The John R. Rowe Memorial Award for 1974 has been granted to the Freedom to Read Foundation. The cash award of $500 will be presented to the Foundation officers at the Exhibits Round Table dinner on July 7, during the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in New York City, July 7 - 13, 1974.

The award is supported by the Exhibits Round Table of the American Library Association. The Round Table, which consists of supplier representatives and interested librarians, donates the award to improve an aspect of librarianship or library service on the basis of need in the profession.

Jury Chairman Beatrice James, speaking for the Jury, said the Foundation--recipient of the award in 1970--was considered "more qualified than ever" in view of the assistance librarians will need in an era that promises new laws restricting the First Amendment. "During a time when human rights are of such paramount concern," James added, "we felt that the Foundation's efforts against censorship deserve the help of this small contribution." She also noted that the Foundation can assist all librarians throughout the nation and benefit the entire profession.

The award was established in 1957 as the Exhibits Round Table Award. The name was changed in 1972 to memorialize John R. Rowe, who was one of the founders of ERT when it was conceived at the ALA Annual Conference in Minneapolis in 1955.
Rowe, who died in 1965, was director of the Education Division of Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.

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