

NEWS

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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From: Peggy Barber, Director
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93rd Annual Conference
American Library Association
New York City
July 7 - 13, 1974

Press Room: Third Floor Promenade
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The 1974 Scarecrow Press Award has been awarded to Jesse Shera, Dean Emeritus of the School of Library Science at Case Western Reserve University, for his book The Foundations of Education for Librarianship. The Scarecrow Press Award for Library Literature consists of \$500 and a citation, presented to an American librarian to recognize an outstanding contribution to library literature issued during the three years preceding the presentation. The award was presented at the final General Session on Friday, July 12, during the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in New York City, July 7 - 13, 1974.

Dr. Shera is widely regarded as one of the most important and influential American librarians of the twentieth century. Educated at Miami University, Yale, and the University of Chicago, he has served as librarian in government, at the University of Chicago Library, where he was Assistant Director from 1944 - 47, and at the University of Chicago Graduate Library School where he was a member of the faculty from 1947 - 52, until his appointment to the deanship at Case Western Reserve.

A popular speaker at library meetings, Dr. Shera has also published widely in the field of library science, including the contribution of a regular column for several years to the Wilson Library Bulletin. Dr. Shera has authored many books. His Foundations of the American Public Library, published in 1949, is now

considered a classic because of its penetrating historical scholarship. His most recent book is Knowing Books and Men; Knowing Computers Too, a collection of speeches and shorter writings. Dr. Shera has been active in the American Library Association, is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and is past president of Beta Phi Mu.

The citation reads: "More than any other, Jesse Shera has critically, systematically, and honestly thought about the theoretical and philosophical foundations of library and information science. His thinking and writing on this subject span some forty years, and have culminated in the publication of his brilliant and provocative book, The Foundations of Education for Librarianship. This work overshadows all of its predecessors, and now must be considered the most articulate, systematic, and influential interpretation of the foundations of knowledge in our profession."