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Immediate Release : Jill McDonald Received \$10,000 Fellowship from Educational Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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July 25, 1985

BLOOMINGTON, ILL.--Dr. Jill P. McDonald, head of the department of foreign languages at Illinois Wesleyan University, has received a \$10,000 fellowship from the American Association of University Women's Educational Foundation for study during the 1985-86 school year.

She will use the grant to study at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where she will serve as a visiting scholar, starting Oct. 1 and continuing through her yearlong sabbatical leave from Wesleyan.

Dr. Tin My Thein, Washington, D.C., director of the educational foundation programs, said McDonald was one of 85 recipients from approximately 1,300 applicants throughout the nation.

McDonald plans to write a book-length study of some 10 nuns who were virtually the only women writing in the 14th century in Germany and Switzerland. All were cloistered in South German or Swiss Dominican houses. They composed either personal revelations or chronicles of the lives of the sisters in their convents.

The North Carolina library and one at nearby Duke University have extensive holdings on the medieval period.

McDonald, who has the faculty rank of associate professor of German, also has received a grant of 2,500 marks (\$874) from the German Academic Exchange Service to do research in Germany on the same women during the month of August. She will use the Bavarian State Library in Munich as her base of operations in studying articles and books not available in the United States.

Her interest in the 14th Century women writers began about 2½ years ago, when she was preparing an annotated bibliography of pre-1470 German women writers for the third volume of the Guide to Research in Women's Studies in Language and Literature.

She has continued her research, and has written four essays on the subject for publication in professional journals or presentation at meetings of organizations concerned with

medieval studies.

McDonald joined the Wesleyan faculty in 1978 and was named head of the department of foreign languages in 1983.

She did her undergraduate work at Abilene Christian College, has a master's degree in French from Texas Christian University and holds a master's and a doctorate in German from the University of Washington.