

## Remembrances of Adolf Sprudz

### Douglas Baird\*

¶1 Mr. Sprudz (as we called him) presented himself shortly after the arrival of any new faculty member. In his soft-spoken and impeccably polite way, he suggested the parts of the international law collection that might be of interest. On my first day on the faculty, for example, Mr. Sprudz appeared in my office and introduced himself. He treated me with a deference that, at age twenty-six and only just out of school, was quite undeserved, but then he quickly cut to the chase. He knew of my interest in commercial law, and he had come armed with a new book on international letters of credit that he was sure I would want to read. Moreover, I was the ideal person to review it for the *International Journal of Law Libraries* (now the *International Journal of Legal Information*), of which he was then a senior editor. Thus, my first day as an assistant professor included both an introduction to Adolf Sprudz and, not coincidentally, the start of what was to be my first publication as a legal academic. A good beginning.

¶2 All of us watched with admiration how this wonderfully upbeat and careful man looked after and nourished his collection of international law with the dedication that would be the envy of any gardener. We took vicarious pride whenever visiting scholars arrived, inspected the portion of the collection devoted to their country's legal system, and discovered that it rivaled the law library they had left behind. Year in and year out, as budgets ebbed and flowed and as deans came and went, Mr. Sprudz and his collection always flourished.

¶3 He will be much missed.

### Gerhard Casper\*\*

¶1 Adolf Sprudz, foreign law librarian and lecturer in legal bibliography, came to the University of Chicago in August 1965. At that time, the law school library had initiated a development program that aimed at the in-depth acquisition of legal materials for the European Economic Community countries and some other selected areas of the world. The appointment of Mr. Sprudz was an essential step in the successful implementation of this program. The law school already possessed a particularly rich collection of French and German legal publications, inter alia, and a faculty that included several European-trained law professors. The most influential of these was Max Rheinstein, who was instrumental in the growth of the foreign and comparative law program at the University of Chicago. The partnership of Professor Rheinstein and Mr. Sprudz combined their great knowledge,

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\* Harry A. Bigelow Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago Law School, Chicago, Illinois. Dean of the University of Chicago Law School, 1994–99.

\*\* Professor of Law, President Emeritus, Stanford University. Dean of the University of Chicago Law School, 1979–87.

interests, and talents. Mr. Sprudz's ability to inspire faculty support led to the development of a comprehensive retrospective and current foreign and international law collection within the guidelines of the program. However, the real challenge to Adolf Sprudz's resourcefulness began in the early 1970s. As grant money became scarce, prices and the volume of legal publishing began a steady increase and the value of the dollar declined. Mr. Sprudz was realistic in his assessment of the possible support of the collection and focused the scope of the collection in the areas that were of long-term research interest at the University of Chicago. He worked hard to increase European alumni support and to maintain the friendship that the foreign law graduates feel for the University of Chicago. His close contacts with these alumni, as well as with other librarians and law teachers in Europe, often enabled the law library to acquire materials and obtain grants that would otherwise have been unavailable.

¶2 In addition, the law school faculty and students benefitted from Mr. Sprudz's outstanding bibliographic knowledge and his talents as a reference librarian. He also was responsible for the University of Chicago Law School Library Publication Series. Mr. Sprudz was well known for his work in the areas of treaties and international law research generally. His indexes and articles benefitted many librarians and scholars, both in this country and abroad.

¶3 The work of librarians rarely seems dramatic, but the cumulative impact often is. The result of Mr. Sprudz's efforts has been the development of a significant and extremely valuable research collection that was carefully crafted to meet the needs of the Chicago faculty and students. He worked successfully to expose and explain foreign and international legal sources to scholars and students and to keep interest in these areas growing.

¶4 On a more personal note, it was most satisfying to work with Mr. Sprudz ("Dolf" was not an option in our somewhat "European" relationship). His Latvian background and the years he spent in Belgium, as well as his travels, informed many discussions about world affairs, which proved him to be a shrewd observer of things political. As concerns Latvia, he was much shrewder than I was. He was, of course, intensely dedicated to its independence—a lost cause, if I had ever seen one, to my "pragmatic" and "realistic" mind. After the Baltic republics regained their sovereignty, I used our first face-to-face encounter to apologize for getting it wrong. He was as gracious as ever. Our colleagueship was one of the most pleasant aspects of my own twenty-six year affiliation with the University of Chicago.

### **Margareta Horiba\***

¶1 The beautiful city of Riga, hopeful, lived through its last wrenching stretch of time under the Soviet Union during those beautiful September days when the

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\* Acquisitions Librarian, Tulane University Law Library, New Orleans, Louisiana.

International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) and environmental scholars met there in 1990 for a program on the Baltic Sea, a dream come true for Dolf, although ill health unfortunately kept him away from many of the activities. It was for me the first of many IALL meetings in the company of law librarians from many parts of the world, a stimulating event like no other. Personally I found in Riga many reminders of my native Sweden, historical remains from the time when it dominated this area while exerting, I'd like to think, a gentler hand than the iron fist of this past century that ironically forced a man like Dolf into our midst.

¶2 A gentleman correct in brown tweeds, warm and generous with his time, often with a twinkle in his eye, Dolf was present at the meetings and in the exhibition hall at AALL when I was a novice law librarian, setting the standards as it were. He was there at the AALL Annual Meeting in San Diego in 1984 when the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Special Interest Section came into being. I think it was on that occasion he encouraged me to get involved.

¶3 At that time there was much concern about the aging generation of foreign law librarians, many of whom had arrived on the North American shores in the postwar years and were now retiring. How would a new generation be trained?<sup>1</sup> In the dynamic times we live in now when so much has changed for law librarians and in the field of legal information, I feel fortunate to have experienced the changing of the guard and realize that it was Dolf who made me feel that I, too, might have something to contribute. This realization cannot be taken lightly, for what we bestow on each other as human beings, in most cases unwittingly, by way of inspiration and encouragement, outlasts many a tangible gift.

¶4 I have a poster above my desk of the old city of Riga. In my mind the many spires ring out in tribute to Dolf Sprudz.

### **Timothy Kearley\***

¶1 I remember Dolf mainly as a kind person and wise mentor. Of course, he also was a serious scholar and one of the preeminent figures in foreign, comparative, and international law librarianship. However, it is his willingness to help introduce an ignorant newcomer (me) to the field he helped create that dominates my memories of him and for which I always will be grateful.

¶2 The University of Illinois appointed me foreign, comparative, and international law librarian in fall 1978 because I had taken a few relevant courses and because very few others had applied for the job. I was stepping into the shoes of

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1. See, e.g., *Losing Our International Resources: How to Prepare a New Generation of Law Librarians Specializing in Foreign, Comparative and International Law*, program presented at 80th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries, Chicago (July 8, 1987) (audiotape available from Mobiltape Co.).

\* Director of the Library and Professor of Law, University of Wyoming College of Law, Laramie, Wyoming.

Chin Kim, another noted figure in the field, as well as those of Dolf himself, who had done much to build Illinois's foreign law collection when he held the position from 1963 to 1965. While I knew a few things about Soviet law and about comparative social welfare systems (two of the courses I had taken), I hadn't a clue as to how to go about researching the law of Norwegian descent and distribution, the subject of the first reference question that came to me. After I floundered for a few hours (fortunately it was a telephone inquiry and I didn't have an impatient patron in front of me), a colleague suggested I call Dolf.

¶3 Even though we had not met, Dolf was cordial and enormously reassuring. He did not make me feel as if my call was an imposition or that I was a woefully uneducated neophyte. Instead, he treated me like a colleague in legitimate need of assistance and suggested several possible sources to check. In the following months and years, Dolf helped me deal with other research questions and suggested readings that basically amounted to a course in foreign and comparative legal bibliography. He was generous with his time and very patient. To ensure younger colleagues understand the magnitude of his generosity, please note that this was B.E. ("before e-mail") and thus you could not simply post queries to a discussion list for others to respond to as they had time; you actually had to interrupt someone's workday with your phone call seeking assistance.

¶4 After several years of this tutoring, Dolf apparently deemed me fit for public consumption and, as a result, involved me in the International Association of Law Libraries. When he served as president of IALL from 1986 to 1992, I served as secretary and worked closely with him on many projects. He had high standards and expected everyone he worked with to attend to detail as he did. I still remember Dolf calling my attention, like a disappointed father, to the fact that I had robbed him of the final "s" in his surname in some IALL publication I had produced. It was more my failure to meet the standards of professionalism he set that saddened him than it was an egotistical attachment to his name.

¶5 Dolf was an "old world" gentleman and scholar. He was formal and correct but also approachable and kind. To the extent I have been in a position to mentor anyone myself, I have tried to emulate Dolf. I think that is the tribute he would most appreciate from me.

### Lyonette Louis-Jacques\*

¶1 Mr. Sprūdžs was a mentor and a role model for me.

¶2 I first got to know Mr. Sprūdžs when I apprenticed with him early in my career as a new foreign and international legal reference librarian at the University of Minnesota. Kathie Price, then director at Minnesota, arranged a practicum for me with Mr. Sprūdžs at the University of Chicago Law Library so that I could learn

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\* Foreign and International Law Librarian and Lecturer in Law, D'Angelo Law Library, University of Chicago Law School, Chicago, Illinois.

the ropes. He had me look through foreign and international legal reference works and write notes on cards about them. Every day I would go up to his office on the sixth floor of the library and we would discuss these works. I started out by reviewing the *Yearbook of International Organizations*, then a print-only publication. He also showed me how he did foreign law selection—the tools he used, what he looked for. He would pull journal issues from a book truck and explain to me why he had these journals routed to him, and show me how to use book reviews and lists of books received to select books. As I continued in the profession, I used many of the tools he taught me about, including several that he had written himself on finding treaties and foreign legal abbreviations.

¶3 I worked at the University of Minnesota from 1986 to 1992. After accepting the offer in 1992 to replace Mr. Sprūdžs as foreign and international law librarian at the University of Chicago, I came to know him better, both as a person and as a librarian, because, though retired, he continued to come to work every day to pursue his scholarship. He regularly came down from his sixth floor office to ask how I was doing and about new things I was up to. Invariably I would mention some new electronic resource for finding foreign and international legal information, and he would shake his head in wonder at the resources now available. Then we both would bemoan the fact that these electronic resources didn't make access to current treaty information that much easier.

¶4 He would always ask about the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL). Was I going to the next meeting? Had I heard news of some IALL member? He had started a newsletter for members called the *IALL Messenger* when he was the association's president and was really pleased to discover that we now had an electronic discussion list (IALLMembers@lists.law.duke.edu) with which to share IALL news and other communications about areas of mutual interest among the membership. He still kept up with what was going on in the law library profession and, in particular, how people were doing.

¶5 Mr. Sprūdžs would also update me on his own activities. And they were impressive. Since I've been at the University of Chicago, he wrote a major book, *The Baltic Path to Independence*,<sup>1</sup> and several chapters in collections of essays, helped build several library collections, and received several prestigious service awards.<sup>2</sup> And he continued to keep his knowledge of new print resources in the field up-to-date. He was what I admired the most—a scholarly law librarian. He had substantive knowledge of the field and wrote bibliographic and substantive works on foreign and international law topics. He did not hoard information; he shared his knowledge with us all.

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1. THE BALTIC PATH TO INDEPENDENCE: AN INTERNATIONAL READER OF SELECTED ARTICLES (Adolf Sprudz ed., 1994).
  2. He received the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Law Libraries in 2000. In 2002, he received the the Order of Three Stars, 5th Class from the Latvian Special Presidential Council of the Order.

¶6 From working with Mr. Sprūdžs, I came to understand what a feat it was to create the research tools he did at a time of typewriters and no computers. And the guides he created are still relevant to foreign and international legal research today. He also had foresight and knowledge about building a collection of resources that I appreciate more and more each day. Recently, when I evaluated our holdings of core and classic materials on international relations, I realized what a good historical collection we already had. Mr. Sprūdžs had built it to include materials on U.S. foreign policy and international relations. He realized early on the importance of international relations to international law scholars and started building a collection that continues to serve our patrons well today.

¶7 Mr. Sprūdžs's scholarly output and the legacy he leaves is an inspiration. I hope that I can achieve half as much as he did in his lifetime and make the kind of contribution to the profession that he did.

¶8 Nu ar Dievu, Mr. Sprūdžs.

### **Ellen G. Schaffer\***

¶1 In the past days, after learning of Dolf's passing, I have been reminiscing about my first year as an international law librarian. Although I had worked as a reference librarian for quite a number of years, it had not been specifically in law or international law libraries. When I went to the University of Miami Law Library in 1982, I had lots to learn. Often, when asked a question that I did not know how to answer, I would calmly ask the patron to check back with me later and I would reach, not always as calmly, for the resources I had gathered to help me survive that first year in a new field. Dolf's publications, particularly those on treaty research, were prominently featured on my shelves and remained close at hand for many years. That first year would surely have been more difficult without his guidance, both written and oral. It is not always easy to remember, but times were certainly different then. I suppose that the most striking difference was the absence of the Internet. When I had questions, I turned to the telephone or wrote a letter asking for assistance or for a clarification. Dolf was always willing to offer his help.

¶2 Our profession's strengths include the personal contacts and assistance that are often offered by our colleagues. Dolf was such a colleague: a friend who was generous as a teacher and a specialist in a field that truly needed such leaders and mentors. He will be missed.

### **Lorna Tang\*\***

¶1 I first met Mr. Sprudz when he interviewed me for a cataloger's position at the

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\* Librarian, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Hamburg, Germany.

\*\* Associate Law Librarian for Technical Services, D'Angelo Law Library, University of Chicago Law School, Chicago, Illinois.

University of Chicago D'Angelo Law Library. He proudly introduced me to the excellent collection of foreign law materials in the library, and I was very impressed. After I started working, I continued to be amazed by his knowledge of United Nations documents and European Economic Community publications. Many times he helped me understand the relationships among publications from these organizations.

¶2 He always looked serious and talked with library staff with an official tone. In the law library we usually call each other by our first names, but Mr. Sprudz was always addressed as "Mr. Sprudz." If someone left out the final "s" in his last name, he would gently remind him or her that his last name ended with an "s."

¶3 When I attended the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries for the first time as an employee of the University of Chicago, I introduced myself to other conference attendees as coming from the University of Chicago Law Library. The usual responses were "Oh, you work with Mr. Adolf Sprudz." These reactions surprised and puzzled me. I had worked closely with many excellent law librarians, but for some reason, Mr. Sprudz seemed to be the one whom people knew best. Upon my return, I did a little research. I checked the library catalog and legal periodical indexes and found my answer. Mr. Sprudz had worked on many important publications, and served on many law library-related committees and organizations. He was nationally and internationally known for his work, and other law librarians associated him closely with the University of Chicago.

¶4 At the Annual Meetings, I also saw a side of Mr. Sprudz that was totally hidden from his colleagues at the University of Chicago. Mr. Sprudz was an excellent speaker. His presentations were always informative and dotted with humor. He was always busy networking with other law librarians. The Annual Meeting always ends with a banquet and a dance. Most of us quietly watch others dancing, but not Mr. Sprudz. He was always very active and had a wonderful time dancing with the ladies.

¶5 Mr. Sprudz was a model for all law librarians. We will miss not only his knowledge, but also his passion for the profession.

### **Dan Wade\***

¶1 I am writing this having just returned from the first major antiwar march in New York City after the United States invasion of Iraq, which took place on March 22, 2003. Perhaps the most important lesson that Dolf and the other Eastern European emigres who were in the prior generation of foreign and international law librarians (e.g., Igor Kavass, Blanka Kudej, and Marta Tarnawsky) have taught me,

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\* Associate Librarian for Foreign and International Law and Lecturer, Lillian Goldman Library, Yale Law School, New Haven, Connecticut.

though I have only learned it slowly with age, is that you can love your country immensely and not agree at all with its politics and foreign policy. There was something about this generation that truly endeared them to us. They seemed to be particularly forthcoming and giving of themselves, and their very lives were intimately connected with Europe. I only wish Dolf were still here so that I could ask when it is time to leave your country and its harmful policies.

¶2 I entered the profession in 1982, taking a position as government documents and international law librarian at Vanderbilt under Professor Igor Kavass who was then collaborating with Dolf on treaty indexing and working on the first editions of *A Guide to the United States Treaties in Force*<sup>1</sup> and the *Current Treaty Index*.<sup>2</sup> Igor must have mentioned to Dolf that he had hired an ignorant but enthusiastic would-be foreign and international law librarian, and Dolf in turn wrote a warm letter welcoming me to the profession and offering to be of assistance in any way that he could. In the course of that year, we exchanged correspondence and discussed some of the finer points of treaty indexing.

¶3 In fact, whenever I met Dolf in subsequent years at meetings of the American Association of Law Libraries or the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL), he was always very gracious and friendly. He was a wonderful host when I visited him once at his workplace in Chicago. I have always thought of him as “Professor” Sprudz and always looked up to him as an expert, but, in truth, his personality was such that he received me more as a colleague than a student. But it was really from Dolf’s writings, with their catchy titles and depth of understanding,<sup>3</sup> that I grew to become a foreign and international law librarian. In the early 1980s there was not a substantial amount of literature on foreign and international legal research; and after the introductory article in a research manual such as *How to Find the Law*,<sup>4</sup> I turned to Dolf’s articles that were later collected in *International Legal Research Perspectives*.<sup>5</sup> They provided the groundwork for my education in the field, and I owe much to him for my career. By his kindness and enabling spirit, Dolf was a wonderful mentor, and I only hope that I can follow his example and can make the way easier for those who will follow me as foreign and international law librarians.

¶4 I was last with Dolf after his retirement at the Annual Course of IALL in Rome. We were so glad to have him with us. He had been so involved with the organization in earlier years. His very presence made the meeting special. It is on the shoulders of giants such as him that our profession will thrive in the twenty-first century.

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1. A GUIDE TO THE UNITED STATES TREATIES IN FORCE (Igor I. Kavass & Adolf Sprudz eds., 1982).
  2. IGOR I. KAVASS & ADOLF SPRUDZS, CURRENT TREATY INDEX (1982).
  3. E.g., Adolf Sprudz, *Problems with Sources of Information in International Law and Relations: The Case of the World-Wide Treaty Jungle*, 9 INT’L J.L. LIBR. 195 (1981); Adolf Sprudz, *International Legal Research: An Infinite Paper Chase*, 16 VAND. J. TRANSNAT’L L. 521 (1983).
  4. MORRIS L. COHEN & ROBERT C. BERRING, HOW TO FIND THE LAW (8th ed. 1983).
  5. ADOLF SPRUDZS, INTERNATIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES (1988).