

EDITORIAL COMMENT

This issue of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEGAL INFORMATION contains an astonishing variety of information coming from many different corners of our profession. We have a survey of law librarianship, the second part of a two-part guide to Chinese legal treatises in the vernacular, an account of one librarian's unraveling of a legislative history conundrum related to the United States' Bankruptcy Code, and a biographical appreciation of a ground-breaking and eminent Chinese legal scholar and author.

The issue opens with one of the very few empirical studies of aspects of law librarianship around the globe. **David Gee**, from the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, School of Advanced Study in the University of London spent more than a year preparing for, executing and analyzing a survey of major law libraries around the world. His study comprises 124 libraries. Comparative statistics, detailed analysis and additional library commentaries were brought to bear. The findings of Gee's important survey help to reveal the scope of current research support services offered to law library patrons and also help identify emerging trends in law library services. Gee's comparative benchmarking and best practice information will help encouraging not just major law libraries, but all kinds of law libraries to develop their research support services and will assist them in highlighting the value of specialist legal information services.

My former colleague from Yale Law School's Lillian Goldman Law Library, **Evelyn Ma**, previously provided an entrée into Chinese Legal materials in a previous issue. She returns with the second part in this issue. Part I of the two-part selective treatise finder published earlier in the International Journal of Legal Information focuses on scholars, legislators and jurists who have contributed to the scholarship in the field of constitutional law, the development of rule of law in China as well as in administrative law and procedure. This most recent installment focuses on those Chinese scholars and jurists who have been instrumental in the development of legislation relating to civil law, criminal law, and procedure from the late 1970's to the present. It is an extremely useful piece for any librarian who is charged with expanding

While not strictly speaking an *international* topic, the following piece by **Tracy Woodard** is so interesting and so well done that I had to include it

in this issue. Ms. Woodard is the Librarian at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, in Washington, DC. What law librarian anywhere in the world has not at some time or another encountered a puzzle or difficulty in untangling the path of a piece of legislation or of locating its origin? This is particularly the case in the realm of legislative history research. The author traces her experience examining a conundrum of technical amendments and corrections in order to determine which statute added the Bankruptcy Code section. Among other conclusions, Ms. Woodard's piece leads to a new appreciation of the United States' ability to amend its laws.

Finally, our feature articles conclude with a very special piece by **Xiaomeng Zhang**, Reference Librarian and Foreign Law Selector, University of Michigan Law Library. Her work is a somewhat unusual piece for the IJLI: it is a biographic appreciation of John C.H. Wu, a Chinese jurist and author, and fascinating intellectual figure, active mostly in the middle of the 20th century. Wu wrote works in Chinese, English, French, and German on Christian spirituality, Chinese literature and on a wide variety of legal topics. He was a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, and among other significant achievements, is credited with being the principal author of the constitution of the Republic of China. Wu was a leading legal theorist of his day and was acquainted with many of the most important legal intellectuals and jurists of his day. He even maintained a correspondence with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. and later produced scholarly work examining Holmes' legal thought. Do yourself a favor: become acquainted with (or re-acquainted with) this fascinating and important personality from the last century.

As with every other issue, the present issue contains the popular, regular features of the International Calendar, edited by **Aslahan Bulut**, and Book Reviews, edited by **Thomas Mills**. Perhaps you will be persuaded to attend one of the many conferences and meetings collected in the Calendar. We are also eager to include new pieces written by our readers. For those interested in writing a book review, please contact Thomas Mills to inquire. This is a really great issue of the IJLI. Happy reading!

*Mark Engsberg, Editor
International Journal of Legal Information
Macmillan Law Library
Emory University School of Law*