

MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

William R. Roalfe (1896-1979): A Tribute

After a long illness, William R. Roalfe, the principal founder and from 1959 to 1962 the first president of the IALL and its honorary member, passed away on July 22, 1979 in his retirement home in San Diego, California, where he had moved from Chicago in 1970.

The IALL was founded on June 24, 1959 at a meeting at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York which had been prepared by a special committee of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) under the chairmanship of Professor Roalfe. He had been the driving force in the establishment of that committee which, in view of the constantly increasing interest in foreign and international law, investigated the problem of new channels of communication and co-operation between the institutions which had the responsibility for the organization and servicing of legal materials on an international basis. For William R. Roalfe, the founding of the IALL was the outgrowth of a long standing interest in the field of international relations. For many years he was active in the American Association for the United Nations for which he filled numerous speaking and writing assignments. At one time he was a member of the board of governors of the Association.

When Roalfe became the first president of the IALL, he was Law Librarian and Professor of Law at Northwestern University. He came to Northwestern in 1946 and at that time already he was acclaimed "one of the foremost law librarians" in the USA. From 1935 to 1936 he had been president of the AALL where his bold and innovative leadership had launched an unprecedented "decade of progress" in the field of law librarianship. The famous "Roalfe Expansion Plan", e.g., which he had inaugurated in 1931, had a long and lasting influence on the development of the profession.

Born in 1896, William R. Roalfe received his LL.B. from the University of Southern California where he was law librarian from 1927 to 1930. Before coming to Northwestern, he was from 1931 to 1946 law librarian at Duke University. He retired from Northwestern University in 1964. Both at the University of Southern California and at Duke University Roalfe substantially improved the collections and expanded law library service. At Northwestern he directed a reorganization in the administration of the service and achieved a significant expansion of the collections, especially also in the fields of international and foreign law. During World War II he served with a government agency in Washington, D.C. In 1959, Temple University conferred upon him the honorary degree of LL.D. and in the same year the AALL awarded him a citation which lauds him as an "administrator par excellence" and cites his "outstanding leadership and dedicated service".

Very early in his professional career Roalfe had been active in promoting regional cooperation, the importance of which he continued to emphasize. Later he was a leader in discussions on vital problems of law librarianship. His excellent book *The Libraries of the Legal Profession* (1953) stands as a landmark in the field of American law librarianship. In addition, Roalfe was the general editor of the fifth and sixth editions of *How to Find the Law* (1957 and 1965) and the author of numerous outstanding articles. In 1977 his book *John Henry Wigmore: Scholar and Reformer* was published, the first biography of one of the pre-eminent leaders in the field of Anglo-American law who also was world wide known for his interest in international and Japanese law.

Personally, Bob Roalfe was known for his human interests, his kindness, his love of nature, his gentle sense of humor and his warm feelings which he expressed in a volume of poems, *Public Utterances* (published in 1976).

Roalfe's record as the first president of the IALL was outstanding. He developed its first program which culminated in the Harvard Law School Meeting of June 24-25, 1961 (its *Proceedings* were published in 1962) and set the pattern for much of the later activities of the IALL.

It was only fitting that, in 1965, William R. Roalfe was selected honorary member of the International Association of Law Libraries, the only person so honored. He will be sorely missed by his family, his friends and by the profession.

KURT SCHWERIN
 Professor of Law Emeritus
 & Law Librarian Emeritus
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 (IALL Board of Directors, 1965-1971)

Kate Wallach (1905-1979): An Obituary

Kate Wallach, Law Librarian and Professor Emerita at Louisiana State University, died at her home in Baton Rouge on 27 December 1979. A distinguished member of the International Association of Law Libraries, Kate Wallach was born in Krefeld, Germany, in 1905. She received her law degree from the University of Cologne in 1931, and two years later was admitted to practice in Berlin.

The political situation in Germany forced her to emigrate to the United States in 1935, where she worked initially on drafts of the *Restatement of Torts* under Professor Harry Shulman of Yale University. She subsequently studied law at the University of Wisconsin, served on the Editorial Board of the *Law Review*, and had received her second law