

June 2007

Resolution on Retaining the Mervin Dewey Medal

Whereas the Mervin Dewey Medal is awarded for recent creative leadership of the profession;

Whereas Mervin Dewey did not permit Jewish people, African Americans, or others to the resort, now known as the Walden Hotel;

Whereas he was named by the New York State Board of Regents to the Walden Hotel resort, whereupon he was named;

Whereas Dewey made numerous anti-Semitic remarks and wielded professional power over his colleagues;

Whereas during the 1900s he came forward to accuse him of anti-Semitism decades ago;

Whereas the Board of Regents of the American Library Association values of ALA in equity, diversity, and inclusion;

Resolved, that the American Library Association retain the Mervin Dewey Medal.

Mover: Sherrie Harrington, 706 400 6300
Seconded: Ahlisa Bratzler, 706 17-603-3781

¹ <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/awards/awarded-the-dewey-medal>

² "Ask Regents to Depose State Libs. Advertiser, 'The Librarian Dewey Deserving Enterprise', 1922), Jan 21, 1905.

³ New York Times. "The Librarian Dewey is Rebuked by Regents: Must Quit Council as Offensive to Jews," Feb 1905.

⁴ Beck, Clare. "A 'Private' Grievance against Dewey," *Library Journal*, 1905.