

*AALL Centennial Feature**

Professor in Profile: Julius J. Marke**

After serving his alma mater, New York University School of Law, as legal reference librarian (1942–43) and assistant librarian (1946–48), Julius J. Marke joined the school’s faculty as assistant professor and librarian in 1948. He was promoted to full professor and librarian in 1952 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1983, when he was named professor of law emeritus. Along the way, he became a vital and well-loved fixture on the faculty, a fact borne out by a “Professor in Profile” article about him that appeared in the New York University Law Center Bulletin in 1961.

¶1 The faculty of the School of Law is a heterogeneous lot, as any reader of the “Professor in Profile” series is in a position to know. We have bucolic commuters and city dwellers who find a cricket’s chirping a soul-shattering sound. We have “liberals,” “conservatives,” “eclectics”; subtle philosophers and worldly men and hard-headed dispensers of rules of law. There are men on the faculty who can build a boat or a house or paint a picture or carve a piece of wood, and others who find an electric light switch complicated.

¶2 They are a richly assorted group, duplicating in small the infinite variety of the society surrounding them. But unlike that society, which some think is aimed for perdition because of its lack of a “common purpose,” the law faculty has a standard round which every member can repair with the greatest enthusiasm: Julius Marke.

¶3 From the dean, the associate deans, the assistant dean, the department heads, down to the humblest instructor smarting under a burdensome assignment—one observes a unique strain of unity, expressed, it is true, in varying tones, from condescending fondness to fervent admiration, but all saying what really amounts to the same thing: Jule Marke is a gem, a great guy, priceless, the best librarian in the world, our indispensable man.

* *Editor’s Note:* The American Association of Law Libraries was founded on July 2, 1906, by a handful of law librarians who met during the annual conference of the American Library Association at Narragansett Pier, Rhode Island. To commemorate the AALL Centennial that will be celebrated with a yearlong series of events and activities in 2005–06, culminating at the 2006 Annual Meeting in St. Louis, *Law Library Journal* is including an “AALL Centennial Feature” article in each issue published through 2006. While the focus common to each article is the history of law libraries, law librarianship, and AALL, the specific topics vary according to the interests of authors and readers. Individuals interested in contributing a “Centennial Feature” article should contact Frank G. Houdek, Editor, *Law Library Journal*, Southern Illinois University School of Law, Lesar Law Bldg., Mail Code 6803, Carbondale, IL 62901-6803, (618) 453-8788, houdek@siu.edu.

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¶4 And the opinion is not confined to the faculty. Professor Marke is the first man in the history of the Association of American Law Libraries [sic] to be drafted for two successive terms as Program Chairman of its national convention.¹ Legal publishers compete for his services as an author. Professor Arthur John Keefe [sic] of Catholic University, in reviewing Jule's book, *Dean's List of Recommended Reading for Pre-Law and Law Students* (easily the most interesting and readable bibliography printed in many a year), introduced him as "the world's greatest law librarian."²

Bushels of Books

¶5 It's not just a matter of "to know him is to love him," although that plays a strong part. People tend to like Jule instantly and find their affection growing as they get to know him better. But the main thing is that he's good at his work, so good as a librarian that it's almost unbelievable, especially when one reflects upon the cheerful and friendly way he meets every exigency. He actually believes in service—ungrudging, voluntary, supreme helpfulness is his way of life.

¶6 Professor Edmond Cahn—no man to throw compliments around heedlessly—makes one substantial acknowledgment in his new book, *The Predicament of Democratic Man* (Macmillan, 1961). He says:

Ever since I became a member of the faculty of New York University, Professor Julius Marke, Librarian of the School of Law, has increased the joys and reduced the discomforts of my research by his unfailing cooperation. It is a pleasure to express my grateful appreciation. As every scholar knows, a dedicated librarian is the salt of the earth.³

¶7 Assistant Dean George Williams says he thinks twice about informing Jule that he is embarking on a writing project. "First thing you know, " says George, "Jule's got bushels of books up here, surrounding me, inundating me!"

¶8 Jule loves books, and he has a powerful drive toward being helpful to people. Better qualifications than these for a librarian there aren't. Completing his qualifications, Julius has had a lot more experience in libraries than one might suspect. He was a librarian long before he took over the law library of the School of Law.

¶9 The celebrated Room 313 of the New York Public Library at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street was Jule's training ground. For ten years—covering the last two

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1. *Editor's Note*: Julius J. Marke served as program chair for the 1959 and 1965 Annual Meetings, both held in New York City. He also served as local arrangements chair for the 1948 Annual Meeting held in New York City. Although he didn't serve two "successive" terms as program chair, he remains the only individual to serve in that capacity on more than one occasion.
 2. *Editor's Note*: Arthur John Keefe, Book Review, 44 A.B.A. J. 563, 564 (1958). Keefe also wrote that "[w]henver Julius J. Marke . . . writes, I am a sure reader. . . . [His] annotated edition of the law collection in the New York University Law Library . . . is a magnificent job and ought to be on the desk of every lawyer in America so that he would have at his fingertips an intelligent guide to legal articles and books available on each subject he researches." *Id.* at 563.
 3. EDMOND CAHN, *THE PREDICAMENT OF DEMOCRATIC MAN* 194 (1961).

years of high school, four years at City College, law school—and two years more—Jule was in charge of this world-famed collection of books and materials on art, ranging from architecture, through interior decorating, sculpture and stage design, to tapestries. Working there evenings and Sundays from 1929 to 1939, he met and served some of the most noted artists and art critics in the world. Stage personalities were frequent visitors to Room 313. Julius remembers the Lunts with special fondness.

A Dedicated Librarian

¶10 His theory and practice of service apparently matured at an early date. In order to serve the clientele of Room 313 adequately, Jule recalls, he spent a great deal of time and energy reading art literature and analyzing works of art. Only by becoming an art expert himself, he felt, could he handle the affairs of Room 313 with the requisite skill.

¶11 It is just possible that Jule's vocation for art had a deeper source than his desire to do justice to Room 313's materials. His father, who emigrated from Russia at age fifteen, was a skilful clothing designer. Among Jule's earliest and best memories is that of his father sketching away while the kids were raising hell in their Bronx apartment.

¶12 Jule is a born, bred, and committed New Yorker. Although the family lived for several years in the Bronx, he was born in the Mt. Morris Park area, around 110th Street, just east of Fifth Avenue. Julius has toyed with the idea of moving to the suburbs, but has never actually moved. He lives now, with his wife Sylvia and daughter "Lisie," within walking distance of the School of Law. The people who know him best consider it doubtful that he will ever voluntarily move his residence from this island. He has had the chance to take over other law libraries, some in more eligible climates than ours. Having declined all offers in the past, he is not likely to move in the foreseeable future.

¶13 His interest in the School of Law's library is about as close to proprietary as it may well be, without legal title. As far back as 1942, after earning a B.S. in Library Science from Columbia, he served as reference librarian here at the School of Law. After being mustered out of the Army, late in 1945, he came back as Acting Assistant Librarian. By 1950 he was the Librarian. He worked closely with the architects in designing Vanderbilt Hall's law library. It was his philosophy in action which saw to it that the library was moved from the old Main Building to Vanderbilt Hall without the loss of even an hour of service.

¶14 Under Jule's administration, the law library has more than doubled its holdings, from 70,000 to over 175,000 volumes. And that is by no means a solitary achievement. There is much more, but let the rest be postponed till we inspect Sergeant Marke's career in the Army of the United States during World War II.

¶15 Those who know Jule best will agree with his modest disclaimer—"I am not a warlike man." Obviously—he likes people too much; he'd rather help a man

than hit him, much less shoot him. Nevertheless, this citizen-soldier, along with a good many others, it is true, threw and dodged a number of bullets.

¶16 At first it seemed as if it might be a quiet war for Julius. Three and a half months after entering the Army he was assigned to the 20th Corps Headquarters Commandant, in the military police, as assistant to Colonel Napoleon A. Racicot. Soon thereafter (in the fall of 1943) Julius was on his way to England with twenty-one other men in an advance team to prepare for the arrival of the 20th Corps. The team included eleven officers, ranging upward from major; there were ten master-sergeants; and there was Julius, a corporal. When there were chores to be done, you know who had to do them.

¶17 They went over on the Queen Elizabeth—unescorted—but they made it all right and got to work, preparing things for the 20th Corps' arrival in March of 1944. As the nucleus of the Third Army, the old 20th became known as its first corps. Julius spent the rest of the war in the Headquarters Commandant, crossing the channel on D-Day plus 20. Twenty days later he was in Fontainebleu, then on to Metz, from there to the Saar Valley. Moving swiftly toward Berlin, Julius recalls, his group was ordered to change directions. They were shunted toward Bavaria in order to let the Russians reach Berlin first. When they kept plowing on toward Austria and Czecho-Slovakia, they were again ordered to halt, so that the Russians could occupy those territories.

¶18 As a member of the advance team of the 20th Corps Headquarters Commandant, Jule's job was to find a spot for the command post at the verge of the most advanced position which our assault troops had reached. More often than not, our most advanced position was beyond the enemy's line of retreat. No wonder then that Julius and the rest of the crew did their looking with tommy-guns at the ready. Often the spot they hit upon for a command post was surrounded by the retreating enemy. Julius earned four battle stars and a Bronze Star for his armed searching. His final rank was Tech Sergeant.

¶19 All along, almost from the day he got into the Army, Jule had been trying to get admitted to officers' training. His application was finally approved—after V-E Day. Julius elected then, however, to stay with the Third Army, which became the Army of Occupation, for he then had the chance to see and enjoy Europe with no bullets or shells blocking the view. He was stationed in Bavaria, near Oberammergau and Starnburg See, and life there was good for our conquering hero.

¶20 Jule had a villa, with all the accessories, in one of the most beautiful resort areas of Europe. More than that, in the months between V-E Day and November 1945, when he was mustered out, he managed to take several trips, including one to the French Riviera. It was a good time for the ex-custodian of Room 313.

Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch . . .

¶21 Back in August of 1945, Jule had heard from New York University, an inquiry as to whether or not he wanted to come back to the library. His answer was an

immediate and enthusiastic “yes!” So, in December 1945, he was back, with the title “Acting Assistant Librarian.” By February of 1946 the “Acting” had been dropped. He was then simply “Assistant Librarian.” (The Librarian was Professor Laurence P. Simpson, believe it or not.)

¶22 The first thing Dean Arthur T. Vanderbilt asked him to do, Jule recalls, was to classify and catalogue the entire law collection, which was then in a chaotic state. By the spring of 1948 that job was done, and Jule thought that he was “done,” too, for he had put in something like 80 to 90 hours a week for two years in this prodigious undertaking.

¶23 But that was only the beginning. Next, Dean Vanderbilt wanted an annotated catalogue of the library’s holdings. When Jule asked when the Dean wanted *that*, his answer was: “You still don’t know me very well, Julius. I want it yesterday.” They settled on Christmas as the completion date. For years thereafter Judge Vanderbilt, in recounting the story, always laughed when he remarked that he had forgotten to stipulate which Christmas. This extraordinary and still unique enterprise Julius finally completed in 1953. “Monumental” is a modest way to describe it.

¶24 By then it was becoming obvious to many that New York University had something pretty special in the Librarian of the School of Law. Julius became one of the mainstays of the Association of American Law Libraries [sic]—an officer for many years, chairman of its most important committees, and, as already mentioned, the only man ever to serve twice as program chairman of its national convention.

¶25 If it is good for a librarian to love books, then Julius has one of the prime qualifications. He not only buys and distributes many books, as all librarians do, but he also writes and publishes and edits books, as few librarians do. The “Docket Series” is Jule’s creation. Not only did he get the idea of this series of books on law; he also contributed the first one, the immensely successful “Holmes Reader.”⁴ We have already mentioned Jule’s “Deans’ List” which contains recommended reading for law students. Soon to be published is a companion work which Jule has compiled of the 100 best titles for lawyers to read.

¶26 There seems to be no end to the man’s output. Neglecting countless other activities, we must mention two. Julius has been serving as chairman of a committee to prepare a reading list for use by foreign lawyers and librarians on the Anglo-American legal system. This bibliography has been approved by the International Association of Law Libraries and will be published this year.

¶27 The other Marke production is especially dear to the staff and the readers of this *Bulletin*. We speak of course now about the articles which Julius contributes to each issue of the *Bulletin*. Some day he hopes to expand and combine them into

4. THE HOLMES READER: THE LIFE WRITINGS, SPEECHES, CONSTITUTIONAL DECISIONS, ETC., OF THE LATE OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, AS WELL AS AN EVALUATION OF HIS WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS BY EMINENT AUTHORITIES (Julius J. Marke ed., 1955).

a book, and he welcomes comments and suggestions from the readers (which may be addressed directly to him).

¶28 As a full professor in the School of Law, Julius plays an important academic role, in addition to his functions as writer, editor, executive, administrator, and librarian. He is in charge of the School's Introductory Seminar Program and does a great deal of lecturing, especially on legal research.

¶29 By now it should be as evident to the readers as it is to the writer of this piece that we have been looking at a remarkable man: friendly, amiable, prolific, hardworking, responsible, universally well liked. The complimentary adjectives get quite a workout when Julius Marke is the subject.