

IN MEMORIAM

ELIZABETH (BETSY) ULDALL died in Edinburgh on 23 June 2004, aged 90. She was a truly venerable member of the Association, having belonged to it for over 65 years. Born Elizabeth Theodora Anderson in Kearney, Nebraska, daughter of a photographer, she took her BA at Barnard College of Columbia University in 1935. It was while there that, finding the periodical *American Speech* without an index, she set about providing one, an early expression of a lifelong passion for the accessibility of scholarly information and for clarity and completeness in its presentation. In 1937 she registered at University College, London, on an MA (Phonetics) course, graduating in 1939 with a thesis on ‘The intonation of American English’. That same summer she married the Danish linguist H.-J. Uldall. Ten peripatetic years with the British Council followed, firstly in Greece and the Middle East and later in South America, until in 1949 she was appointed one of the first lecturers in the newly-established Department of Phonetics at the University of Edinburgh. There she taught until retirement in 1983. Besides intonation, her academic interests and expertise embraced speech synthesis and vocal cord photography; whilst her gift for maintaining contact with past students made her the Department’s unofficial chronicler.

The writer Lawrence Durrell, an acquaintance from Egypt days, remembered her for her ‘comic verse in the Ogden Nash manner’. Her students, who usually became her friends, enjoyed this quirky humour, too, but drew greatest benefit from the openness and humanity she displayed in her dealings with people and from her unaffected kindness and generosity. Several years ago, I mentioned to her the difficulty I was having in finding a copy of Dorothy Hartley’s classic book *Food in England*. Some weeks later, for my birthday, I received from Betsy a parcel containing her own copy. JK