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The Post-Standard Award

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Photo by Sandra Banks

Chancellor Emeritus William P. Tolley presents the 26th *Post-Standard* Award to Chester Soling ('54), Vice Chairman of the Library Associates Board of Trustees.

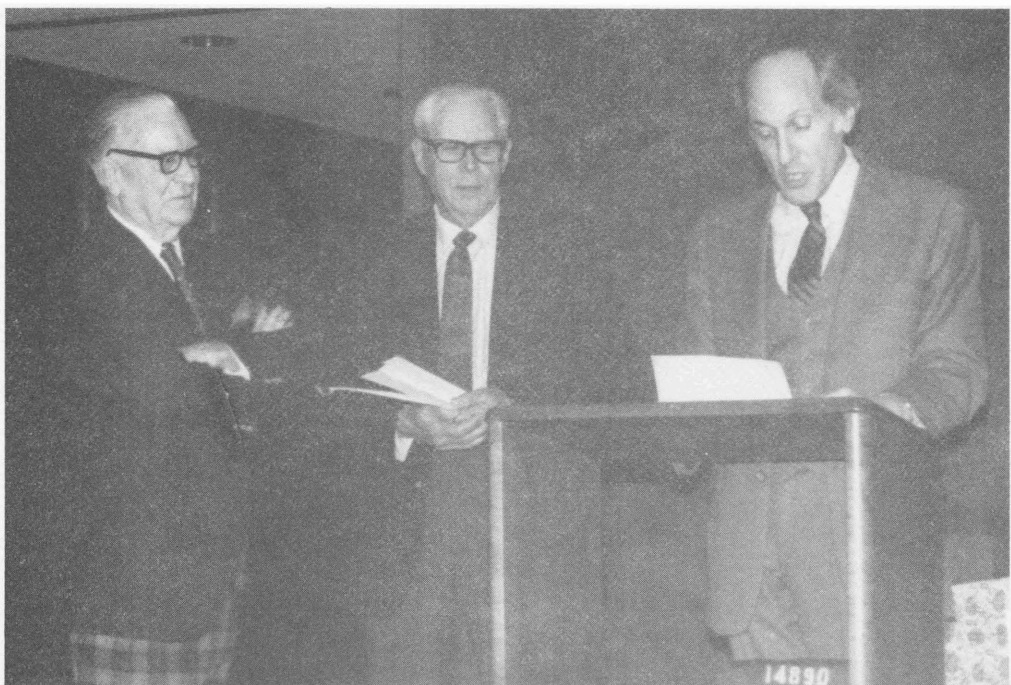


Photo by Sandra Banks

Chester Soling responds to the award. Henry S. Bannister, Chairman of the Library Associates Board of Trustees, listens with Chancellor Emeritus Tolley.

The Post-Standard Award

Chancellor Emeritus William Pearson Tolley presented the 26th *Post-Standard* Award for Distinguished Service to the Syracuse University Libraries to Chester Soling, an Associate since 1959 and a Trustee since 1963, at the October 23rd reception. The award, sponsored by the *Syracuse Post-Standard*, includes a silver bowl for the recipient of the award and a gift of \$100 for Library Associates. Dr. Tolley's presentation and Mr. Soling's response follow.

DR. TOLLEY: Chester, will you come forward?

As we come to the end of October and begin to think about Thanksgiving, we're all very grateful for this library—no one more grateful than I. It's a delight to use the stacks, a delight to look at the treasures, and a delight to have a room of my own. I'm immensely grateful for it.

I'm also grateful for a wonderful and beautiful daughter, who's 40 years old today, and who refused to admit me to her household about 40 minutes ago, saying, "You're supposed to be at the Library!" So I handed her a birthday card, turned around, and broke all speed records to get back. If anyone has any question about my senility, you have the proof today!

The second thing I'm thankful for is alumni like Chester Soling. I think we all have the hope, when a freshman matriculates, that if we can't turn him into a scholar, we can at least make him a lover of books. If we can't turn him into a professor, we can at least help him to become successful in business. And when we succeed in graduating someone who does become a leader in business and is also a lover of books, we know the University made the contribution it should to his life.

Chester Soling is the answer to a chancellor's dream. He's the kind of alumnus that I wish we could graduate in large numbers, but we don't. He's a rare bird. He's an exception to most rules. And, among the rules to which he is an exception, he began being generous when he was young. Most people have to be taught to give, and they think, in some mysterious way, they can take it with them. They never learn to part with it as they are coming along. Chester began giving almost as soon as he got out of college, and he gave in ever more generous terms. He ranks among the very important donors of the University.

What makes me most grateful is that, in giving, his interest has been primarily with the Library. As one who knows how much we need in terms of library resources, I *love* this man!

So I feel deeply privileged to be able to present him as the winner of the *Post-Standard* Award for the most important contribution to the University Libraries. I have here a gift of \$100 from the Syracuse Newspapers to the Library Associates. And now, Chester, it's my great privilege to present you with this silver bowl, a token of the *Post-Standard* Award which you so richly deserve.

MR. SOLING: In preparation for your gracious award, I would like you to know that I spent all last night memorizing the Dewey Decimal System, so as to be up on library lingo. But, seriously, I would like thank the *Post-Standard* and the Bird Library for giving me this award. I feel a great sense of pride for being recognized for so doing; however, to my great dismay, my daughter, a Syracuse University student, still associates the bird with flying...but you know, maybe she is right. My involvement with the library is based on my staunch belief that a library is a source of perpetual information. One may escape the drab Syracuse weather at the library and unleash one's imagination and creative flow. One can actually fly from the precision of scientific theory to abstract philosophy in a matter of seconds. The visual and audio equipment accessible further broadens horizons. A library has the potential to be the backbone of an education. A library is a world within itself. I feel, at Syracuse University, my alma mater, the students deserve every opportunity to hold hands with academia. I hope that, through my efforts, this can be possible. Thank you.