

For Immediate Release  
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**Immroth Memorial Award for Intellectual Freedom recipient named**

William A. Moffett, director of The Huntington Library in San Marino, Calif., is the 1993 recipient of the American Library Association (ALA) Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award for Intellectual Freedom.

The award, \$500 and a citation, honors individuals or groups who have demonstrated extraordinary courage in defense and support of intellectual freedom. It is named for the IFRT cofounder who was an author, teacher, scholar and advocate and defender of intellectual freedom.

Moffett is being recognized for his leadership in the removal of restrictions on access to archival photographs of the Dead Sea Scrolls at The Huntington Library in September 1991. Access to the Dead Sea Scrolls materials had previously been limited to a small and exclusive circle of scholars.

"Dr. Moffett's courageous action ended a monopoly of access to materials of unsurpassed significance in world history," said Douglas Koschik, chair of the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award Committee. "Because of Dr. Moffett and his courage, perseverance and dedication to the principles of intellectual freedom, a broad community of scholars will now have the opportunity to examine, discuss and exchange ideas about the Dead Sea Scrolls.

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"Dr. Moffett's decision to make the recommendation to open unrestricted access embodied the qualities of dedication to the principles of intellectual freedom which the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award is designed to recognize. We are delighted to recognize his extraordinary action in defense of free access to ideas."

Moffett has held academic and administrative appointments in several institutions. He taught history at Alma College in Michigan and at the University of Massachusetts at Boston and served as director of libraries at Potsdam College (SUNY) and Oberlin College.

At Oberlin, Moffett occupied one of the nation's oldest endowed positions in academic librarianship, the Azariah Smith Root directorship, in which he distinguished himself as a library builder and a spokesperson for college librarians.

Moffett also organized the Oberlin Group of Liberal Arts College Libraries while serving as director of the Oberlin College Library. The organization has brought together a network of 60 libraries with common goals and problems in a way that encourages mutual support on behalf of each member library.

He served as president of the Association of College and Research Libraries (1989-90), a division of then American Library Association, and chair of the ACRL College Libraries Section (1984-85). In 1992, Moffett received a special certificate of commendation from the ACRL Board of Directors citing his courage, integrity and commitment to high standards.

A frequent speaker, Moffett's topics have included the poetry of Robert Burns, the ichnography of the book in Western Art, conservation issues, automation, academic politics and the ethical challenges of librarianship.

The award will be presented on Saturday, June 26, during the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans.

