Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin–Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Phillip Harth

Phillip Harth, the Merritt Y. Hughes Professor of English, Emeritus, died peacefully on April 28, 2020 at the age of 94. He is survived by his son and his two daughters.

Professor Harth earned his A.B. from Trinity College 1946, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1949 and 1958. His first faculty position was at Northwestern University before he joined the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1966. His appointment assured Wisconsin's enduring importance as a center for the study and teaching of eighteenth-century British literature and culture.

Professor Harth’s scholarship made plain that an understanding of religion and politics are necessary to the interpretation of literature. His distinguished body of research, including four books, was supported by major grants, including fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and the American Council of Learned Societies. In 1977 he was named the Merritt Y. Hughes Professor of English and became a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities. He also served for one year as Interim Director of the Humanities Institute, and for three years as Chair of the English Department. He retired in 1996.

In 1999, the university’s William Freeman Vilas Trust supported a major conference in honor of Professor Harth's seventy-fifth birthday. The consequent festschrift was *Eighteenth-Century Contexts: Historical Inquiries in Honor of Philip Harth* (Wisconsin, 2001). The subtitle reflected his scholarly mode of proceeding: inquire into contexts the better to understand texts. His festschrift has been called "an enduring work" and "a tribute to the high quality of Phillip Harth's publications."

The Department of English honors his memory and his extended and extensive contributions to 18th century scholarship.

Memorial Committee
Ron Harris
Thomas Schaub
Anja Wanner