

News Release: American Library Association

Public Information Office
American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312 944-6780

From: Peggy Barber, Director
Public Information Office

98th Annual Conference
American Library Association
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The Melvil Dewey Medal for "creative professional achievement of a high order" was presented to Russell E. Bidlack, Dean, School of Library Science, University of Michigan, at ALA's Inaugural Banquet on June 28, during the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in Dallas.

Dr. Bidlack received his B.A. at Simpson College; A.B. and M.A. in library science, M.A. in history; and Ph.D. in library science from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Bidlack has had a long and distinguished career at the University of Michigan School of Library Science since he started as an instructor (pre-doctoral) in 1951. He has been Dean of the Library Science School since 1969.

He received the Beta Phi Mu Award for Distinguished Service to Education for Librarianship in 1977.

His publications include numerous articles and books on history and education for librarianship.

Dr. Bidlack has been a member of ALA since 1954 and has served on committees, divisions, round tables and was a member of Council from 1972-76. He is presently chair of the Committee on Statistics for Personnel Resources, Statistics Section, Library Administration and Management Association. He has

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add one--Melvil Dewey Medal

also been active in the Michigan Library Association, and a member of the Special Libraries Association and the Association of American Library Schools.

The citation presented to Dr. Russell E. Bidlack reads:

For over twenty years Russell E. Bidlack has brought a combination of high standards and superb administrative skills to bear on the problems of educating librarians for an everchanging professional world. Under his leadership, the University of Michigan Library School has become a model for quality library education. This distinguished leadership was manifested most visibly when Russell Bidlack was chosen to direct the preparation and implementation of the 1972 revision of the Standards of Accreditation for North American library schools. The tact, insight, and perseverance he brought to this arduous and controversial task has been lauded by librarians everywhere. His tireless and constructive efforts in support of quality library education amply justify Russell E. Bidlack's selection as the recipient of the 1979 Dewey Medal.

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