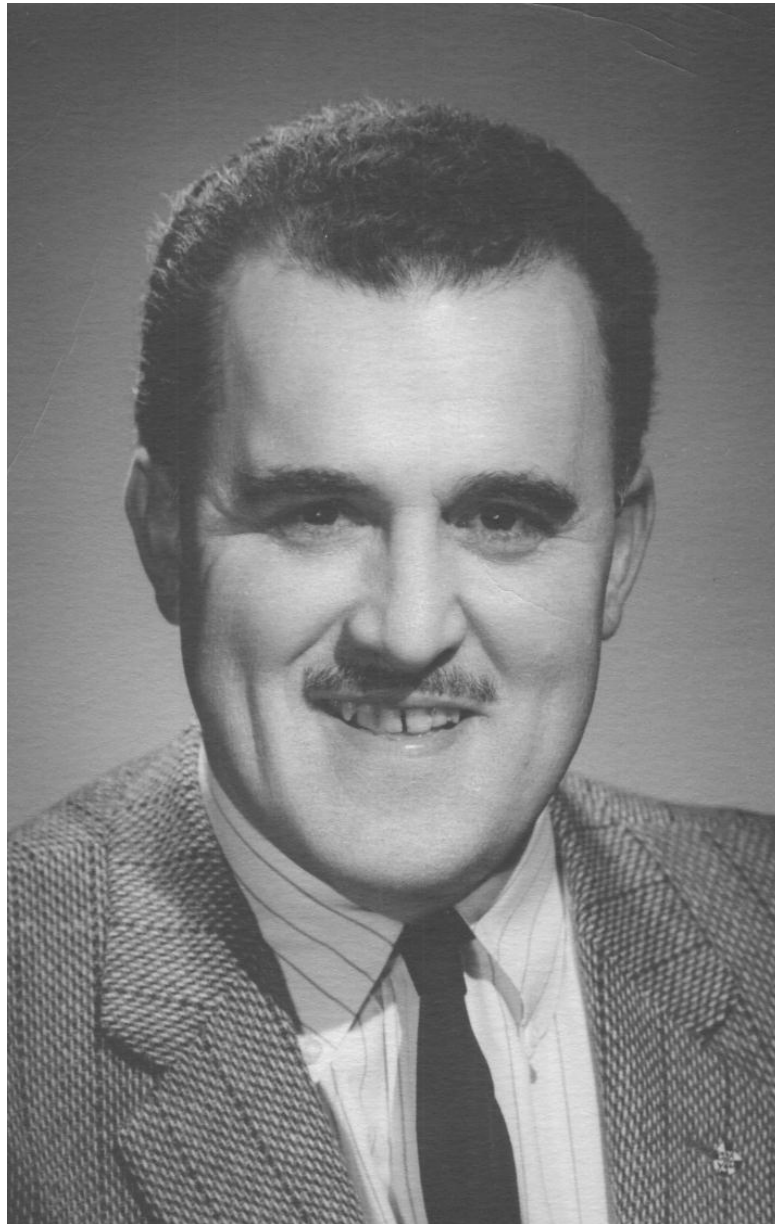


ERIK SCHOECK

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**Richard J. Schoeck**  
**1920-2008**



Richard J. Schoeck was born in 1920 in the Bronx, New York and graduated from Rumson High School, New Jersey, in 1936. After one semester at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and several years in business, he joined the U.S. Army in 1940 as an enlisted man, served in both the paratroops and the Signal Corps, and was discharged in 1946 as an officer. He enrolled in graduate studies in English at Princeton University, earning an M.A. and a Ph.D. in 1949. He was instructor in English at Cornell University 1949-55, assistant and associate professor of English at the University of Notre Dame 1955-1961.

From 1961-1971, he was full professor of English at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. He headed the Department of English at St. Michael's from 1965-1970 and was also professor of Vernacular Literature at the Pontifical Institute for Medieval Studies at St. Michael's from 1964-1971. While at St Michael's College, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

From 1970 to 1974 he was Director of Research, Director of Renaissance and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Studies, and editor of the *Shakespeare Quarterly* at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. He was professor of English, Medieval and Renaissance studies at the University of Maryland 1974-75. From 1975 to 1987 he was professor of English and Humanities at the University of Colorado, serving as chair of the Department of Integrated Studies 1976-79 and as chair of the Department of Comparative Literature 1983-84. He was recipient of the Centennial Medal at Colorado in 1976 and was professor emeritus of the University of Colorado. He concluded his teaching career at the University of Trier in Germany 1987-90, serving as chair of the Department of Anglistik 1988-89. He was an adjunct professor of English at the University of Kansas 1990-2000. He was a visiting professor or scholar at Yale University (the Thomas More Project), Princeton University, Catholic University, the University of Dallas, Oxford University (Corpus Christi, Saint Thomas, and Wolfson Colleges), and the Warburg Institution in London.

He was a member of the International Society for Neo-Latin Studies (president 1976-79), MLA, the Renaissance Society of America, PEN, and the International Society of University Professors of English. He was a board director for the Natural Law Institute at the University of Notre Dame. He received Ford, Fulbright, Guggenheim, and Canada Council fellowships and was elected to the Royal Historical Society. He won the Falconer Madan award from the Bibliographical Society of London in 1997.

Richard Schoeck was the author of *The Achievement of Thomas More*, 1976; *Intertextuality and Renaissance Texts*, 1984; and *Erasmus of Europe: The Making of a Humanist, 1467-1500*, 1990; *Erasmus of Europe: The Prince of Humanists, 1501-1536*, 1993. His collections of poetry included *A Raging Against Chaos*, 1989; *The Eye of a Traveler*, 1992; *The Knight's Book*, 1993; *My Hiroshima*, 1997 (co-recipient 1<sup>st</sup> prize Mellen Poetry Competition); *Childhood and Old Age*, 2001; *Laurentian Codicil: An Itinerary (A Suite in the Key of Memory)*, 2002. *Laurentian Codicil* is a book-length poem exploring the relationship between Canada and the United States from his perspective of living in and loving both countries. His final volume of poetry was *Prairie Epiphanies*, 2003. He was a contributor to *The Wakarusa Wetlands in Word and Image*, 2005. At the time of his death, he had begun work on a spiritual biography of Swedish writer and diplomat Dag Hammarskjöld.

Richard Schoeck edited *Chaucer Criticism* volumes 1 and 2, 1960-61; *Delehay's Legends of the Saints*, 1962; *Voices of Literature* volumes 1 and 2 (with Marshall McLuhan) 1964 and 1966; *Editing Sixteenth Century Texts*, 1966; *Roger Ascham: The Scholemaster*, 1966; *Style, Rhetoric and Rhythm: Essays by M.W. Croll*, 1966; *The Confutation of Tyndale* (Thomas More Project, Yale University Press), 1973; special editor Canada volume, *Review of National Literature*, 1977; *Sir Thomas Browne and the Republic of Letters*, 1982; *A Special Number of English Language Notes*, 1982; *Acta Conventus Neo-Latini Torontonensis*, 1991; general editor (series) *Renaissance Masters*, 1992-99; and was past general editor, *Patterns of Literary Criticism*. He wrote several hundred scholarly articles, papers, and addresses.

He belonged to *Imagination and Place* in Lawrence, Kansas and for fifteen years was a volunteer at Audio Reader for the Blind in Lawrence.

Richard died on January 29, 2008. He is survived by three children: Eric Schoeck (Deborah), of New Haven Connecticut; Christine Schoeck Molleson (John), of Edinburgh, Scotland; and Jennifer Schoeck Karas (Greg), of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; five grandchildren (Jordan Schoeck, Adam Molleson, Kate Molleson, Nadya Karas, and Thomas Karas); and one sister, Madeline Schoeck Simon, of Suwanee, Georgia.

Richard Schoeck's final lecture, *Utopia and the Annus Mirabilis 1516*, was delivered in August 2007 as the keynote for the International Thomas More conference in Amherst, Massachusetts. The website for an audio recording of this speech is : <http://www.apostles.com/drschoeck2.html>

*Written by Erik Schoeck  
Son of Richard Schoeck*