

# LH&RB

*Newsletter of the Legal History & Rare Books  
Special Interest Section of the  
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## From My Commonplace Book

Morris Cohen

"It is not easy thus to turn human beings into lawyers. Neither is it safe.....None the less, it is an almost impossible process to achieve the technique without sacrificing some humanity first."

Karl N. Llewellyn, *The Bramble Bush* (1930), p.102-103.

"I had studied law an entire week, and then given it up because it was so prosy and tiresome."

Mark Twain, *Roughing It* (1872).

"The end of the law is peace. The means to that end is war. So long as the law is compelled to hold itself in readiness to resist the attacks of wrong and this it will be compelled to do until the end of time it cannot dispense with war. The life of the law is a struggle, - a struggle of nations, of the state power, of classes, of individuals.

All the law in the world has been obtained by strife. Every principle of law which obtains had first to be wrung by force from those who denied it; and every legal right the legal rights of a whole nation as well as those of individuals supposes a continual readiness to assert it and defend it. The law is not mere theory, but living force. And hence it is that Justice which, in one hand, holds the scales, in which she weighs the right, carries in the other the sword without the scales is brute force, the scales without the sword is the impotence of law. The scales and the sword belong together, and the state of the law is perfect only where the power with which Justice carries the sword is equaled by the skill with which she holds the scales."

R. von Jhering, *The Struggle for Law* (1915), p. 1-2.

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## From the Chair

Robert Mead

LHRB-SIS has a number of exciting activities planned for the Annual Meeting next month. As previously announced in this column, the SIS had three educational programs selected this year. Unfortunately, two of them conflict, so we encourage you to choose the one that interests you the most and attend! I also strongly encourage you to attend both the LHRB-SIS Business Meeting and Roundtable. There are abundant opportunities to get involved in LHRB projects that are both interesting and important.

*B-1: Deadwood: The Power of Film to Teach Foundations in Native American Treaty Law and United States Territorial Law* is scheduled for Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, from 2:45 to 4:00 p.m. Laura Ray, Victoria Sutton, and I will examine the legal issues presented in the *Deadwood* HBO series along with the potential for using such series as tools for educational enhancement. The program is co-sponsored by the Micrographics/Audio-Visual SIS and the Native Peoples Law Caucus.

*B-2: Los Archivos de las Indias: Judicial and Legislative Information on the Spanish Colonial Period in the United States* is scheduled at the same time. Chris Vallandingham and Bruce Chappell from the University of Florida will describe the process for researching Spanish colonial law and the available sources. This topic is of particular relevance in Texas, along with other western and southern states, given the impact that Spanish law continues to have on issues such as water rights, land grants, and family law.

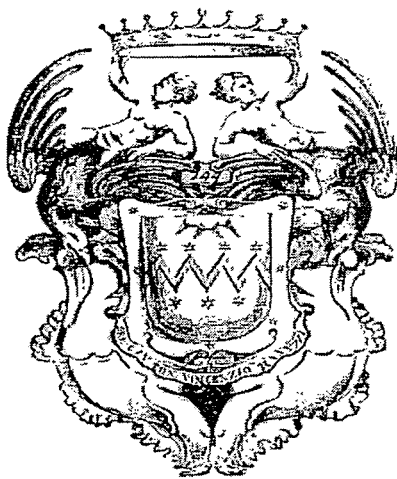
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*L-3 Values, Video, and Vignettes: Using Video Oral History Techniques to Document the Unwritten Histories of AALL* is scheduled for Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. Laura Ray and John Pedini will address some of the key techniques for using video to capture oral history interviews. The goal is to gather a group of volunteers to conduct oral histories of key people in AALL for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in St. Louis. This program is co-sponsored by LHRB and the Micrographics/Audio-Visual SIS in conjunction with AALL's Centennial Committee.

The LHRB-SIS Business Meeting is on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 6:30. There are a number of issues to discuss, including the creation of a legal history essay contest, amending the bylaws to allow electronic voting and better incorporate archives into the SIS, and plans for celebrating AALL's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in St. Louis. A group of us are planning to go to dinner together afterwards prior to the Opening Reception, so please join us!

The LHRB-SIS Roundtable is on Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, from 10:15 to 11:30. This presents an opportunity for planning two important projects - the video-oral history of AALL project and the legal history essay contest. Additionally, there will be time for discussion of other potential projects for the SIS.



## Karen Beck Elected LH&RB Vice Chair/Chair Elect

Karen S. Beck of the Boston College Law Library has been unanimously elected as Vice-Chair/Chair Elect of the Legal History Rare Book Special Interest Section for 2005-2006. She will be Chair of the SIS in 2006-2007.

Karen is the Curator of Rare Books and Legal Information Librarian and Lecturer in Law at the Boston College Law Library, where she has worked since 1996. She received her B.A. in English from Pomona College, her J.D. from the University of Southern California, and her M.L.S. from UCLA. She has been a member of AALL since 1992, and is currently a member of the Research Committee. She has been a member of the LHRB-SIS since 1996 and served as interim Secretary/Treasurer in 1999-2000.

Beck's presentations on the topic of legal history and rare book librarianship include "Creating and Maintaining Legal History Collections: Collection Development and Analysis Issues for the Law Librarian" (AALL 2004), "Toward a Research Agenda for Legal History: Some Modest Proposals" (AALL 2002), "Law Student Notebooks and the History of Nineteenth-Century Legal Education" (LLNE 2000), and the 1998 AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers program, where she presented her article and bibliography, "One Step at a Time: The Research Value of Law Student Notebooks," in 1998. She has written several other publications on legal history and historical legal bibliography, and is currently writing a book about the private law libraries of nineteenth-century lawyers.

The final election tally was 78 votes for Karen, none opposed and no write-in candidates.

Congratulations Karen!

-Robert Mead