

proper perspective and dimension. Moreover, they seem to suggest that the profession itself, despite the diversities of its members, is gradually finding its own identity and is becoming increasingly aware of its particular mission.

It is becoming transparent that, irrespective of his country's political or socio-economic system, the law librarian is working at a crucial juncture of society. Internationalist by profession, unprejudiced by education, pragmatic by the nature of his work, and sceptic by daily experiencing the discrepancy between idea and reality, he does not expect or pretend, that the rule of law alone will ever govern the conduct of men and their relations with each other. He does not believe in Heaven on earth. But he knows, that life on this planet would turn into Hell, if mankind would ever give up its quest for law and justice, of which his own work is an indispensable part.

It is and remains one for our common tasks, to draw our clients' attention to these basic connections and to the necessary consequences thereof. The chances to be heard and understood are not bad. Which one of society's groups or segments would not have to be counted among our clients, in the first place? And then, recent experiences in a number of countries show that university boards, chief justices and administrators *will* be listening, that firms, public and private institutions and governments *will* eventually be responsive to our needs, which are, after all, in the last resort their own, if we persist and are not discouraged, should nine out of ten answers be negative or evasive in the beginning.

The sobering survey of the present state of law librarianship in the world, presented during our Association's meeting in Oslo this summer, should challenge and mobilize every member of this profession. Today, it is not enough anymore, to do one's work in seclusion as good as the circumstances permit. It is necessary, in addition, that we make known, through individual and collective action, the need for law library improvement, everyone in his own specific terms. This is part of our responsibility. If *we* do not take the initiative, who else should?

Random thoughts in front of a fascinating photograph. But I am dragged away. It is well past midnight and it starts to drizzle. *Gerhard J. Dahlmanns*

Editorial Note

Due to technical difficulties in composing the bibliography on the law of the European Communities, the publication of this issue has been slightly delayed.

As the annotated bibliography will be a valuable reference tool for our readers, we decided to delay the publication of this issue rather than to have it appear without this listing. *K. M.*