

Tribute to Lorene M. Birden

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This issue pursues to pay tribute to an intellectually outstanding researcher and active ISHS member, Lorene M. Birden. As friends, colleagues and researchers we were deeply saddened by her untimely death in late 2013. By publishing her paper, *The Writerly Reporter: Saki as Correspondent for The Outlook*, we the editors of EJHR would like to commemorate Lorene M. Birden and honour her passion for both humour and the short story.

Those who were not privileged to ever meet Lorene M. Birden, the scholar, must know that she was a literary researcher and translator. Drawing on studies leading to doctoral degrees in French and Russian literature from the University of Massachusetts, USA (1993), and in English literature from the University of Nice, France (1996), she focused on 19th- and 20th-century prose fiction, writing studies on Triolet, Flaubert, Zola, Chekhov, Pasternak, Eliot, Anne Brontë and Saki. She also worked on translations of Triolet, Cixous, Jacob and Chekhov. Her sustained interest in both humour and the short story allowed her to develop projects and publish extensively on both.

A colourful personality, an owner of the largest collection of conference T-shirts, she was the only person in the ISHS who (co-)convened two humour conferences in a row on two continents (2004 and 2005) and co-organized the third one in 2012 in Krakow, Poland. Following the latter she was preparing to edit a highly original, multidisciplinary volume on the classical British story “Three Men in a Boat”, but this was never meant to be as there was “literally too little life left in her”...

Her passing is a great loss to the humour scholar community. She will be warmly remembered for her broad smile and joie de vivre.