

News Release: American Library Association

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Centennial Conference
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The American Library Association presented a Special Centennial Citation to Wallace Van Jackson of Ettrick, Virginia, for "leadership in the development of black academic libraries in the United States, in library education, and in the development of library service in Africa." The citation was awarded to Mr. Van Jackson on Monday, July 19, during the Centennial Conference of the American Library Association in Chicago.

Mr. Van Jackson received his B.A. from Union University, Virginia; B.L.S. from Hampton Institute; A.M. from the University of Michigan; and did postgraduate work at the University of Chicago.

During his distinguished career, Mr. Jackson was assistant library director, Hampton (Virginia) Institute; librarian, Mary Homes College, West Point; library director, Virginia State College; acquisitions librarian, National Library, Nigeria; public affairs officer, U.S. Legation, Monrovia, Liberia; as well as librarian of Atlanta University and Texas Southern University.

The centennial citation presented to Wallace Van Jackson reads:

Wallace Van Jackson is a distinguished librarian whose leadership in the development of black academic libraries in the United States, in library education, and in the development of library service in Africa has made a lasting impact on librarianship.

In the 1920's, before entering the library profession, Wallace Van Jackson was a teacher, a school principal, the editor of the Richmond Voice, and a moving force in the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History

add 1. Centennial Citation Wallace Van Jackson

After graduating from the Hampton Institute Library School, he became librarian of Virginia Union University. He served as a consultant to librarians of black colleges throughout the south, he collected and disseminated statistical data on black academic libraries, and he worked with deans of southern graduate schools to improve library resources for graduate education. Through his activities in the American Library Association and as a member of the ALA Council, he was a spokesman for black librarians in the 1930s and 1940s.

When the Atlanta University School of Library Service opened in 1941, Wallace Van Jackson was a member of the faculty and played a vital role in launching the new library school. Later he served as Librarian of Atlanta University, Texas Southern University and Hampton Institute.

Interested in library development in other countries, Wallace Van Jackson has served as a United States member of UNESCO, as Public Affairs Officer of the U.S. Legation to Monrovia, Liberia, and as Acquisitions Librarian of the National Library of Nigeria. Since retirement, he has been a library faculty member at the University of Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland. Throughout his career Wallace Van Jackson has inspired numerous black Americans and Africans to enter the library profession.

The American Library Association is proud to honor Wallace Van Jackson for his significant contributions to librarianship.