

LeROY C. MERRITT HUMANITARIAN FUND
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THREE-YEAR REPORT

2000-2002

INTRODUCTION

The LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund serves an important and unique function in the library profession. Because of it, librarians have a source of financial support—funded by fellow librarians—when it is most needed.

The Merritt Fund was established in 1970 upon the death of Dr. LeRoy C. Merritt, a consummate supporter of intellectual freedom in libraries. Dr. Merritt was a chairperson of the California Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee and a member of the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee. He also served as editor of the *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* from 1962 to 1970, and was the first recipient of the Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award. His book, *Book Selection and Intellectual Freedom*, was published in 1970 by H.W. Wilson.

35 years after the creation of the Merritt Fund, it is still not well known within the profession. We have relied primarily on word of mouth for publicity. This lack of knowledge is reflected in the relatively low numbers of donors and applicants, as you will see in this report. To improve our profile, we have embarked on an ongoing visibility campaign, as described on page 3. Also included in this report is the Merritt Fund Honor Roll—the list of Trustees who have served the Fund selflessly since its inception.

If you have any questions about the Merritt Fund, please feel free to contact the office.

Thank you for your support of the LeRoy C. Merritt Fund!

August 25, 2003

FINANCIAL REPORT

FY2000

Fund Balance: January 1, 2000: \$13,639.10

Grants distributed

1. Racial Discrimination (\$2,000.00)

Other expenditures

Legal fees, accounting expenses, and taxes (\$1,793.48)

Contributions

16 Donors in FY2000 \$950.26

Other income

Interest and tax refund \$2,191.30

Balance as of December 31, 2000: \$12,987.18

Change in balance, FY2000 (\$651.92)

FY2001

Fund Balance: January 1, 2001: \$12,987.18

Grants Distributed

1. Age Discrimination (\$2,500.00)

2. Racial Discrimination (\$1,000.00)

Other expenditures

Accounting expenses (\$704.00)

Contributions

79 Donors in FY2001 \$3,800.00

Other income

Interest, tax refund, and extra contributions \$478.32

Grant reimbursement \$750.00

Balance as of December 31, 2001: \$13,811.50

Change in balance, FY2001 \$824.32

FINANCIAL REPORT, CONT.

FY2002

Fund Balance: January 1, 2002: \$13,811.50

Grants distributed

1. Defense of Intellectual Freedom (\$1,000.00)

Other expenditures

Accounting expenses, taxes, other overhead (\$2,864.92)

Contributions

58 Donors in FY2002 \$2,970.00

Other income

Interest and extra contributions \$137.49

SIRS award \$1,000.00

Balance as of December 31, 2002: \$14,054.07

Change in balance, FY2002 \$242.57

Total expenditures, 2000-2002

4 Grants \$6,500.00

Other expenditures \$5,362.40

TOTAL \$11,862.40

Total income, 2000-2002

Contributions

153 Member donations \$7,720.26

1 Reimbursement \$750.00

Interest \$429.42

1 Award \$1,000.00

Other income \$2,377.69

TOTAL \$12,277.37

Change in balance, 1/1/2000-12/31/2002 \$414.97

VISIBILITY EFFORTS

In the last three years, the Merritt Fund Trustees have looked for new and effective ways to increase the visibility of the Fund, in order to increase both donations and applications. Informal discussions with non-members about the Fund indicated that many librarians weren't aware of its existence, and more were unclear about its scope. Because of this, many librarians in need of assistance did not apply to the Merritt Fund.

Under the guidance of Trustee David Cohen, the Intellectual Freedom Round Table of the American Library Association created a subcommittee on the Merritt Fund. The subcommittee's charge was to help Merritt Fund trustees and staff reach out to the library community. The subcommittee's efforts have included posting E-mails about the Fund to ALA chapters, round tables, divisions, and other units; requesting links to the Fund's Web site (www.merrittfund.org) from those organizations; and exploring ways to get news about the Merritt Fund into library media outlets.

Recently, the Trustees met with ALA's new Diversity Officer, Tracie Hall, to discuss ways to promote the Fund among ALA's diversity networks and Spectrum scholars.

Finally, a reception was held for the Merritt Fund at the 2002 ALA Annual Conference, at which Trustees, recipients, and the Fund's secretary spoke. A second reception is in the works for an upcoming conference.

MERRITT FUND TRUSTEES, 1970-2004

* indicates Senior Trustee

1970-1975	Alex Allain
1975-1976	Joan B. Goddard, Zoia Horn, Joslyn N. Williams
1976-1977	Zoia Horn, Joan Goddard, Betty Carol Sellan (Elected)
1977-1978	Joan Goddard*, Betty Carol Sellan, Joan Marshall (Elected)
1978-1979	Betty Carol Sellen*, Joan Marshall, Diane Kadanoff (Elected)
1979-1980	Joan Marshall*, Diane Kadanoff, Suzanne LeBarron (Elected)
1980-1981	Diane Kadanoff*, Suzanne LeBarron, Janet Freedman (Elected)
1981-1982	Suzanne LeBarron*, Janet Freedman, Michele Leber (Elected)
1982-1983	Janet Freedman*, Michele Leber, James McCoy (Elected)
1983-1984	Michele Leber*, James McCoy, Emalee Philpott (Elected)
1984-1985	James McCoy*, Emalee Philpott, Susan Vaughn (Elected)
1985-1986	James McCoy*, Emalee Durbin, Susan Vaughn
1986-1987	Emalee Durbin*, Susan Vaughn, Miriam Crawford (Elected)
1987-1988	Susan Vaughn*, Miriam Crawford
1988-1989	Miriam Crawford*, Ginny Moore Kruse (2 yr. term), Esther Helfand (3 yr. term)
1989-1990	Ginny Moore Kruse*, Esther Helfand, Rita Auerbach (Elected)
1990-1991	Esther Helfand*, Rita Auerbach, Christine Jenkins (Elected)
1991-1992	Rita Auerbach*, Christine Jenkins, Sarah Pritchard (Elected)
1992-1993	Christine Jenkins*, Sarah Pritchard, Sherrie Bergman (Elected)
1993-1994	Sarah Pritchard*, Sherrie Bergman, Nancy Magnuson (Elected)
1994-1995	Sherrie Bergman*, Nancy Magnuson, Mimi Davis (Elected)
1995-1996	Nancy Magnuson*, Mimi Davis, Kay Ann Cassell (Elected)
1996-1997	Mimi Davis*, Kay Ann Cassell, Bernadine Abbott Hoduski (Elected)
1997-1998	Kay Ann Cassell*, Bernadine Abbott Hoduski, Pamela Bonnell (Elected)
1998-1999	Bernadine Abbott Hoduski*, Pamela Bonnell, Deborah Jacobs (Elected)
1999-2000	Pamela Bonnell*, Deborah Jacobs, David Cohen (Elected)
2000-2001	Deborah Jacobs*, David Cohen, June Garcia (Elected)
2001-2002	David Cohen*, June Garcia, Francis Buckley, Jr. (Elected)
2002-2003	June Garcia*, Francis Buckley, Jr., Virginia Moore (Elected)
2003-2004	Francis Buckley, Jr.*, Virginia Moore, Mary Elizabeth (Ma'lis) Wendt (Elected)