

The National Agricultural Library

THE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

A CHRONOLOGY
OF ITS
LEADERSHIP
AND
ATTAINMENTS
1839 - 1973

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL

APR 27 1975

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BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

1974

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

National Agricultural Library - pencil sketch.....Frontispiece

Officers and Board of Directors of the
Associates NAL, Inc.....ii

Preface.....iv

Chronology of Events, 1839-July 1973..... 1

Directors of the National Agriculture Library,
1867-1973..... 6

Library Participation in the United States
Department of Agriculture Honor Awards
Program.....12

Library Participation in the Eunice Oberly
Memorial Awards of the American Library
Association.....15

PREFACE

The genesis of this publication was a need to make available historic information on the origins of the National Agricultural Library and the outstanding accomplishments of its staff, which significantly contributed to the pre-eminent professional status enjoyed by the Library today. With the retirement during the 1960 decade of staff, whose long careers had provided links with the past, much of the knowledge on important events and achievements was being scattered or lost. It is not our intent to produce a narrative history of the National Agricultural Library, but rather to list the significant events and personalities which influenced the development of the Library and which provide the landmarks around which a history may eventually be compiled.

It is our hope that new staff, users, and visitors may find this compilation useful in providing some historical perspective. Originally, a bibliography of monographic publications produced by the Library had been planned as part of this monograph. It was deleted when it became apparent that a number of significant titles, not meeting our selection criteria, would be excluded. Occasionally, sources of information on names and dates have been inconsistent. The selection of spellings and dates was made from what was considered the most authoritative source.

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

1839 - JULY 1973

- 1839 - Early foundation laid in U.S. Patent Office.
- 1862 - Organic Act establishing U.S. Department of Agriculture outlines basic mission of the Department, subsequently adopted by the Library.
- 1863 - The book and journal collection of the Agricultural Division of the Patent Office was transferred to the Department. These 1,000 volumes became the nucleus of the new library.
- 1864 - The departmental appropriation included \$4,000 for the library and laboratory.
- 1866 - International exchanges of publications begun.
- 1867 - The name of Aaron Burt Grosh appeared as the first librarian on the Department's roster of employees.
- 1868 - Space for the Library provided in the first building completed for the Department.
- 1868 - The Department entered upon a system of exchange with foreign governments, societies and individuals...The increase of the Library by this means (was) considerable. Valuable books and periodicals, English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Danish, and Swedish, have been added in exchange for our own publications (i.e. USDA)
- 1868 - On the completion of the new building for the Department, a special room was set aside for the Library on the first floor at the west end.
- 1870 - First separate appropriation for Library exclusive of salaries amounted to \$1,000.
- 1871 - Number of volumes totaled 6,012.
- 1877 - Action taken to organize and catalog the Library's publications.
- 1887 - Action taken to replace museum objects with the Library publications and adequate space was made available for the collection.
- 1889 - Collection consisted of about 20,000 volumes.
- 1889 - Classification of the Library by Mr. W. I. Fletcher, Librarian of Amherst College.
- 1889 - Printed catalog of books by subject in the collection begun.
- 1893 - Librarian appointed through Civil Service examination.
- 1894 - The first list of accessions of the Library published.
- 1894 - Special subject bibliographies begun.
- 1894 - System of bureau libraries proposed.
- 1894 - Series of library bulletins inaugurated.
- 1894 - W. P. Cutter instituted the dictionary card catalog.

- 1895 - The Librarian of the Department assigned general supervision of Foreign Exchange List and of the mailing of publications to foreign institutions and correspondents.
- 1896 - Botany Catalogue begun under supervision of Dr. Frederick V. Coville of "Botanical Investigations and Experiments", Division of Botany.
- 1898 - Congress passed a law (30 Statutes, 316, Mar. 15, 1898) forbidding the purchase of books and periodicals (for use in Washington) from any appropriation which did not specifically mention books and periodicals. This law has had an important bearing on the administration of the Library, as it enabled the Library not only to build up a complete record of the library resources of the Department but also to build up a unified administration of the library work of the Department.
- 1898 - The first printed classification of the Library was issued. Later editions were published in 1906, 1916, and 1933.
- 1899 - The Department of Agriculture Library started printing catalog cards for Department publications and making them available to other libraries.
- 1900 - Library of Congress began providing the Department of Agriculture Library with duplicate volumes not needed at the Library of Congress.
- 1900 - The Library as a national institution provided extensive interlibrary loan services.
- 1901 - Bureau library system gradually took form.
- 1902 - Service in printed cards was extended when Library of Congress began printing the catalog cards for accessions to the USDA Library.
- 1904 - The Library furnished the Library of Congress index cards for important foreign journals in the field of agriculture.
- 1904 - Percy L. Ricker, the Department's Economic Botanist founded the Horticultural Trade Catalogue Collection. See 1919.
- 1905 - Annotated Beekeeping Bibliography on cards begun.
- 1908 - The Library having outgrown its quarters in the old red-brick administration building was moved to the basement of the East wing, upon completion of two new laboratory buildings for the Department.
- 1910 - A printed monthly Bulletin of Accessions begun June 1910, which was continued through June 1913 when it was discontinued due to a lack of printing funds and a change of policy in the Department regarding publication matters.
- 1911 - First use of photographic copies for interlibrary loan.
- 1915 - Library moved to enlarged quarters in a new office building at 1358 B St., S.W.
- 1919 - Library assumed partial responsibility for the Horticultural Trade Catalogue Collection in cooperation with the Division of Fruit and Vegetable Crops and Diseases. See 1904.
- 1922 - Botany catalogue transferred to Department Library.
- 1922 - The Library issued a List of Serials Currently Received in the Library. (Department Circular 187)
- 1923 - Book collections in the Bureau of Plant Industry Library transferred to main Library.

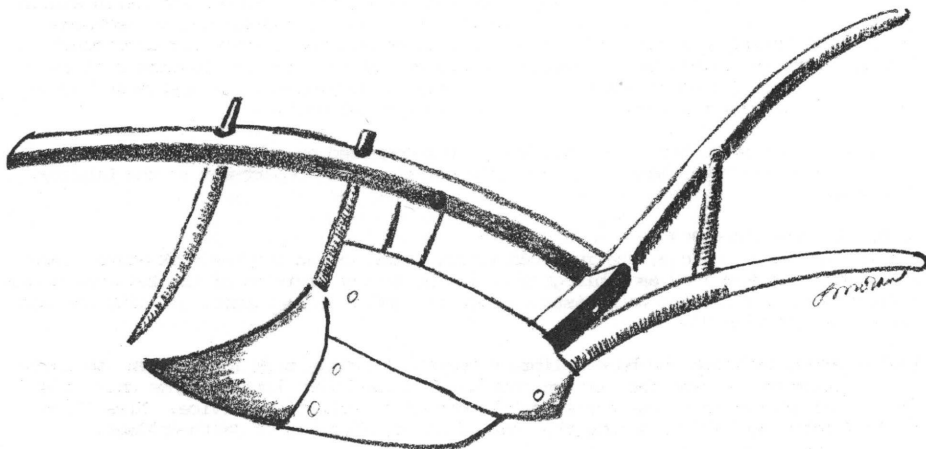
- 1925 - Apiculture Collection formed when James I. Hambleton, Chief, Division of Bee Culture gathered together bee-keeping books and periodicals formerly in individual offices and in the Library of the U.S. Bureau of Entomology.
- 1926 - Library began to issue the mimeographed publication titled Agricultural Library Notes.
- 1926 - General supervision of the Library placed under the Director of Scientific Work.
- 1929 - Proposal for cooperative relationship between USDA Library and Agricultural Libraries made by Claribel Barnett.
- 1932 - Library moved to 4th and 5th wings of the South Building at 14th & Independence Ave., S.W.
- 1934 - First major U.S. Documentation Center. "Bibliofilm" established in cooperation with American Documentation Institute and Science Service.
- 1934 - The 250,000th volume added to collection May 9, 1934.
- 1935 - Three thousand volumes of the Barnes Collection of Lepidoptera turned over to Library of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.
- 1936 - A List of Periodicals Currently Received (Department Miscellaneous Publication 245) published.
- 1937 - Cooperative agreement with American Documentation Institute to carry on Bibliofilm Service.
- 1939 - Three cases of books sent to Library Association of China, Hong Kong.
- 1940 - 1942 Centralization of all U.S.D.A. Libraries.
- 1941 - The Bibliofilm service to scientists absorbed by the Copying Section of the Library under a cooperative agreement with American Documentation Institute
- 1942 - Publication of Bibliography of Agriculture inaugurated.
- 1943 - Dr. Ralph Shaw, Librarian, developed a photocopying machine which took pictures in a continuous strip.
- 1946 - The Library worked out a joint arrangement with the American Chemical Society to provide copies of articles listed in Chemical Abstracts to members of the American Chemical Society and subscribers to Chemical Abstracts.
- 1946 - Library forced, due to lack of financial support, to merge or abolish field libraries.
- 1950 - Special Committee of the Agricultural Libraries Section of the Association of College and Reference Libraries recommended National Agricultural Library services needed by libraries of agricultural colleges.
- 1950 - Pilot contractual arrangement with the University of Nebraska became the pattern for library services to field employees not located at research installations.
- 1952 - Rapid Selector patented by Ralph R. Shaw; first library experimentation with automated storage and retrieval of information.

- 1954 - Publications Exchange Desk established to act as a center for the evaluation and dissemination of exchange information.
- 1958 - Plant Science Catalog; Botany Subject Index published.
- 1959 - Secretary of Agriculture ordered cancellation of all contractual agreements, and placed all libraries outside of the Washington Metropolitan Area under the administration and budgetary support of the agencies they served.
- 1959 - Weeding and inventory project begun.
- 1960 - 1969 Establishment of a central clearinghouse for agricultural translations, bibliographies and research and development projects in scientific communication.
- 1962 - Secretary of Agriculture established an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to recommend broad network plans.
- 1962 - USDA library designated as the National Agricultural Library by Secretary Orville J. Freeman.
- 1964 - National responsibility for collecting, housing, and servicing agricultural machinery catalogs delegated to the University of California, Davis.
- 1965 - 1970 - Publication of Dictionary Catalog of the National Agricultural Library.
- 1965 - Construction begun on new library building at Beltsville, Md.
- 1965 - Pesticides Information Center established.
- 1965 - Rare Books Program initiated.
- 1965 - Task Force ABLE (Agricultural-Biological Literature Exploitation) feasibility study of NAL functions and services to determine which would lend themselves to automation.
- 1966 - Adoption of the Library of Congress classification scheme and the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules.
- 1966 - Publication of monthly National Agricultural Library Catalog.
- 1967 - Contract awarded to Booz-Allen Inc. for a Systems Analysis and Design Study of the Library.
- 1967 - Cornerstone of new library building, Beltsville, Md. laid by Secretary Orville J. Freeman.
- 1967 - Herbicides System added to the Pesticides Information Center.
- 1967 - Publication of Agricultural/Biological Vocabulary.
- 1968 - Automation Staff established.
- 1968 - INTREDIS System added to Pesticides Information Center.
- 1969 - New building occupied.
- 1969 - Sale of computer tapes (CAIN) initiated.
- 1969 - Pesticides Documentation Center abolished; Pesticides Documentation Bulletin ceased.
- 1969 - Publication of Bibliography of Agriculture taken over by CCM Information (name later changed to Macmillan Information).

- 1969 - The Associates of the National Agricultural Library, Inc. founded.
- 1970 - Congress passes gift legislation.
- 1971 - National Agricultural Libraries Network established.
- 1971 - Pilot Food and Nutrition Information Center organized.
- 1972 - Food and Nutrition Information and Educational Materials Center became operational.
- 1972 - Library subscribes to the services of the Micrographic Catalog Retrieval System.
- 1972 - Associates NAL, Inc. receive grant from Rockefeller Foundation to aid foreign agriculturally-oriented scholars, trainees, and students in the library and information sciences studying in the United States.
- 1972 - The National Agricultural Library and the University of Maryland enter into a cooperative agreement to study alternative educational patterns for career opportunities.
- 1972 - Publication of a quinquennial edition of the monthly National Agricultural Library Catalog, 1966-1970 in eight volumes.
- 1972 - Dedication of the Poultry Hall of Fame.
- 1972 - Associates NAL, Inc. present a permanent exhibit on "Abraham Lincoln and his legacy to American agriculture."
- 1973 - Law Branch Library moves to newly renovated quarters on the first floor of the South Building, 14th & Independence Ave., S.W.
- 1973 - CAIN-ON-LINE inaugurated.

Prepared by

Leila Moran
 Executive Secretary
 Associates NAL, Inc.



DIRECTORS OF THE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY
1867-1973

AARON BURT GROSH, 1867-1869

The name of Aaron Burt Grosh appears in 1867 as the first librarian on the Department's roster of employees. However, there is no information on his library activities. Grosh was a clergyman and is remembered today as one of the founders of the National Grange.

STUART ELDRIDGE, 1869-1871

Dr. Stuart Eldridge served as professor of anatomy at Georgetown University, while he was Librarian of the Department of Agriculture. He left the Department in 1871 to participate in a medical mission to Japan.

JOHN B. RUSSELL, 1871-1877

Nothing is recorded of the personal impact of Russell upon the development of the Library. Reports are chiefly concerned with the acquisition of publications and much attention was given the museum.

ERNESTINE H. STEVENS, 1877-1893

Miss Stevens took action to organize the printed materials and to replace museum objects with library publications. Adequate space was the most urgent problem and, until it was solved, most of Miss Stevens' efforts were directed towards preservation of the collection.



W. P. CUTTER, 1893-1901

Appointed Librarian in 1893 by Secretary J. Sterling Morton, Cutter was the first librarian to be appointed under the Civil Service. He was a graduate of Cornell University and had specialized in Chemistry.

Under his leadership the Library began an era of development that has continued unabated. The Library was completely reorganized, modern professional methods were introduced for the first time, and detailed policies were developed to guide its future.

The books for the most part were in high mahogany bookcases with glass doors and were arranged around the walls and in alcoves. Under Cutter's administration the collections began to grow rapidly. Around 1896 he was able to obtain new Library Bureau bracket shelving, which was placed in the center of each end of the Library, leaving room on the sides for work space and reading rooms. Cutter also proposed the system of bureau libraries with strong ties connecting them to the central unit.

The contributions of Cutter to the Library were recognized by others in Washington and in 1901 he left the Department to become Chief of the Order Department at the Library of Congress.

JOSEPHINE A CLARK, 1901-1907

A graduate of Smith College, she received library training at the New York State Library School. Miss Clark served as bibliographer in the Botany Division of the Department before transferring to the Library as Assistant Librarian under W. P. Cutter. In 1901 she was promoted to Librarian.

Under her administration the bureau library system gradually took form and in the early 1900's the Library assumed the pattern that was followed with little change until 1942. Unique in her achievements was the establishment of a bibliofilm service. Miss Clark left the Library in 1907 to assume the post of Chief Librarian of Smith College.



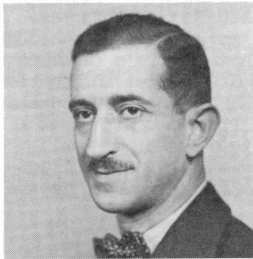
CLARIBEL R. BARNETT, 1907-1940

Miss Barnett came to the Library in 1895 as a cataloger and was appointed to succeed Miss Clark in 1907. Miss Barnett reorganized the Library into separate functional units. She pioneered in the development of specific acquisition and service policies and in the experimentation and establishment of extensive services and photocopying in lieu-of-loan.

As an agricultural librarian, Miss Barnett was active in many professional groups outside the Library. She was a member of the Library Advisory Wage Committee appointed by the U.S. Congressional Joint Commission on the Reclassification of Salaries. She served as Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Food Information of the American Library

Association War Service Committee. Other professional activities included:

- Second Vice-President, ALA 1921-22
- Chairman, Oberly Memorial Fund Committee ALA 1923-1934
- Chairman, Agricultural Libraries Section ALA 1910-14, 1927
- Second Vice-President, New York State Library School Association 1921-22
- Second Vice-President, D.C. Library Association 1912, 1919-20
- President, D.C. Library Association 1929-30
- Associate Editor Special Libraries 1919-23
- Associate Editor Agricultural History 1932
- Member ALA Board of Resources of American Libraries



RALPH ROBERT SHAW, 1940-1954

Appointed Director of Libraries of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1940, Ralph R. Shaw applied industrial management methods to library operations. Services were greatly increased while costs were reduced.

Further improvements in operations resulted from the application of electronic machines. Among his inventions are the Photocharger, Rapid Selector, and Photoclerk. His most significant scholarly achievement as Director was planning and producing the monthly Bibliography of Agriculture.

Dr. Shaw received the U.S. Department of Agriculture Superior Service Award in 1951. In 1953 he won, and was the first recipient, of the Melvil Dewey Medal for his success in application of electronic machines to library operations. Awards received earlier in his library career included the Distinguished Service Award of the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce (1938).

Dr. Shaw received his B.A. (1928) from Western Reserve University; B.S. (1929) and M.Sc (1931) Columbia University School of Library Services; Ph.D. (1950) Graduate Library School, University of Chicago. His library career began in 1929 as Assistant in the New York Public Library. From there he moved, in the same year, to Senior Assistant and Chief Bibliographer of the Engineering Societies Library of New York. In 1936, he assumed the position of Chief Librarian, Gary (Indiana) Public Library. After a 14 year tour of duty as Director of Libraries, USDA, Dr. Shaw assumed the post of Professor, Graduate School of Library Services at Rutgers-The State University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Previous teaching experiences included teaching bibliography at Columbia University School of Library Services (1936-37), scientific management at Columbia (1951) and Western Reserve (1953) Universities, and courses in the Graduate School, U.S. Department of Agriculture. His professional career was interrupted by military service during World War II in the Air Force and in the Army Medical Department (1944-45).

Dr. Shaw participated in many related activities as consultant, member, or officer. From 1944-54 he served as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Handbook of Latin-American

Studies, acted as consultant to the Preparatory Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (1945); member, Advisory Committee to the U. S. Quarterly Booklist (1945-54); Consultant on Scientific Communications to the U. S. Supreme Commander in Japan (1947); U. S. Chief Delegate to the Royal Society Scientific Information Conference, London (1948); and member of the International Advisory Committee on Bibliography UNESCO (1955). At various times, he served as a member of the Board of Expert Examiners of the U. S. Civil Service Commission; Executive Board of American Documentation Institute; consultant to the U. S. Veterans Administration; Chairman, Fourth Activities Committee, ALA; Publications Committee of the Association of College and Reference Libraries, and ALA Board on Bibliography. He participated in library and management surveys for the UN, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, U. S. Department of State, Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, and the American Medical Association.

In 1955 Dr. Shaw was elected 1st Vice-President of the American Library Association and served as President in 1956.

As a writer he contributed widely to professional journals. His book-length publications include a translation of G. Schneider's Theory and History of Bibliography (Columbia University Press, 1937), Engineering Books Available in America Prior to 1830 (New York Public Library, 1933), International Activities of the American Library Association (1946), Use of Photography for Clerical Routines (American Council of Learned Societies, 1953), and Literary Property in the United States (Scarecrow Press, 1950). As a "literary" personage, one of his outstanding achievements was the development of the Scarecrow Press to a position of prominence among scholarly publishers.



FOSTER E. MOHRHARDT, 1954-1968

As Director of one of the three national libraries in the United States Mr. Mohrhardt rendered distinguished service to the Department of Agriculture, to scientific libraries, to the library profession as a whole, and to research throughout the world. As the Department of Agriculture's representative on the Committee on Scientific and Technical Information of the Executive Office of the President of the United States, he was the spokesman for the nation's libraries with that group. He served by law as an ex-officio member of the Science Information Council, which advises the National Science Foundation on nationwide problems and activities in the science information field.

Among his more important contributions as Director of the National Agricultural Library were the following:

1. Gaining new stature, support, and world-wide recognition for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Library by securing its designation as the National Agricultural Library.
2. Establishing the Pesticides Information Center - the Department's first scientific information center - designed to give scientists working on pesticides problems and research, detailed information on published and unpublished materials related to their work.
3. Arranging for the publication of the entire card catalog of the National Agricultural Library in book form, Dictionary Catalog of the National Agricultural Library, 1862-1965, making the Library's resources more readily available on a world-wide basis.
4. Arranging for monthly publication of the National Agricultural Library Catalog, providing current listings of newly acquired books and serials and complete cataloging information, which can be utilized by agricultural libraries everywhere.
5. Securing Departmental and Congressional approval for the design and construction of a new library building at Beltsville, Md. Construction was begun in 1965 and the cornerstone was laid by Secretary Orville J. Freeman on September 21, 1967.

6. Aiding world agriculture through such activities as establishment of the World Agricultural Economics Abstracts, continuing cooperation with the International Rice Institute, organizing and heading the International Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists, and providing orientation for foreign librarians.
7. Formalizing cooperative efforts with land-grant colleges and state universities, providing better services with less duplication of effort.
8. Reorganizing of the Library's administrative functions into four services - Public Services, Technical Services, Field and Special Services, Program Coordination Services - each headed by an Assistant Director.

During his administration he gave exceptional leadership as well to the international scientific and agricultural community, working closely with the National Academy of Sciences, the Association for Asian Studies, and the International Council of Scientific Unions. In 1955 he participated in founding the International Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists and served as its first president. In 1957 he was a delegate to the UNESCO-sponsored meeting on international exchanges in Tokyo; in 1961 he was a member of the Pacific Scientific Congress in Honolulu; in 1963 he was again in Tokyo as a member of the conference on U.S. - Japanese Scientific Exchange, and he has participated in many other international meetings and groups sponsored by the Food and Agricultural Organization, the International Federation of Library Associations, and others. Since the establishment of the U.S. National Committee for the International Federation for Documentation, Mr. Mohrhardt has represented the USDA on the committee. He is currently its chairman. He is on the board of World Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Abstracts, which he had a major share in founding.

His education and degrees include:

A.B., 1929, Michigan State University
 B.S., 1930, Columbia University
 Diploma, 1932, University of Munich
 M.A., 1933, University of Michigan
 Ph.D. study, 1934-35, Columbia University
 Special courses at University of North Carolina, New York University, Purdue University, Indiana University, General Electric Company.

A chronological synopsis of career progression highlights the following service:

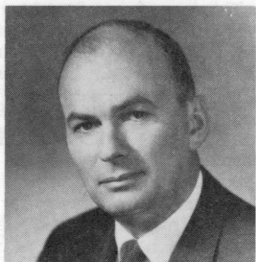
1925-29, Assistant to the Librarian, Michigan State University Library.
 1930, Library Assistant, New York Public Library.
 1931-33, Library Assistant, University of Michigan Library.
 1933-34, Assistant Librarian, Colorado State College of Education.
 1935-38, Assistant to Chairman, Advisory Groups on Academic Libraries, Carnegie Corporation of New York.
 1938-46, University Librarian, Washington and Lee University.
 1942-45, War Leave.
 1946-47, Chief, Library and Reports Division, Office of Technical Services, U.S. Department of Commerce.
 1947-48, Visiting Professor in Library School, Columbia University.
 1947-48, Contract Consultant, Brookhaven National Laboratory.
 1948-54, Chief, Library Division, U.S. Veterans Administration.
 1954-68, Director, National Agricultural Library (Retired January 13, 1968).

Mr. Mohrhardt actively engaged in numerous professional activities outside of the Library. Some of the significant offices he held are:

President, Association of Research Libraries.
 President, U.S. Book Exchange
 President, American Library Association
 President, International Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists.
 Vice-President, American Association for the Advancement of Science.
 Vice-President, International Federation of Library Associations.

During his library career he contributed heavily to the professional literature. Two of his important books are List of Books for Junior College Libraries and Personnel Administration in Libraries (co-authored with Kathleen B. Stebbins).

In 1963 Mr. Mohrhardt received the Distinguished Service Award of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for "outstanding vision, competence and accomplishment in evolving and promoting a dynamic agricultural library program for the Department and the Nation."



JOHN SHERROD, 1968-73

One of Mr. Sherrod's immediate concerns as Director was the completion of the new library building at Beltsville, Md. and the move of the staff and collections from Washington, D.C. Automation of library operations was also under development. He hastened the implementation of computer applications to the processing of library materials and was able to make available the resources of the Library to a wider audience.

Bibliographic information on newly acquired materials was placed on magnetic tapes and sold to consumers.

As a result, he was able to interest a commercial publisher in taking over publication of the Bibliography of Agriculture at considerable savings to the Government.

As Director, Mr. Sherrod's major thrust was the implementation of the Agricultural Sciences Information Network, which has been under development for several decades. Considerable thought and effort was expended on the expansion and implementation of the agricultural libraries network concept in the United States.

Abroad, Mr. Sherrod encouraged the development of AGRIS - an International Information System for Agricultural Sciences and Technology - under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

During his administration he reorganized the library staff to take maximum advantage of the benefits of automation. Input operations, including acquisitions, cataloging, and indexing were placed under the Deputy Director for Resource Development. Output operations, lending, reference, photoduplication, and stack maintenance, became the responsibility of the Deputy Director for Library Services.

A "first" for Mr. Sherrod was the establishment of an information analysis center in the Library. Jointly, with the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, the Library operates the Food and Nutrition Information and Educational Materials Center to serve the needs of the food school service personnel in the United States.

One of Mr. Sherrod's major interests was, and is, the training of library technicians. He has been a member of the faculty of the USDA Graduate School since 1958. Together with Foster E. Mohrhardt he organized the Library Technician Program offered by the Graduate School. A corollary of this program was the founding of the Society of Library and Information Technicians. A further instance of his interest in librarianship in the Federal Government was the leadership he gave to the organization of the Federal Librarians Association in 1972.

In addition to his membership on numerous Government committees including the Committee on Scientific and Technical Information and the Federal Library Committee, Mr. Sherrod is a member of the Committee on Chemical Information of the National Research Council, and of the Chemical Abstracts Service Advisory Board, a Councilor of the American Society for Information Science, and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Mr. Sherrod was born September 10, 1924, in Kane, Pennsylvania. He earned a B.S. degree in mathematics from Allegheny College and B.S. and M.S. degrees in meteorology from the Pennsylvania State University. His formal library training was received at the Catholic University of America. In 1942 he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and was

commissioned in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1944. He served with the Seventh Amphibious Corps in the Pacific and in 1964 retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve with the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Prior to his appointment as Director of the National Agricultural Library Mr. Sherrod spent 11 years at the Library of Congress, and from 1957-63 was Chief of its Science and Technology Division. He then transferred to the Atomic Energy Commission's Division of Technical Information as Chief, Information Services and Systems Branch, and in 1965 was named assistant director for Systems Development.

Prepared by

Leila Moran
Executive Secretary
Associates NAL, Inc.



LIBRARY PARTICIPATION
IN THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
HONOR AWARDS PROGRAM

The first Honor Awards Ceremony of the U.S. Department of Agriculture took place on November 12, 1947. The ceremony marked the culmination of a program that had been developing for some years. The program's purpose was to provide recognition to Department personnel "who rendered distinguished, outstanding service to the public".

The Honorable Clinton P. Anderson, then Secretary of Agriculture, at the initial ceremony stated that: "...This is to be an annual event, and, I hope, will always be anticipated with enthusiasm... the high quality and specialized competence of Department employees is traditional...following a pattern developed in this Department we are attempting in some small measure to honor those who have signally contributed to the Department's objectives of improving farm life and serving the Nation as a whole..."

Through their leadership, vision, and research the men and women honored by the Honor Awards program have helped the American farmer perform unrivaled feats in the world's agricultural history.

Since its inception in 1862, the Library's staff, although numerically a very small segment of the total huge U.S. Department of Agriculture complex, has had a continuous history of dedication to public service. This staff dedication, its' resourcefulness and versatility, is reflected by those staff members who have been honored.

The Library was represented on the first list of honorees by a Superior Service Awardee and a Unit Award. Proudly also, it is represented on the coveted list of Distinguished Service Awards, the highest Department tribute. Included in the Library's roster of awardees from 1947-1973 are:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

1963 - FOSTER E. MOHRHARDT

For unusual vision, competence, and accomplishment in evolving and promoting a dynamic agricultural library program for the Department and the Nation, and for exceptional international professional leadership.

SUPERIOR SERVICE AWARDS

1947 - ETHEL E. SMITH

For her contribution to and personal responsibility for the present high morale, of the employees of the Library.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AGRICULTURE SECTION (UNIT AWARD)

For the high degree of initiative in devising and adopting efficient work methods that enabled this group to handle a wide variety of subject work material which had formerly been distributed among a larger group of subject specialists.

1949 - RALPH R. SHAW

For outstanding service to agricultural research and the programs of the Department by organizing the literature in agriculture and the related sciences and making it widely available; for exceptional skill and leadership in coordinating and consolidating the activities of the library services of the Department; and for effective leadership in developing broad library programs in the federal service.

- 1953 - C. ELEANOR LUNDE
For exemplary performance of duties as an assistant in the Branch Library at Madison, Wis., and for initiative in devising work methods that result in important savings in time, materials, and money, both for the Branch and for the patrons which it serves.
- 1955 - LOUISE O. BERCAW
For her unusual success in administering reference and lending services, particularly in coordinating field and cooperating library facilities; and for outstanding bibliographic contributions in the field of agriculture and related sciences.
- 1956 - INA L. HAWES
For her resourcefulness and skill in developing the Indexes to the Literature of American Economics Entomology, and for other outstanding bibliographic contributions.
- DOROTHY B. SKAU
For her invaluable service to the scientists at the Southern Utilization Research Laboratory through her outstanding bibliographical contributions and for the excellent administration of the New Orleans Branch of the Department Library.
- 1957 - HENRY L. FLEMER
For major contributions in making information available throughout the world to scientists and research workers through his creative ability in developing new mechanical devices and improving other photocopy machinery.
- 1961 - BELLA E. SHACHTMAN
For exceptional service, initiative, and leadership in library science, resulting in more effective nationwide service to Department research workers and agricultural scientists.
- 1962 - HELEN E. HENNEFRUND
For outstanding service in providing informational needs in agricultural products technology, agricultural economics, and rural sociology through exemplary personal effort and initiative.
- 1964 - ANGELINA J. CARABELLI
For exemplary performance and for exceptional service, initiative and leadership in administering the Library's Public Service activities, and for imaginative participation in the Library's program of national and international service.
- 1967 - HELEN C. BOYD
For widely acclaimed performance in providing improved library services to the Agricultural Research Center population at Beltsville, Md., through the application of exceptional professional skill, competence, initiative, and devotion to duty.
- BLANCHE L. OLIVERT
For exemplary performance, initiative, and creative leadership in administering the Library's coordination service activities, and for exceptional accomplishment in evolving and promoting dynamic programs for agricultural science information activities.
- BLANCHE C. SHARPE
For exceptional performance in the highly specialized field of legislative reference service which is recognized and utilized by the entire Department of Agriculture and by many other Government agencies.

1968 - JEANNE M. HOLMES

For imaginative contributions, exceptional initiative, and outstanding accomplishment in implementing production of internationally significant works for research and scientific personnel and libraries in this Nation and abroad.

1972 - ETHEL S. RINTALA

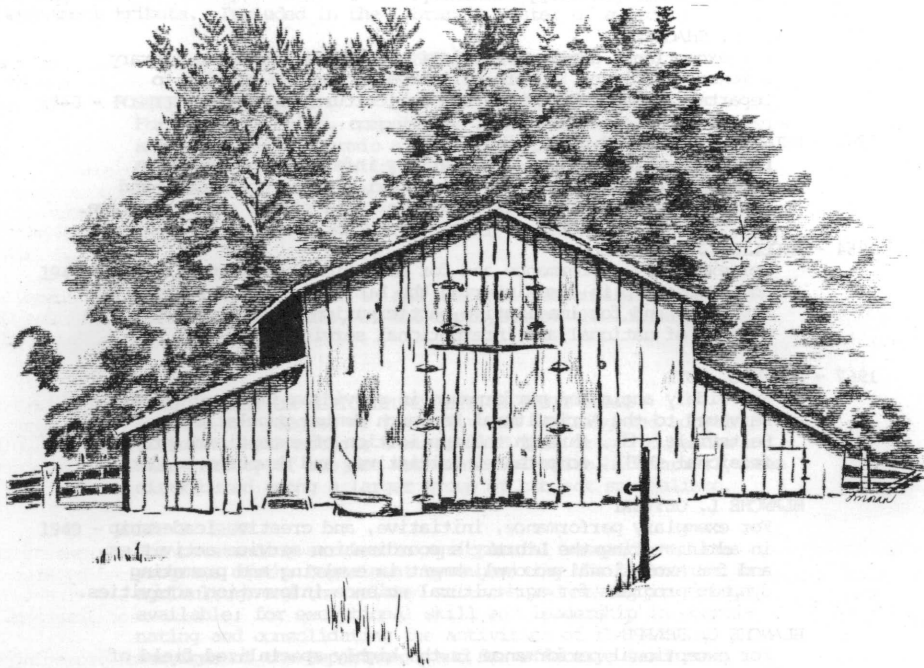
For consistent excellence in budget planning and financial management; for skillful and intelligent administration of personnel; for outstandingly effective response to emergencies; and for exemplary dedication to the Civil Service.

1973 - VERN J. VAN DYKE

For the expeditious development and the economical implementation of a unique automated bibliographic system for the National Agricultural Library; for the adroit exercise of managerial skills; and for exemplary dedications to public service.

Prepared by

Angelina J. Carabelli
Chairman, Editorial Committee
Associates NAL, Inc.



LIBRARY PARTICIPATION
IN
THE EUNICE ROCKWOOD OBERLY MEMORIAL AWARD
OF THE
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Eunice Rockwood Oberly
was born on March 7, 1878
in Cairo, Illinois

She died after a
three day illness from
diphtheria on
November 5, 1921 in
Washington, D.C.

The Eunice Rockwood Oberly Memorial Award perhaps is the only public national recognition offered for bibliographic efforts in the field of agriculture or related sciences. Bibliographies submitted for award consideration are judged on accuracy, scope, usefulness, format and special features such as: explanatory introductions, annotations and indexes.

At present, the award is administered by the Agricultural and Biological Section, ACRL of the American Library Association. The selection is made by The Eunice Rockwood Memorial Award Fund and is presented biannually during the Annual Conference of the American Library Association to the American citizen(s) whose bibliography is judged the best.

Miss Oberly spent her entire professional life in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

After her graduation from Vassar College in 1900, as class historian, Miss Oberly reported for duty with the Bureau of Animal Industry. After a few years of bibliographical work with Animal Industry she was appointed Librarian of the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology.

In 1908 the Division library and that of the Office of Botanical Investigations were consolidated to form the Library of the Bureau of Plant Industry, a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Library. Miss Oberly was appointed the Bureau Librarian which position she held until her untimely death.

Miss Oberly's highly specialized contributions to bibliography were devoted almost entirely to phytopathological subjects. The list of literature on plant diseases appearing in Phytopathology from June 1914 to December 1920 was begun by her and continued after her death by members of her staff. Her unique knowledge of the relations and organizations of phytopathological literature were reflected in the card catalog on this subject initiated by her which was enthusiastically received as a great service widely used by plant pathologists.

The Library's Bibliographical Contribution No. 1, 1919, "The Check List of Publications of the Department of Agriculture on the subject of Plant Diseases, 1837-1918" was prepared by Miss Oberly. Contribution No. 3, a check list of publications by State Agricultural Experiment Stations was begun by her and was completed after her death by her assistants and successor Jessie M. Allen.

In addition to her professional endeavors Miss Oberly was intensely interested in promoting greater cooperation and efficiency among all government libraries. She served as a representative from the Bureau of Plant Industry to work with the Congressional Joint Commission on Reclassification

of Government employees. Her ardor and devotion for this cause was, in a large measure, responsible for a fairer recognition of library activities.

Several excellent articles written by Miss Oberly appeared after her death: "The Contributions of Librarians to Agricultural History and Research", Library Journal March 15, 1922, and "Abstracts and Titles of Articles from the Librarian's Standpoint", Science, November 18, 1921 manifested her deep interest in scientific bibliography.

Her death was a loss to the services of the Department of Agriculture Library and to government library services in general. The award to perpetuate her memory was reliably and prophetically described in a letter to the National Research Council by Dr. L. R. Jones, Professor of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin, he wrote: "...Even more than laboratories or apparatus for new researches we need improved methods for making easily available the published results of researches already completed. It is singularly appropriate therefore, that the memorial to Miss Oberly should take such form as will continue this line of service wherein she herself, was so highly efficient".

The Oberly Award has been presented in the odd-numbered years since 1925, with the exception of 1943 when it was omitted because of World War II and in 1969 when a recipient was not selected.

National Agricultural Library staff members who have individually or cooperatively received this esteemed award include:

1927 - LACY, MARY GOODWIN, et al

...Price fixing by governments 424 B.C. - 1926 A.D. Selected bibliography, including references on the principles of price fixing, and on price fixing by private organizations. Compiled by Mary G. Lacy, Annie M. Hannay, and Emily L. Day. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Library, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Agricultural Economics Bibliography, No.18, 149p. Washington, D.C., 1926.

1929 - HANNAY, ANNIE MURRAY

...Bounties on agricultural products; a selected bibliography. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Library, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Agricultural Economics Bibliography, No.20, 128p. Washington, D. C., 1927.

1933 - BERCAW, LOUISE OLDHAM and COLVIN, ESTHER M.

...Bibliography on the marketing of agricultural products. Compiled by Louise O. Bercaw and Esther M. Colvin. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Library, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Miscellaneous Publication No.150, 351p. Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1932.

1935 - BERCAW, LOUISE OLDHAM, et al

...Bibliography on land settlement with particular reference to small holdings and subsistence homesteads. Compiled by Louise O. Bercaw, A. M. Hannay, and Esther M. Colvin. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Library, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Miscellaneous Publication, No.172, 482p. Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1934.

1939 - BERCAW, LOUISE OLDHAM and HANNAY, ANNIE M.

...Bibliography on land utilization, 1918-1936. Compiled by Louise O. Bercaw and Annie M. Hannay in cooperation with the Land Utilization Division, Resettlement Administration. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Library, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Miscellaneous Publication, No. 284, 1506p. Washington, D. C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1938.

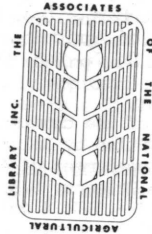
- 1945 - BLAKE, SIDNEY FAY and ATWOOD, ALICE CARY
...Geographical guides to floras of the world, an annotated list with special reference to useful and common plant names...Part I. Compiled by Sidney Fay Blake, Bureau of Plant Industry and Alice Cary Atwood, U.S. Department of Agriculture Library, U.S. Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication No. 401, 336p. Washington, D. C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1942.
- 1949 - HAWES, INA LOUISE and EISENBERG, ROSE
...Bibliography on aviation and economic entomology. Compiled by Ina L. Hawes and Rose Eisenberg, U.S. Department of Agriculture Library, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Bibliographical Bulletin, No. 8, 186p. Washington, D. C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1947.
- 1953 - PLANCK, RALPH WALDO, et al
...Abstract bibliography of the chemistry and technology of tung products, 1875-1950. Compiled by Ralph W. Planck, Frank C. Pack and Dorothy B. Skau.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Southern Regional Research Laboratory, New Orleans, U.S. Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. AIC - 317, 4 volumes, (1952).
- 1973 - This award was received for the excellent Bibliography of Wheat compiled by Olga Lendvay and sponsored by the Wheat Bibliographic Project of the Rockefeller Foundation. In its preparation, the resources of the NAL were used for the major part of its research.

Miss Lendvay, the compiler, is presently an NAL staff member. This Bibliography has the distinction of being selected for the Associates' first annual award for Professional Achievement.

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*The Associates
of the
National Agricultural Library, Inc.*

is

*an organization
dedicated to fostering interest in
the National Agricultural Library
of the
U. S. Department of Agriculture
and its collections, facilities, and needs;
with the aim of advancing
the collection, organization, and dissemination
of agricultural knowledge
for the benefit of the people of the
United States of America and the World*

WASHINGTON, D. C., U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1950

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