

Ivan Sipkov 1917–1993

THE INTERNATIONAL Association of Law Libraries has lost a dear friend and devoted supporter. Ivan Sipkov, past secretary and treasurer of the association, senior editor of the *International Journal of Legal Information*, died at his home in Washington, D.C., on March 9. At the time of his death, Dr. Sipkov was the first vice-president of the International Association of Law Libraries and vice-president of the Institute for International Legal Information.

Dr. Sipkov was born in Sofia, Bulgaria in 1917, and received his LL.B. from the Sofia University School of Law in 1940. He was admitted to the Bar in Sofia and continued his studies at the Berlin University School of Law where he received his M.A. in 1943. From 1944 to 1947 he entered the Innsbruck University School of Law in Innsbruck, Austria and received the Dr.Jur. degree. After emigrating to the United States, he studied law at George Washington School of Law from 1953 to 1955, and was awarded the degree of Master of Comparative Law.

In 1952 Dr. Sipkov began a long and distinguished career in the service of the United States Government, at first with the Department of State and then as a legal analyst for the Mid-European Law Project in the Library of Congress. In 1960 he became a legal specialist in the European Law Division and rose to become its chief in 1981.

He was a member of several professional organizations, including the International Association of Law Libraries, the American Association of Law Libraries, the American Society of International Law, the Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C., the Institute for International Legal Information, and the Advisory Board of the International Library Exchange Center. He was a legal scholar who contributed numerous books, articles, and reviews to the literature of law and legal bibliography. His works on Bulgarian law are considered the most authoritative for that country.

An enthusiastic traveler, Dr. Sipkov attended numerous library conferences around the world, and authored numerous articles and government publications. He was effortlessly multilingual and was possessed of a native charm and an eagerness to help all those who sought his guidance. He will also be remembered for his love of flowers and his enjoyment of coin collecting. But the memories which I will personally treasure involve his collection of bottle openers. Several members of the Board of Editors of the *International Journal of Legal Information* sent him various specimens

from around the world, and it gave him great pleasure to add these to his collection, which was a unique reflection of the Ivan Sipkov we knew and enjoyed so much.

Dr. Sipkov is survived by his wife, Bojanka Tonchev Sipkov; three children: Elizabeth Sipkov, Philip John Sipkov, and Margaret Taylor; and three grandchildren.

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