

To a new generation of IALL members, Ivan Sipkov, a long-time Board Member of the *Association*, has already become part of history. He served as *Editor-in-Chief* of this *Journal* from 1985-1992 after having been closely involved with it from its inception in 1973, when it was entitled the *International Journal of Law Libraries*. Born and educated in Bulgaria, Dr. Sipkov came as a young lawyer and diplomat to Berlin, Germany. After the Second World War, he sought asylum first in Austria, where he received his Dr. Jur. degree, and later in the United States. After a brief interlude as a farmhand in Missouri, he and his family settled in Washington, D.C. There he began a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Government, initially with the Department of State, and then with the Library of Congress. At his death in 1993, Dr. Sipkov had worked at the Law Library of Congress for over 40 years, the last 12 years as *Chief* of the *European Law Division*.

The caliber of the distinguished contributors to this special issue in Ivan Sipkov's honor attests to his legacy. They also illustrate his personal and professional path:

Raimund-Ekkehard Walter, Law Librarian, *Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz* in Berlin, and **Ralph Lansky**, Director Emeritus, *Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Private Law* in Hamburg, represent the special tie that Dr. Sipkov maintained with colleagues in Europe. Both contributing authors were, and still remain, prominent and active German members of the IALL, of which the German Library Association *AjBD* (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft für juristisches Bibliotheks- und Dokumentationswesen*) is a chapter. Although the "Selected Bibliography" on the following pages amply portrays Dr. Sipkov's continued interest and expertise in Bulgarian legal matters, anyone who had met him knew that at heart he was "ein Berliner", with a keen interest in diplomacy and international law and relations. He would have enjoyed Dr. Walter's guided city tour as well as a chance to reminisce with Dr. Lansky about pioneer German law librarians, now gone.

If to the outsider there is a certain mystique in doing research for the U.S. Congress, to which Dr. Sipkov dedicated his professional career, it is dispelled by **Kersi B. Schroff** and **Theresa Papademetriou**, Senior Legal Specialists of the Law Library of Congress. While Mr. Schroff describes the nature of a *Foreign Law Specialist's* work, Ms. Papademetriou's article, based

as it is on two of her recent reports to the U.S. Congress on the international protection of cultural property, is an example of the substance of their work.

Professor **Roy M. Mersky**, Director of the *Tarlton Law Library of the University of Texas at Austin*, long a central figure within the American law library community, called attention through a conference already in the 1980's to the "Global responsibility of law librarians". Of equal influence in the area of foreign, comparative and international law is IALL Board Member **Claire Germain**, Professor of Law and Director of the *Cornell Law Library*, through her extensive lecturing and writings on these topics. Here, in cooperation with Cornell Law Library staffers **Pat Court**, **Jean Wenger** and **Scott Childs**, the focus is on how to research U.S. law using the Internet. Roy Mersky's collaborator, **Jonathan Pratter**, International and Foreign Law Librarian at the *Tarlton Law Library*, served as editor of the *Journal* column "New Periodicals" during the Sipkov era. It is, therefore, a special pleasure to announce his return to the Editorial Board, starting with the 1998 volume v. 26. The column, he promises, will not deal exclusively with serials, but will have a slightly different bent.

With this issue, **Robert W. Schaaf**, on the other hand, has decided to bid farewell to IJLI readers who have been relying on his *International Documentation* as a regular feature since 1985. Now semi-retired from the Library of Congress, Mr. Schaaf cites the increasing difficulty of staying on top of the voluminous incoming material from the United Nations and its specialized agencies. With the growth of the Internet and the readier access to information electronically, he further has come to doubt the need for this type of column. Because of Bob Schaaf's recognized expertise, he has added prestige and credibility to the *Journal*. It is a distinct honor and privilege for me to be the one expressing the *Association's* gratitude and appreciation for his many years of dedicated service.

The call for papers in Ivan Sipkov's honor was given a very optimistic, and unrealistically short, deadline. Thus, it is regrettable that many friends and colleagues worldwide, who would have wanted to contribute, are not included in this special issue.

Marie-Louise H. Bernal