

John E. Dolibois

Miami '42

Oxford Cup Roll N° 017

It is an oversimplification to say simply that John E. Dolibois, *Miami '42*, was Miami University's alumni leader for 34 years and officially its vice president for development and alumni affairs for 14 when he retired to accept President Ronald Reagan's appointment for four years as Ambassador to Luxembourg. It was the first time any naturalized American had been named ambassador to his native country.

The Miami University European Study Center in Luxembourg, which he helped make possible in the 1960's, now bears his name.

In the Beta magazine's account of the 1939 Beta Theta Pi Centenary in Oxford, you find a picture of three young flagbearers leading a procession up Miami's Slant Walk. Carrying the American flag in the middle is John Dolibois, one of eight Miami pledges initiated at this Centenary. Later, he was chapter president, and, as an alumnus, he was chapter counselor and faculty advisor, district chief 1951-57, Convention secretary in 1955 and Scholarship Commissioner 1960-61. He has been a principal speaker at several Beta Conventions and was the director of the Sesquicentenary in 1989.

His experiences as a U.S. Army intelligence officer interrogating high Nazi officers for war crimes trials evident at the end of World War II make a fascinating story, much of which is captured in his recent book, *Pattern of Circles*.

John is a Phi Beta Kappa and holds Luxembourg's Grand Cross of the Grand Ducal Order of the Crown of Oak. Miami University conferred its honorary degree Doctor of Public Service on him in 1984. A traditional recognition of long and continuous service to the alumni program, formerly known as the Alumni Award, has been re-named the John E. Dolibois Award.

John and Winnie Dolibois, Miami classmates who married in their senior year before he left for war service, have three sons: Robert J. Dolibois, *Miami '69*, is vice president of the National Association of Life Underwriters in Washington, D.C. Dr. John M. Dolibois, *Miami '66*, is an orthopedic surgeon in the Oxford-Hamilton area. Special computer facilities at the John Dolibois Study Center in Luxembourg were created with funds contributed in memory of Brian Dolibois, youngest son who was a business executive and talented musician.

John's 50 years in Boy Scouting include having been vice president of the Dan Beard Council in Cincinnati and recipient of the Silver Beaver and Distinguished Eagle Scout awards.

Robert T. Howard, DePauw '37, Historian