

IN MEMORIAM

SEYMOUR J. RUBIN*

We have lost this Society's former executive director and our good friend, Seymour J. Rubin, who died from congestive heart failure and other complications on March 11, 2003, at the age of eighty-eight. Alas, I have only a very short time to tell you about Sy's very full life.

If I had an hour, I would begin with his long academic career and skills as a professor. I would recount his role as mentor to so many in this room and around the world.

Had I just thirty minutes, I would start with Sy's public service—as a law clerk to the other Judge Hand and then at the SEC, the Office of Price Administration, the State Department, Agency for International Development, and as a delegate to the Inter-American Juridical Committee. I would tell you all about his luncheon a few years ago with my daughter, Hannah, while she was working for the Swiss Historical Commission. Sy presented Hannah with a remarkable, balanced, thorough and philosophical account of the Nazi gold controversy that arose fifty years after the negotiations in which he had played such a key role. Hannah helped me prepare these thoughts. Or I would tell you the story that Ben Ferencz told me last night about Sy in The Hague in the early 1950s helping the American Jewish Committee negotiate the Israel-West Germany agreement for post-war reparations.

If had fifteen minutes, I would focus on how Sy realized that the American Society of International Law could survive only if it had a solid endowment. I would review how he persuaded us that the ASIL could, in fact, raise serious money. In a few years, and largely through his tenacity, the Society had raised a million uninflated dollars. I am convinced that the Society as we know it today exists only because of that funding at that time and the growing ASIL program that he advocated.

And now I have only seconds left. So let me conclude by remembering how deeply Sy cared about international law—not only to preserve peace but also to promote prosperity for the disadvantaged in the world community. He never pulled his punches when taking a stand on any issue but he always did it with a twinkle in his eye. That was why it was such fun to work and be with him. Finally, I personally long admired Sy because he strove ceaselessly to enjoy every minute of every day, especially with his beloved Janet.

We shall miss our friend Seymour Rubin. He touched us in so many ways and gave so much to this Society. May Sy's memory long remain a source of strength and inspiration to each of us.

PETER D. TROBOFF
April 3, 2003

* This tribute to Sy Rubin was omitted inadvertently from the *Proceedings* of the 97th Annual Meeting.