

**2019 Recipient of the Information Professionals  
Dr. Dorothy Porter Wesley Award**

**Dr. Charles L. Blockson**  
Bibliophile, Historian, Scholar and Author



Dr. Charles Blockson's passion for books and history began at early age and blossomed into him amassing one of the largest private collections in the world related to people of African descent. In 1984, Dr. Blockson donated this collection of rare publications and artifacts to Temple University, which now contains more than 500,000 items. He co-founded the African American Museum in Philadelphia and has contributed historical items to archives and museums in Pennsylvania and DC. He has authored twelve books and is working on more. He retired from Temple in 2006 and continues to serve as Curator Emeritus of The Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection.

Dr. Blockson called his late mentor and friend, Dr. Dorothy Porter Wesley; "*Queen Mother of African American Bibliophiles.*" Porter once stated; "All the collectors that I have known have indeed been bibliophiles, since the term bibliophile means simply 'love of books.' It seems to me that the two words, collectors and bibliophiles, are interchangeable."