

Adolf Sprudz: In Memoriam*

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Adolf Sprudz had a long and distinguished career as a foreign and international law librarian at the University of Chicago Law School, where he developed one of the premier foreign and international law collections in the United States. He was a leader among a generation of foreign and international law librarians who emigrated to the United States after World War II and were responsible for the collections and expertise that now exist in this country.

Mr. Sprudz was born in 1922 in Sakstagals, Latvia, a small, rural community. The youngest of three sons, he enrolled at the University of Riga in Latvia's capital to study law. Five years after the Soviet Union annexed Latvia in 1940, Mr. Sprudz and his nearest brother Aleck (Aleksandrs) fled the country before the Soviets had a chance to deport him to a Siberian labor camp as they did his older brother, Janis. He spent several years in a displaced-persons camp, and then studied law at Tübingen University in West Germany. He moved to England, where he worked as a restaurant maitre d' and taught English as a second language to displaced persons coming from Eastern Europe to work in the coal mines.

He then moved to Belgium, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in economics and international relations from the Catholic University of Louvain. While taking a train from Louvain to Tübingen for a student meeting, he encountered a fellow Latvian refugee, Janina Strods, who later became his wife. In 1956, he and Janina settled in Chicago. Mr. Sprudz worked and supported his family while earning a library science degree from Dominican University.

Besides Latvian and English, Mr. Sprudz spoke fluent German and French and had a reading knowledge of several other languages. His educational background, early interest in law, and fluency in foreign languages made him perfectly qualified to be a foreign law librarian. He began his career at Northwestern University Law School, moved to the Defense Information Office, and then to the University of Illinois College of Law at Urbana-Champaign. In 1965, he joined the University of Chicago Law School, where he stayed until his retirement in 1992.

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When he joined the University of Chicago Law School, the library was expanding the foreign law collection for the European Economic Community countries along with the international law collection. Mr. Sprudz worked with Professor Max Rheinstein to develop an outstanding collection. Many generations of future scholars will reap the benefits of the foreign and international law collections that Mr. Sprudz developed at the University of Chicago. He established book exchange programs with the Baltic national libraries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, which greatly assisted those libraries during a time when it was almost impossible for them to acquire books from the United States.

Mr. Sprudz was a founding member of the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) in 1959 and an active member of the American Association of Law Libraries. He served on the IALL Executive Board for many years, as president twice, and was elected an IALL life member. He is best known for his work in treaty research and his *UST Cumulative Indexing Service*¹ is indispensable for treaty research. He was associate editor of the *International Journal of Legal Information* for many years.

Latvia never left his heart, and his scholarly work also exposed the unlawful Soviet occupation and annexation of Latvia. He edited *Baltic Path to Independence: An International Reader of Selected Articles*² and more recently wrote 'Rebuilding Democracy in Latvia: Overcoming a Dual Legacy,' published in *Democratic Consolidation in Eastern Europe*.³ A collection of essays titled *Ardievas Laikmetam Rakstu un Runu Atlase 1947–1989 (Latvia: Recollections of an Age)*⁴ was published on the Internet in 2001.

In 2000, Mr. Sprudz received the American Association of Law Libraries Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award for his lifelong accomplishments as a foreign and international law librarian and his publications on the Baltic nations.⁵ A year later he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the Latvian Academy of Sciences. In 2002, the Latvian Special Presidential Council of the Order awarded Mr. Sprudz the Order of Three Stars, 5th Class. The council is appointed by Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga to honor civilians worldwide who have benefited Latvia. The Order recognized Mr. Sprudz's scholarly accomplishments throughout his career.

In addition to his outstanding professional and scholarly career, Mr. Sprudz Dolf to his many friends leaves a legacy

Jo Tomlinson

of librarians who valued his expertise and willingness to share his knowledge. Even though he retired in 1992, he came into his office frequently and still cared about developments in civil and international law. I found him a valuable and supportive friend for over thirty years. From my first days as a new reference librarian through my years

as a library director, he was a mentor, a role model, and a wise and discreet advisor.

Mr. Sprudz is survived by his wife Janina Sprudz, two daughters, Ilze and Rita, two sons, Ugis and Peteris, and six grandchildren. He will be missed by his many friends and colleagues at the University of Chicago.

References

1. Adolf Sprudz & Igor I. Kavass, *UST Cumulative Indexing Service 1976: Cumulative Index to United States Treaties and Other International Agreements 1976* (1978).
2. *The Baltic Path to Independence: An International Reader of Selected Articles* (Adolf Sprudz ed., 1994).
3. Adolf Sprudz, *Rebuilding Democracy in Latvia: Overcoming a Dual Legacy*, in *Democratic Consolidation in Eastern Europe 139* (Jan Zielonka & Alex Pravda eds., 2001).
4. Adolf Sprudz, *Ardievas Laikmetam: Rakstu un runu atlase, 1947–1989* (Latvia: *Recollections of an Age*), at <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/~was2/sprudz/> (2001).
5. See Pam Deemer, *Gallagher Award Recipients Named*, *AALL Spectrum*, June 2000, at 30.

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IT in the Law

We are delighted to welcome back our IT Update after some months' absence. Jo Tomlinson from Irwin Mitchell in Sheffield and Lindsey Caffin from the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies have taken over responsibility for the column with effect from this issue

Jo Tomlinson was responsible for this column, with support from Lindsey. Jo & Lindsey's contact details are given at the end and they will be very pleased to hear from any readers who have material to contribute to the column.

News from Legal Systems and Software Suppliers

WinScribe Europe has recently launched version 3.3 of its Digital Dictation System (DDS). The major enhancements are the ability to import and read voice files from third-party dictation systems into WinScribe for translation and the introduction of a browser based systems manager. www.winscribe.com

MSS have developed a new wireless laptop and PDA interface application for their *AlphaLAW-Vantage* practice management and case management modules. The increased technology now allows users to access and update

documents through a GPRS mobile telephone link connected to their laptops. www.mss-alpha.com

Videss have just launched a new product for the legal market called Visual Office. It is a Microsoft.NET reporting tool that takes feeds from almost any web or PC-based source of information (such as contacts, web services, appointments, reports, graphs, etc.) and presents chosen key performance indicators and other real time information in a simple, personalised, one-page view. It aims to allow users to view KPI data only when they need it. www.videss.co.uk

The **iManage** document management software claims to reach another level with its WorkSite 8 Suite. It is the only system to support Matter Centric Collaboration (MCC), a new paradigm for the way information is organised, presented and acted upon. iManage believe that this version of the WorkSite software is a true electronic equivalent of a case file and provides an integrated view of documents, events, tasks and contacts for any matter. In addition, WorkSite 8 provides complete email management, data centralisation, intranet and extranet support and