the GIANTS of our profession," "the best and most influential early RIM mover and shaker in our profession; one of those who truly defined the profession," and "a true pioneer."

In Bill's final editor's message in the April 1984 issue of *Records Management Quarterly*, he said he was stepping down to devote his time and energy to other activities, having satisfied one of his key objectives when he started: "To provide a continuing chronicle of our profession's growth and acceptance as a meaningful approach to information management."

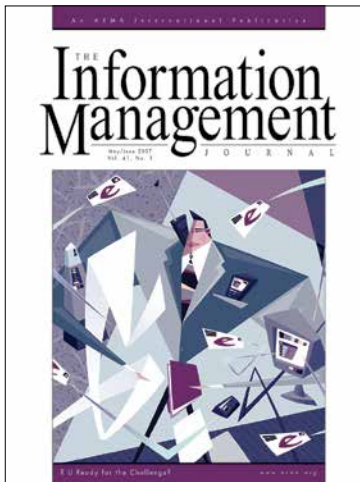
He said he wanted to continue to "be of service to an organization which I hold in such high esteem" – and he did – fulfilling until near the end of his life what he felt to be his professional duty, as described by the quote from Francis Bacon's *Maxims of the Law*, with which he closed his message:

I hold every man a debtor to his profession; from the which as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavor themselves by way of amends to be a help and ornament there unto.

What a "help and ornament" he was. As was so aptly expressed by one of his many admirers, with Bill's passing, "We lost a great one."



Records Management by
William Benedon



May/June 2007

The Information Management Journal

Association News

- The newly elected president of ARMA International is Carol Choksy, Ph.D., CRM, PMP.
- Former U.S. Rep. Michael Oxley (R-Ohio) is to speak on “Sarbanes-Oxley – What’s Next?” in the keynote address for ARMA International’s 52nd Annual Conference & Expo.

Articles

- “R U Ready for IM?,” by Jesse Wilkins, CDIA+
- “Cost/Benefit Analysis for Implementing ECM, BPM Systems,” by Doug Allen, CRM, CDIA+
- “Evolving the Records Management Culture: From *Ad Hoc* to Adherence,” by Patricia Daum, CRM
- “Freedom of Information in the U.K., U.S., and Canada,” by Sarah Holsen
- “Protecting Personal Privacy in the Global Business Environment,” by David O. Stephens, CRM, CMC, FAI
- *Domesticating Information: Managing Documents Inside the Organization* by Carol E.B. Choksy was reviewed by Theresa R. Snyder.
- This issue included a special section for ARMA International’s 52nd Annual Conference & Expo, with a theme of “Where the Business & Technology of Managing Records & Information Come Together” to be held Oct. 7-10 in Baltimore, Md.

Advertising

- AIIM – Learn how to implement electronic records management (ERM)
- Allegheny Paper Shredders – “Double your security at the touch of a button!”
- BELFOR Property Restoration – “We listen. Clean and simple.”
- DACS Design Assistance Construction Systems, Inc. – “You’re one in a 60 million.”
- DHS Worldwide Software – “Experience the most flexible and comprehensive records management software in the world.”
- Fujitsu – “Fujitsu scanners. You’ll see productivity everywhere you look.”
- Greater Los Angeles Chapter of ARMA – “William Benedon, CRM, FAI. The First 50 Years!”
- IDC– “2nd Annual IDC IT Forum & Expo”
- MBM Corp. – “If You’re Using a Shredding Service... You’re Gambling.”
- O’Neil Software – “Scan. Store. Manage. Deliver.™
- OmniRIM – “Take Control of Your Records Management”
- Smead Software – “Records management that sounds good to everyone.”
- Tower Software – “Knowledge...where it needs to be.”
- Visioneer – “THESE PARTRIOTS ARE ON DUTY. TEN-HUT!”
- Zasio – “When it comes to managing your electronic records, you’d be happy if Point-Click-Save were all it took. With Zasio, it is!” **END**



Fujitsu in May/June 2007 issue.



Fujitsu in this issue.