



Theodora Whatmough Greene

November 19, 1931 – July 14, 2005

Theodora W. Greene, author of *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis*, died on July 14, 2005.

Theo was born in Boston on November 19, 1931, the daughter of Professor and Mrs. Whatmough. She attended Bishop Strachan School in Toronto from 1942 to 1948, and received a BA degree from Radcliffe College in 1952. That fall she began graduate work at Harvard with Professor Louis F. Fieser, receiving the MA degree in 1953. In June, 1953 she married Frederick D. Greene. She stopped graduate work in 1954 to turn her full attention to a growing family.

In 1975, with the encouragement of her husband and Professor Leonard K. Nash (teacher of her first chemistry course at Harvard in the fall of 1948), she reapplied to Harvard and resumed graduate work, now with Professor E. J. Corey in his retrosynthetic analysis program for computer-assisted synthesis (LHASA). She received the PhD on June 5, 1980 -- her 27th wedding anniversary. In 1981 she published her work, *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis* (John Wiley & Sons), a book that continues to be of great value to chemists involved in the construction of organic molecules. With Peter G. M. Wuts as co-author (suggested to her by Professor James A. Moore of the University of Delaware, a long-time friend of Theo and Fred), two further editions (1991 and 1999) and a Chinese edition (2004) were published. She was Assistant Editor with her husband (Editor) for the *Journal of Organic Chemistry* from 1960 to 1970. And she was Assistant Editor for the annual publication *Organic Syntheses* from 1980-2002, working with Professor Jeremiah P. Freeman (University of Notre Dame) and the members of the Editorial Board of *Organic Syntheses*. From 1981 - 1995 she was Librarian at the Rowland Institute for Science (RIS), a research center founded in 1981 by Dr. Edwin H. Land when he retired from Polaroid Corporation. Her first task here was "to set up a science library from scratch."

In her personal life she was an active member in the First Congregational Church in Winchester, primarily with the choir and the handbells group -- sources of great inspiration, pleasure, and friendship. After her retirement from RIS in 1995 she was a volunteer at the Winchester Hospital until 2002. All her life she enjoyed the outdoors -- hiking, camping, nature. She was an avid reader (but rarely of fiction), and took up cross-stitching late in life.

She was devoted to her family, and is survived by her husband, four children, nine grandchildren, her brother, nieces and nephews. She died on July 14 -- peacefully and surrounded by her family -- after a long battle with cancer. During that time she continued to lead a serene and graceful life, albeit with decreasing energy. Her gentle spirit will always surround us.

Frederick D. Greene