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Biddle, Livy: Chairman of the National  
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February 2017

## Biddle, Livy: Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts (1977-1979): Report 01

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# Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts



## Biography

Livingston Ludlow Biddle, Jr. was nominated Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts in September of 1977 by President Carter and confirmed by the Senate on November 4, 1977. He became the third Chairman of the Endowment, a federal agency created in 1965 to encourage and assist the nation's cultural resources. Mr. Biddle was born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania in 1918. He is the son of Livingston Ludlow, Sr. and Eugenia Law Biddle. Mr. Biddle is married to Catharina Baart, an artist, and has a son and a daughter and three grandchildren.

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### EXPERIENCE

Mr. Biddle served as a special assistant to U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell, D.--R.I., during three critical periods for the arts. During 1963-1965 he drafted the legislation which led to the establishment of the National Council on the Arts (1964) and the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 which set up the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. During 1966-1967 Mr. Biddle again assisted Senator Pell in writing the reauthorization of the Arts and Humanities Act which increased the scope, dimensions and the funding of the original act. He also worked on the Museum Services Act, which emphasized the educational role of the nation's museums. Again in 1976, as staff director of the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities, Mr. Biddle worked with Senator Pell on writing new reauthorizing legislation which included increased federal support for the arts and the establishment of a new Challenge Grant program which authorized a \$1 federal for every \$3 private matching contribution program.

Mr. Biddle has worked for the Endowment during two important periods. He served as Deputy to the Endowment's first Chairman, Roger Stevens, in 1966-1967. In this capacity, Mr. Biddle was instrumental in the organization and administration of the new agency. In 1975 Mr. Biddle established the Congressional Liaison Office for the Endowment and was its first director.

Mr. Biddle went to Fordham University in 1968 to establish and direct a new educational program at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts that included a curriculum combining all major art forms.

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In 1971 Mr. Biddle returned to his home in Philadelphia to assume the Chairmanship of the Pennsylvania Ballet Company which was near bankruptcy with accumulated debts of close to \$500,000. Mr. Biddle was able to negotiate a major grant of \$3 million over five years from the Ford Foundation to help the company gain firm financial footing.

Mr. Biddle was educated at Princeton University, where he received an A.B. in 1940. From 1942 to 1945 he served as a volunteer ambulance driver with the American Field Service in the Middle East, North Africa and in the Mediterranean and European theaters. Mr. Biddle was twice decorated by the British Government for his work in the front lines in Italy during the war.

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POSITIONS:

November, 1977 to present Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts

1976-1977 Staff Director, U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities

1975 Director, Congressional Liaison for the National Endowment for the Arts.

1973-1974 Special Assistant to U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell, D-RI

1971-1972 Chairman and Board of Directors, Pennsylvania Ballet Company, Philadelphia

1968-1970 Professor and Chairman, Division of Arts Department, Fordham University, New York City

1966-1967 Deputy Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts

1963-1965 Special Assistant to Senator Claiborne Pell

1946-1962 Author and free lance writer

1942-1945 Volunteer World War II service

1940-1942 Reporter, Philadelphia Evening Bulletin

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PUBLICATIONS:

Novels: Main Line (Julian Messner) rated a best seller by the New York Times

Debut (Messner)

The Village Beyond (Lippincott) Sold over 300,000 copies and was picked a Dollar Book Club Selection, received Philadelphia Athanaeum Best Novel Award.

Sam Bentley's Island (Doubleday) Reprinted in Doubleday anthology "Best in Books."

Also numerous shorter fiction and non-fiction works.

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COMMUNITY SERVICE: President of Children's Service, Inc., to provide foster home care for underprivileged children of the Philadelphia area.