

News Release: American Library Association

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Centennial Conference
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Frederick Thorpe of Glenfield, Leicester, England, was awarded a Special Centennial Citation by the American Library Association on July 19, during the ALA Centennial Conference in Chicago.

Mr. Thorpe has been a pioneer in the commercial publication of large print books for the adult visually handicapped.

The citation presented to Frederick Thorpe reads:

This month Ulverscroft Large Print Books Ltd. will publish its thousandth title, Leo Tolstoy's classic novel War and Peace. Publication of the large print edition of War and Peace, and experimentation with twelve selected titles from the Reader's Digest Condensed Books Library, are two of the monumental achievements of Frederick A. Thorpe, a man dedicated to providing the best reading material to the visually handicapped.

Frederick A. Thorpe had completed a successful career in British publishing when he became aware of the serious problems encountered by the visually and physically handicapped in securing reading materials. In 1964 he invested considerable personal fortune, time, and effort to develop the Ulverscroft Large Print Series, the first series of its kind in the world. After considerable experimentation he developed paper of the quality necessary for large printing and perfected an ink suitable for the special printing process.

In his tireless efforts to convince the public of the need for reading matter in large print, he has travelled throughout the English-speaking world, calling attention to the needs of the visually handicapped.

The American Library Association is one of the many professional associations to benefit from the message Frederick A. Thorpe has brought to the world's libraries and we are proud to honor him on the occasion of Ulverscroft's one thousandth title and the American Library Association's Centennial.