



Sara Anne Sharland SL
April 28, 1929 — February 7, 2009

Sara Anne Sharland SL was born in Denver on April 28, 1929. From her autobiography — “On April 28, 1929 (the day of my birth into this world) my grandmother cut out from a newspaper the horoscope for the day. It said ‘A child born on this day may be endowed with talents and skills combining the systematic with beauty and culture.’ I have found this prediction curiously apt because all my life I have been interested in art and organizing things.”

Sara Anne graduated from Loretto Heights College in 1950 and entered Loretto in 1951. She became an art teacher extraordinaire. Her autobiography continues “In September 1957 to August 1964, I was assigned to Bishop Toolen High School where I *was* the art department and also taught shorthand and typing the business department. This seven-year segment of my life looms in my memory as embodying the early 20th century idea of ‘life in the convent’.”

Regina Drey, her student at Toolen remembers — “Sara Anne taught me art for two years at Bishop Toolen High School in Mobile, and in that time taught me concepts that I rely on in the work I do today.

“Some memories of ninth grade are incredibly vivid: cutting elm leaves from square piece of paper and gluing both in an Escher-like pattern to understand negative and positive spaces and the strength of repetition; watching her float about the room, in habit of course, gesticulating and twirling as she explained Rococo style. Often when I address an envelope in a freestyle Roman alphabet

she taught us, I remember little books in which we hand-lettered the Exultet and made the cover out of Life magazine pages.

“When Sara Anne moved to the Motherhouse last year, she gave me a small box mostly containing work she had done over many years. There were drafts of calligraphied quotes with precisely marked guidelines; yellowed newspaper articles of her teaching at St. Mary’s Academy and Bishop Toolen High School; cards designed for Loretto’s Development Office, and a Loretto Directory cover with a hard edged, graphic sense that is still very appealing. The most interesting contents were *Denver Post* articles written in the last few years about the innovative style of the new Frederick C Hamilton building of the Denver Art Museum and an installation by Christo and Jeanne-Claude. I like to think that even though she seldom produced art in her later years, she was still an artist interested in what was cutting edge and contemporary!”

Sara Anne spent time teaching at Webster College and St. Mary’s Academy before embarking on a whole new career as a legal secretary which she enjoyed for 16 years.

Sara Anne retired to Loretto Center Denver in 1994. Some of her friends from that Community remember her as an avid sports fan who never missed a Rockies game. She had a quick, dry wit. She was generous and thoughtful and always remembered birthdays and feast days with special, beautiful hand-made cards. And who was that spirit who left the golden coins by each door on the feast of St. Nicholas?

Sara Anne moved to the Motherhouse last year and died on February 7, 2009. God bless you, Sara Ann! And thank you for sharing your very special talents with so many students and friends over the years.