Harley L. McDevitt (’29) was a philosophy and Spanish major who also served as the business manager for the campus magazine, *Scholastic*. After graduation, he received a graduate degree in corporate law and in 1933 became director of advertising at the National Geographic Society, where he worked for 35 years until his retirement in 1968. In 1942, Harley joined the Navy. Before being honorably discharged in 1945 as a lieutenant commander, he served as executive officer of the Naval School of Military Government and as officer-in-charge of Navy civilian orientation courses. At Notre Dame, Harley was a member of the Edward Frederick Sorin Society and the Stephen Theodore Badin Guild. He was also extremely devoted to St. Theresa, the Little Flower.

With the assistance of the McDevitt Endowment, the Hesburgh Libraries are acquiring primary sources vital to medieval research at Notre Dame and also adding to the secondary literature. The libraries are not only acquiring texts and secondary literature published by American academic presses, but also current and retrospective works in the field from important European presses. The endowment also enables the acquisition of long-standing lacunae in important areas of Chaucer studies, necessary new subscriptions and back runs of serial titles, and, as appropriate, electronic databases relevant to the field of medieval English literature.

Harley also funded a second library endowment at the Prize level.