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ARNOLD M. APELBOM—IN MEMORIAM

The Israel Law Review mourns its Executive Editor.

Arnold Apelbom was born in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1909 to a pioneering family that had settled at Zichron Ya'acov, one of the earliest Jewish settlements, founded in 1882 on the southern slopes of Mount Carmel. After completing his secondary education in Beirut and Jerusalem, he obtained the degree of LL.B. from the University of London and was also called to the English Bar. He then took up private practice as an advocate in Tel Aviv. Although he never abandoned this activity, in which he became both prominent and successful, he soon developed a keen interest in writing and editing, and was especially attracted to law reporting, which was at that time in its infancy in Palestine. In 1937 he joined the editorial board of the Law Reports of the District Court of Tel Aviv as soon as it was formed. Shortly thereafter he launched his own series of *Annotated Supreme Court Judgments*, which at once gained wide recognition among all members of the profession who not only appreciated the eminent reliability of these prompt reports (nicknamed, in brief, "Apelbom"), but also came to lean on the "annotations appended to every judgment, giving . . . a gist of the entire case law on the point". While this series continued, with the assistance of co-editors, down to the very last days of the British Mandate, the Tel Aviv (District Court) reports were in 1943 replaced, on Apelbom's initiative and under his leadership as consulting editor, by a series of wider coverage, the *Selected Cases of the District Courts*.

Important and absorbing as his reporting activities were, Apelbom could not for long rest content with the realm of judge-made law. He could not watch the remarkable growth of statute law as a mere spectator, and was again led to embark on a new project of vast proportions: the *Annotated Laws of Palestine*. This was "a statement of the statute law of Palestine in alphabetical order, with cross-references, annotations to decided cases, notes on practice, etc." In greeting the first volume (published in 1944), the then Chief Justice of Palestine, Sir W. J. Fitzgerald, paid tribute to Apelbom's "experience and learning". "The judiciary and legal profession in Palestine", wrote the Chief Justice, "increase their debt to Mr. Apelbom in the publication of this work. For many years his name has been well known in connection

with his admirable Law Reports, which eased the path of judge and advocate alike. Only recently did he satisfy a long felt want by his publication of *Selected Cases of the District Courts* . . . his colleagues in the profession will agree that no one is better equipped for the task."

Three complete volumes, as well as parts of other volumes, had already been published, enriched with numerous contributions from the pen of Apelbom himself, when the termination of the Mandate and the establishment of the State of Israel marked the introduction of a new legal era and called for a respite in Apelbom's current publishing activities.

His enthusiasm, however, was rekindled when the Israel Law Review (a venture unlike those in which he had theretofore engaged) was created. It was indeed natural to turn to Apelbom with the invitation to become Executive Editor. Apelbom was living at the time in the country not far from Tel Aviv, where he was able to devote part of his time to his love of gardening, while the Review was to be published in Jerusalem, where all Editors resided and Board meetings were to be held; the proposed task was therefore bound to be onerous. Apelbom, nevertheless, responded generously and at once. And though in the meantime entrusted, in addition to other burdens, with the teaching of English law at the University of Tel Aviv, he remained devoted to the Review to the very last days of his too short life. Nor had his manifold duties, on the Review and outside it, dulled the edge of his creative writing, as can be seen from his highly interesting "*Common Law a l'americaine*", published in (1966) 1 Is. L. R. 562-79. He was already struck by the illness to which he finally succumbed when preparing his recent book review in (1969) 4 Is. L. R. 165, and the last lines were penned with a hand no longer steady while struggling with the approaching end.

We of the Israel Law Review, who were privileged to cooperate so closely with, and to rely so heavily on Arnold Apelbom, will remember our departed friend for his unfailing courtesy, his graceful wit, his subdued sense of humour, his abiding willingness to work long and hard, and—above all—his selfless camaraderie.

May he rest in peace.

The Editorial Board