

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

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The sheer size of this issue indicates that it is “loaded.” *IJLI* is, for the first time, carrying the proceedings of both of the *Association's* conferences during the year 2000. It also contains other contributions and items of note.

As last year's *International Course on Law Librarianship*, the 19<sup>th</sup>, is herein being documented, **Jarka Looks**, Head Librarian of the *Swiss Institute of Comparative Law* and Coordinator of the 20<sup>th</sup> Course, encourages us to look forward and make plans to attend the meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, **Comparative and International Law in a Multilingual Environment: Current Issues and Information Resources**, at the end of September. Information about the program, registration and other details are now available in full color on our website at [www.iall.org](http://www.iall.org). Jarka stresses that hotel reservations must be sent in before August 1.

The Course in Dublin, **A Common Law for Europe: Legal Systems and Legal Information**, attracted a record number of participants: 160 from 25 different countries. The main credit for the success goes to the coordinator, Board Member **Jules Winterton**. As the Director of the *Institute of Advanced Legal Studies* of the *University of London*, England, Jules was able to draw on a network of experts from the British Isles in particular, but also from Australia and the United States, to assemble a sterling faculty. The impressive list with biographical information is attached to his Introduction to the Dublin conference. There he also gives background and an analysis of the Course theme and provides some of the extra flavor that participants enjoyed in the Irish capital.

During the year, Jules Winterton also worked hard on another important IALL project which now has come to fruition: as of 2001, the *Association* is announcing **two bursaries** “to enable law librarians who are normally unable to benefit from *Association* activities to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Course in International Law Librarianship.” The announcement concerning the bursaries follows immediately after the notice regarding the upcoming Course and is available on our website, as well.

The IALL session during the IFLA Conference took place in Jerusalem in August 2000. President **Larry Wenger** writes the introduction to **Religious Law in a Secular Setting: New Classification Approaches for Jewish, Canon and Islamic Law** which focused on the *Library of Congress Classification System (LCC)*. When it was first developed at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the LCC was intended to serve mainly the institution itself. The Law scheme (Class K) was the last to be developed. It was not until the 1950s that work started on the KF schedule, the Law of the United States, and then only at the prompting of the *American Association of Law Libraries*. The KF schedule took 20 years to develop. Now, thanks to the genius of **Jolande Goldberg**, Senior Law Classification Specialist at the Library of Congress, Class K is almost completed. Most academic law libraries in the United States have adopted LC's Law classification schedule, and so have 12 European law libraries and law libraries in Canada, Israel and Japan. It is a clear testimony to the internationalization of the collections, and to the globalization of the profession.

**Larry Wenger** in this issue's *President's Column* all too briefly sums up the accomplishments of his two-term presidency. Since I have been fortunate to have worked closely with him both as a member of the Executive Board and as Editor, I want to take the opportunity to express my personal admiration for the gentle determination he has displayed in bringing the IALL to its present stable, but vigorous, state. Larry's humor, integrity and skill calmly brought members to share his vision for the Association. Always in a good mood and respectful of others, he has been able to generously delegate while at the same time, when needed, assert his leadership in a way that is exemplary.

The *Open Forum* column this time includes an invitation to an upcoming international event, the "Language and the Law" conference in December 2001 at the University of Texas at Austin. It is a pleasure for me, as a former "Tarltonite," to urge you to attend the conference hosted and coordinated by **Roy M. Mersky**. He was recently appointed to the *Harry M. Reasoner Regents Chair in Law*. Roy was the first law librarian in the United States to receive a professorship. Now, he is only the second to receive a chair, this uniquely American distinction of academic excellence, as a recognition of his accomplishments and contributions to the Law School.

While it is apparent from the listing of conferences in **Lyonette Louis-Jacques'** column that today's professional meetings mostly reflect the challenges of dealing with the new technology and globalization, the

production of books and periodicals in print format has not diminished. **Katherine Topulos** in her review section offers, as usual, outstanding book reviews and useful lists of new book and periodical titles. The *Review Essay* is an evaluation of the UN Treaty Collection website, which initially was provided free of charge, but for about a year is available only on a subscription basis. Written by an expert in the field, **Wiltrud Harms**, the Specialist on UN Documentation at the University of California at Berkeley and well-known internationally to everyone on the listserv INT-LAW, this thorough analysis and description of the current status of the database will be immensely useful to colleagues worldwide.

*Marie-Louise H. Bernal*