

# News Release: American Library Association

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From: Peggy Barber, Director  
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Centennial Conference  
American Library Association  
Chicago

For immediate release

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Emerson Greenaway was awarded a Special Centennial Citation by the American Library Association on July 19, during the ALA Centennial Conference in Chicago.

Mr. Greenaway received his A.B. in Library Science from the University of North Carolina and his B.S. from the University of Massachusetts. During his distinguished career he was director, Free Library of Philadelphia; director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library; librarian, Public Library, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, as well as lecturer, library administrator, Simmons College School of Library Science in Boston, and Columbia University, Graduate School of Library Science.

The citation presented to Emerson Greenaway reads:

The name of Emerson Greenaway will be forever etched in library literature because of his authorship of the Greenaway Plan, a pioneering venture to improve the selection and rapid acquisition of current trade books by public libraries. The landmark Greenaway Plan was only one of many efforts Emerson Greenaway made to promote the value of libraries to a free society. As a public librarian in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and as Director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, he worked to extend library service to all members of the community. As Director of the Free Library of Philadelphia from 1951 until his retirement in 1969, he pioneered in the regionalization of an urban library system and was a leader in formulating and implementing the Pennsylvania Library Code of 1962.

In four decades as a public librarian he surveyed libraries abroad for UNESCO, launched the first National Library Week, served as ALA president 1958-59, chaired the ALA Legislation Committee, 1960-66,

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and served on the National Advisory Commission on Libraries. In the past decade he has served as a member of the Government Advisory Committee on International Book and Library Program, chaired the ALA International Relations Committee, and became a major benefactor of the Free Library of Philadelphia through his gift of his distinguished collection of early children's books.

As an ambassador of librarianship to his city, his state, his nation and the world, Emerson Greenaway's efforts have led to greater appreciation of the importance of libraries and librarians.

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