

“Superstar Coach” Honored with T-Shirt During Celebration of 1976 Copyright Act

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In the Great Hall of the Library of Congress during a festive February 26, 1977, evening celebration of the enactment of the 1976 Copyright Act, Register of Copyrights Barbara Ringer received a T-shirt.

The grandeur of the Jefferson Building, the august occasion, and the importance of the act might have militated against a mere T-shirt. But ever a gracious lady, Ringer was delighted with the gift. Emblazoned with stars on the sleeves and a new moniker that she had earned through years of hearings and meetings and by her leadership during the historic revision of the copyright law, the shirt was spot on when it proclaimed her to be “C.O. Superstar Coach.”

Others in the Office also received T-shirts, although more simple in design. Retiree Gayle Harris, who led the planning committee for the gala, recollected, “The T-shirts were probably my idea—or possibly hatched between me and Kevin [Maricle, an examiner and then attorney-advisor in the Copyright Office]. I’m pretty sure

Frank Evina located his shirt in Pennsylvania.



PHOTO BY JUDITH NIERMAN

that I paid for them because they weren’t included in the several thousand [dollars] that Barbara laid out. They may have been for everyone on the planning committee for the event. My shirt has long since disappeared.”

One of the T-shirts given to planning committee members came to light in Pennsylvania not long ago. Recent retiree Frank Evina, unofficial historian of the Copyright Office, found his 30-year-old T-shirt preserved as a memento in his mother’s attic.

The T-shirts created a bit of fun and furthered good will amid the serious business of enacting and implementing the new law. ©



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Staffer Gayle Harris and Librarian of Congress Daniel Boorstin watch as Barbara Ringer displays her gift.