

Lotte Kunz 1924-1999

On April 1, 1999 our colleague, Lic.jur. Lotte Kunz, unexpectedly passed away at the age of 75. She died of a stroke at her home in Bern, Switzerland.

"Lotty," as she used to be called by her friends, was born in Olten, the capital of the Swiss canton of Solothurn, on August 16, 1924. In 1935 the family moved to Bern. There she went to the "Städtisches Gymnasium" (the City Grammar School), from which she graduated in 1943 with "Matura Type B."¹ Law studies at the Universities of Bern and Zurich followed. She finished in 1948 with a licentiate of law. From 1949 to 1956 she worked as a private secretary for a Swiss industrialist. Thus, she came into contact with many companies and banks in Switzerland and abroad. In 1956, Lotty changed to the field of books and libraries and became in charge of the Law Library of the University of Bern. In 1967 she introduced a new classification system for this library which proved so successful that today the City and University Library of Bern is considering adopting it for its open access area. After her retirement in 1987, Lotty did some part-time work for the Library of the Swiss Federal Department of Justice in Bern until 1997.

Aside from these professional duties, Lotty devoted much time to useful extracurricular activities on behalf of her colleagues, and was involved professionally on three levels, in interconnecting the activities of these library associations:

1. For a number of years, until her death, she was active in the Swiss "Arbeitsgruppe Rechtsbibliothekare" (Working Group of Law Librarians).² She was among the founders in 1974 and served as Co-

¹ Latin, English and French.

² Recently this Association was renamed "Vereinigung juristischer Bibliotheken der Schweiz", which is a chapter of the Association of Libraries and Librarians of Switzerland (Verband der Bibliotheken und der Bibliothekarinnen/Bibliothekare der Schweiz).

President³ for the years 1982-1990. This was much longer than the term of two years for the Co-Presidents of recent years and a sign of how difficult it was to replace her. She published a well-documented article on the history and work of this Association⁴ and several annual reports of the meetings.⁵ She had already registered to attend the annual meeting in Lausanne on April 22 and 23, 1999, but her wish to participate did not come true. The void was deeply felt by all participants.

2. Lotty was an active member of the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft für juristisches Bibliotheks- und Dokumentationswesen (AjBD)," founded in 1971. AjBD is both the law library association of the German-speaking countries, and the German-speaking section of IALL. Lotty was the first non-German member of the AjBD Board of Directors. She represented the Swiss colleagues on the Board from 1988 to 1996.⁶ In 1995 she organized a Board meeting in Bern, followed by some walks in the old city and an excursion to the surroundings, which were very much enjoyed by all participants. I met her for the last time at the "Bibliothekartag" (German Librarians' Conference) in Erlangen in May 1996, when she and I — both retired law librarians then — made good on our decision no longer to hold AjBD Board office in order to make way for younger colleagues.

3. For many years Lotty was a personal member of the IALL, most probably because she believed in the idea of the IALL. But she was never able to persuade her Institute Director that the Library, which had mostly books on Swiss law, should join the IALL as an institutional member.

³ The Association has two Presidents, one from the German-speaking part, the other from the French-speaking part of Switzerland. Bern, where Lotty lived and worked, is situated in the German-speaking part of the country.

⁴ KUNZ: Vom Debattierclub zum Datenlieferanten. Die Entwicklung der schweizerischen Arbeitsgruppe Rechtsbibliothekare, aus den Quellen zusammengestellt. In: *Bibliothek und Recht - international. Libraries and law - international. Festschrift Ralph Lansky*. Ed. by JÜRGEN C. GÖDAN, HOLGER KNUDSEN. Hamburg, Augsburg 1991. (*Arbeitshefte der AjBD*. Nr. 15.) Pp. 173-199.

⁵ The reports for the meetings 1989-1998 are published in *Recht, Bibliothek, Dokumentation*, the journal of AjBD, from vol. 19 (1989) to vol. 28 (1998).

⁶ Lic. iur. Sibylle von Andrian-Werburg from the Central Library of Luzern succeeded her in this function. - The author of this obituary wishes to thank her, Dr. Martin Good (Bern) and Dr. Peter Kunz (Liebefeld) for providing some details for Lotty's curriculum vitae.

So she went her own way, in spite of the financial consequences. She was a Board Member of the IALL from 1971 to 1974 (at the time when Hans G. Leser was President), and in 1995 she was appointed Life Member of the Association. She liked taking part of the conferences and of other IALL sponsored meetings and had many friends among the members. In fact, she and I first met during an IALL meeting, probably in the early seventies. At that time, with the aid of IALL, it was easier for her to meet foreign law librarians than law librarians from her own country, since the Swiss Law Librarians' Group not yet existed.⁷ Some of the colleagues saw her for the last time in August 1996, when the IALL and the Swiss Law Librarians' Group had a joint meeting at Anzère in Switzerland.⁸

Lotty cared well for her father until he died at the age of one hundred. Afterwards, she continued to live on her own in the same large flat in Bern. But she was neither isolated, nor frustrated. She kept in touch with many friends and colleagues and was of fairly good health even during her last years. She liked not only her Alps but also foreign places. In the fall of 1998 she travelled with some friends for three weeks throughout the United States and met also colleagues there.

Her colleagues will not forget her, and her friends will miss her.⁹

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⁷ See KUNZ, *supra*, footnote 4, pp. 171-172.

⁸ See VON ANDRIAN-WERBURG / KUNZ in 26 *Recht, Bibliothek, Dokumentation* pp. 95-104 (1996).

⁹ See also obituary by Dr. Hans-Peter ZIEGLER, Chairman of AjBd, 29 *Recht, Bibliothek, Dokumentation* pp. 122-125 (1999).