

# 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

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For immediate release

The late Mary U. Rothrock has been awarded ALA's highest honor - Honorary Membership in the Association. The award was accepted by John Rothrock McKinstry on July 22, during the American Library Association's Centennial Conference in Chicago.

Ms. Rothrock was assistant, New York State Library; head of circulation, Cossitt Library, Memphis, Tennessee; librarian, Knoxville City Library; supervisor, Library Services, Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville. She served on ALA's Executive Board and Council; and was Secretary, Treasurer and President of the Tennessee Library Association. Ms. Rothrock was a recipient of the Lippincott Award, contributed regularly to professional literature; and was an organizer of the Southeastern Library Association.

The Honorary Membership citation awarded to Mary U. Rothrock reads:

As a dynamic and stalwart pioneer in the development of library service at the local, state, regional and national levels, beginning in the 1920's, you have left your indelible imprint on the profession of librarianship.

As a public librarian in Tennessee and as the director of library service for the Tennessee Valley Authority, you promoted innovative library programs to meet the needs of all segments of society from grass roots workers to executives and scholars.

You were one of the organizers of the Southeastern Library Association. Through your efforts, the Association and the TVA cooperated in conducting the first comprehensive survey of libraries in the Southeast, which served as a basis for sound future planning for library service in the region. As a leader of the TVA regional library development, you set the example for the systemization of libraries throughout the nation. You sowed the

add 1. Honorary Membership Mary U. Rothrock

seeds of new public libraries in the rural South and nurtured them by serving as a catalyst in the promotion of library legislation to provide for their support.

Your leadership in the American Library Association in committee work as a member of Council and the Executive Board, and as President was reflected in the Association's activity in adult education, audio-visual services, and in international relations.

Your contributions to human knowledge, upon which libraries depend, have been made through your historical scholarship in the writing and editing of several books and numerous articles on Tennessee history as well as in your publications in library literature.

In retirement you have continued to give generously of your talents and knowledge to individual librarians and library organizations. You are truly a woman for all seasons, and with admiration and gratitude the American Library Association is honored to bestow upon you its highest award of

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Chicago, July 1976