

Albert P. Blaustein 1921 - 1994

When I first met Albert P. Blaustein the year was 1966, and I had just graduated with my M.S. degree in Library Science from Drexel University. My first job was as the Assistant Librarian at the general campus library of Rutgers University's Camden campus. Located directly across from the general library was the School of Law and its law library. By today's standards it housed a small collection. Yet it was unique in its specialized monograph collections on Constitutional law and international materials. Al's imprint was there.

Professor Blaustein courteously invited me for an orientation visit. He was an impressive, gregarious and loquacious individual who soon awed this amateur with his knowledge and experience. His office area was decorated with a map of the world which had numerous pins and strings targeting the many trips he had taken to all corners of the globe. His wall was decorated with framed dustcovers from the numerous hardcovered textbooks he had authored. On a bookshelf were proudly displayed the numerous hotel soaps which he had collected and subsequently sold to Ripley's *Believe It or Not*. African tribunal masks, oriental tapestries and other souvenirs of world travel covered his walls.

Over the years Al Blaustein advised me on numerous career options. He urged me to attend law school and to publish. I recall vividly his sermon on why we should publish books and not articles -- books were long term meaningful commitments to legal scholarship whereas articles were simply lost to the researcher in the jungle of periodical literature.

Over the years Al's impressive reputation expanded even further. He served as advisor to numerous governments regarding their constitutional needs. He traveled from South Vietnam to Bangladesh to the continent of Africa and then recently to the emerging Central European democracies. He constantly reminded me of his new adventures when post cards arrived in the mail with the rainbow of foreign stamps attached. Perhaps the greatest legacy he left for the legal world is his classic set -- Blaustein and Flanz *Constitutions of the Countries of the World* (Oceana) and its com-

panion set *Constitutions of the Dependencies and Special Sovereignities of the World* (Oceana).

Albert died suddenly on Sunday, August 21, 1994 at Duke University Hospital in Durham, North Carolina where he was participating in a physical fitness program. He was 72 years old. Albert's contribution to law librarianship, to the organization and dissemination of legal information, was truly remarkable and international. He was known throughout the world as a constitutional scholar, legal bibliographer and law library administrator. His contributions will long impact legal education and international librarianship. Albert was a remarkable renaissance man. He will be missed.

Bernard D. Reams, Jr.