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The Cardinal Wright Award

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THE CARDINAL WRIGHT AWARD

Citation

On the memorable occasion of its Silver Jubilee, The Mariological Society of America is happy to honor its distinguished member, the Reverend Théodore A. Koehler, S.M., editor of *Marian Library Studies*, by conferring on him The Cardinal Wright Award for 1973. The occasion is doubly significant in that the Marian Library of the University of Dayton, of which Father Koehler is the able Director, has just celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of its foundation.

Father Koehler was born in Strasbourg, France, in 1911. After obtaining his degree of Bachelor in the Classics at the University of Strasbourg (1928), he entered the Society of Mary (Marianists) and was ordained to the holy priesthood in 1941. He holds a *License és Lettres* from the University of Strasbourg (1934) and a doctorate in Sacred Theology from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland (1943). During 1952 and 1953 he attended the Paleographical School of the Vatican Archives. From 1954 to 1969 he occupied the chair of Mariology at the Marianist Seminary in Fribourg. It was at this time that his Religious Superiors appointed him Director of the famed Marian Library at the University of Dayton, of which institution he is likewise an associate professor. While retaining a Committee membership in the French Mariological Society, he also honors The Mariological Society of America by serving on its Board of Directors.

A prolific writer of distinction, Father Koehler has authored many erudite articles for such well-known publications as *Marianum*, *Ephemerides Mariologicae*, *Dictionnaire de Spiritualité*, *Etudes Mariales*, and *MARIAN STUDIES*. His international renown as an authority on Our Lady's Spiritual Moth-

erhood was solidly established by his lengthy and scholarly contribution to the first and sixth volumes of the encyclopedic set *Maria; études sur la Sainte Vierge*, edited by the late H. du Manoir, S.J. More recently, the *Centro Mariano Chaminade* (Pallanza, Italy) has undertaken the publication of his *History of Mariology* (in Italian), of which the first three fascicles have already appeared.

It is worth noting that Father Koehler's learned lectures during the various International Mariological Congresses (e.g. Rome, 1950 and 1954; Lisbon, 1967; and Zagreb, 1971) have earned him the diploma of "socius ordinarius" of the Pontifical International Academy of Mariology in Rome (1973).

In view of the above impressive record, it is a distinct pleasure for the members of The Mariological Society of America to honor their prominent colleague by bestowing on him The Cardinal Wright Award for 1973.