

## IN MEMORIAM

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### LEWIS C. COFFIN, former President of the IALL

Law librarians and legal scholars throughout the world will be saddened to learn that Lewis C. Coffin, one of the principal founding fathers of the *International Association of Law Libraries* (IALL), former President of the IALL (1970-1972) and former member of the Board of Directors of the IALL (1972-1974), died on December 21, 1987, in Washington, D.C., U.S.A., at the age of 78.

Mr. Coffin was born in Ashland, Maine, on February 15, 1909, and received his A.B. degree from Bowdoin College. He came to Washington, D.C., and joined the staff of the Library of Congress in 1931. Immediately thereafter he obtained his LL.B. degree from George Washington University and was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy, and he returned to his previous employment in 1946.

On January 6, 1964, Mr. Coffin was appointed to the position of Law Librarian and General Counsel of the Library of Congress, after having served as Associate Director of the Processing Department. His duties required his participation in a number of international conferences involving international exchange and requiring legal background; he played an important role in the establishment and operation of the Library's Public Law 480 Program through which the Library of Congress and 34 other American research libraries acquired governmental and other publications from several countries in the Middle East and in South and Southeast Asia. He retired from the Library of Congress on February 25, 1971. Mr. Coffin was also a member of several professional associations and institutions and author of a number of articles and reports related to various issues of library science.

The worldwide community of law librarians has lost a distinguished colleague and a devoted pioneer of international cooperation.

Dr. Ivan Sipkov  
Editor-in-Chief, IJLI