

Louisiana Law Review

Volume 35 | Number 1
Fall 1974

Dedication: Kate Wallach

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Repository Citation

Paul M. Hebert, *Dedication: Kate Wallach*, 35 La. L. Rev. (1974)
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.lsu.edu/lalrev/vol35/iss1/4>

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Kate Wallach
*Law Librarian and Professor
of Law Emeritus*

*This issue of the
Louisiana Law Review
Is Respectfully
Dedicated to
Professor Kate Wallach*

DEDICATION

"Dear Kate:

* * *

We have had many fruitful years of work together in the service of the Law School and I hate to contemplate your not being here on a daily basis. We have, as a result of your efforts, one of the outstanding research collections of the nation and this is especially true in the field of foreign, civil and comparative law. This collection could not have been assembled, nor could it have been so efficiently administered without your assistance through the years.

Although we must reluctantly accede to the necessity of your retirement, I must give you fair warning that we will be calling upon you from time to time to help us on various problems that may arise.

* * *

Sincerely yours,
(signed)
Paul M. Hebert"

The above excerpt cannot adequately convey the magnitude of the Law School's loss when, on July 1, 1975, Miss Kate Wallach made the transition from active status to that of Law Librarian and Professor of Law Emeritus. For a quarter of a century the development of the Law Library of Louisiana State University has been Miss Wallach's constant goal. Her standards for library service have been high. Her dedicated and constructive work has been the stimulus motivating and making possible many faculty publications, all bearing the stamp of excellence which Miss Wallach always set as the true mission of a law library. Her accomplishments transcended mere local effectiveness and were shared with numerous other leaders in her profession during her many years of service in law librarianship.

In 1949, Miss Wallach became Law Librarian at this Law School. She had previously served for two years, 1947-1949, as Assistant Librarian at the University of North Carolina. In an earlier period, 1940-1942, Miss Wallach had been a Cataloger at the University of Michigan. To law library work she brought an unusually broad background and a rare combination of talent with a deep interest in the law. Her initial legal study was at the University of Cologne, where she received the degree of Juris Doctor in 1931, followed by three

years of Clerkship in the German courts. In 1933, she took the bar examination and was admitted to the legal profession in Berlin.

In the middle thirties, she joined the considerable group of German intellectuals who emigrated to the United States and from whose ranks American legal education was so greatly enriched. Miss Wallach's ability in legal research was soon brought to the attention of the late Dean Harry Shulman, then a Professor of the Yale Law School. During 1937-1938, Miss Wallach worked under Professor Shulman's direction during the draftsmanship of the Restatement of Torts. This experience with Anglo-American law led Miss Wallach to pursue further legal studies in an American law school. The University of Wisconsin was her choice and, after two years of additional study, in 1940 she was awarded the Bachelor of Laws degree—her second earned degree in law. At Wisconsin she was on the Editorial Board of the Law Review.

With the exceptional advantage of thorough training in two different systems of law, Miss Wallach was determined to pursue studies in library science. She matriculated at the University of Michigan and after two years, 1940-1942, was awarded the A.B. degree in Library Science. It was during this period that she also served as a Reference Assistant and Cataloger in the Michigan Law Library. This experience in one of the world's most noted libraries, exceptionally rich in both Anglo-American and foreign law holdings, inevitably contributed to the shaping of Miss Wallach's continuing interest in foreign, civil and comparative law. No doubt the Michigan experience was an important factor leading eventually to her brilliant career as a comparatist and law librarian at this University. After several years of service as an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, 1943-1946, and following a special assignment in which she served as an attorney-advisor on the international law aspects of war crimes in the Civil Affairs Division of the Army, Miss Wallach turned to the law library work which has been so much enriched by her many contributions since 1947.

At the end of her first year at this Law School, 1949-1950, Miss Wallach reported that the collection had reached some 75,000 volumes. The annual book budget at that time was \$15,000.00. In this, the year of her retirement, the collection numbers over 205,464 volumes at the end of a year in which \$156,000.00 was expended for law books. This growth has resulted in major part from Miss Wallach's driving energy and her insistence upon expanding all categories of the holdings in a balanced fashion calculated to support in a maximum degree the scholarly work of the Faculty and the needs of the law school student body. Her unusual ability to work in at least five

languages greatly enhanced the value of her services in building the collections in foreign and comparative law. Throughout her work at L.S.U., Miss Wallach has had special devotion to insuring that specific research projects undertaken by the Faculty should be aided by immediate access to resource materials essential for such in-depth studies. In this respect, she has always sought to anticipate their needs, and many a member of this Faculty has experienced the delight of finding unannounced on his desk that newest publication in his field which he was about to request or perhaps a helpful work of which he was unaware. Miss Wallach was always in the background seeking to provide answers to the problems of how the Law Library could better serve the continuing bibliographical and research needs of an extremely active Faculty group.

Although Miss Wallach requested relief in 1970 from the heavier administrative burdens of directing the Law Library, she continued, as Comparative Law Librarian, to discharge major responsibilities in the book selection and acquisitions program for the entire library. Her request also enabled her in the latter pre-retirement years to offer regularly a variety of seminars in Comparative Law which were always participated in with true enthusiasm by her students.

During the many years in which Miss Wallach directed the Law Library, she was also a prolific writer. Recognizing Louisiana's special needs in civil law research, she published in 1955 a book entitled *Bibliographical History of Louisiana Civil Law Sources*; this was followed in 1958 with her publication of *Research in Louisiana Law*. Her most recent work of this nature is *Louisiana Legal Research Manual*, published in 1972. During her tenure at L.S.U., Miss Wallach, in addition to the many activities in law library circles in which she was engaged, was able to write over forty legal publications. Her scholarly interests were wide in range and served as a continued stimulus to students, Faculty, and colleagues in the library field. It is fitting that a listing of her publications be preserved as an appendix to this dedication.

At the national level, Miss Wallach has been an active and valued participant in the work of the American Association of Law Libraries. After four years of service as a member of the Executive Board in 1966-1967, she also served as President of that Association. Even beyond the field of law librarianship she has carried out many projects for library improvement. The Louisiana Library Association recognized her talents and dedicated accomplishments when she was elevated to the Presidency of that Association in 1960-1961. In library circles Miss Wallach's enthusiasm for high levels of professional achievement has ever been contagious and has been productive of

much good.

At the time of her retirement, a feature story describing Miss Wallach's work appeared in a Baton Rouge newspaper. It bore the two-column headline: "Law Professor Never Settles for Anything But the Top." This is an apt summation of Miss Wallach's twenty-six years of distinguished service to Louisiana State University Law School. As library administrator, law teacher, scholar, comparatist, as devoted friend of a generation of students, and as a national leader among law librarians, Miss Wallach has made contributions to legal education in general and to the development of Louisiana law in particular which can never be erased. This narrative can only faintly reflect the esteem in which Kate Wallach is held by the entire Law School family, including the alumni to whose tasks she has shown such helpful devotion. Many of the alumni remember her repeated kindnesses to them when they were student assistants in the Law Library. Her intensive love of humanity stamped her as a friend of many a needy student who is now a successful member of the legal profession. Miss Wallach's retirement comes all too soon, for many a library project within the ken of her vision remains yet to be accomplished. There is comfort in the thought that her well-merited release from active responsibilities will not prevent her being present in her office at this Law School quite often. This is as it should be, for the availability of her constructive advice can further advance and aid various important programs of the Law Center.

When a history of Louisiana State University Law School is written, what Kate Wallach has done here will occupy the brighter pages descriptive of the School's development. Meanwhile it is the fond wish of her colleagues and associates that Kate Wallach may now find the time she has not had up to now to enjoy her hobbies in full measure. These include mountain hiking, traveling, chamber music, the piano, the museums, and the arts. But above all else, Kate Wallach should now have leisure to enjoy visiting with an ever-widening circle of friends. Prominent in that circle are her books, for like Jesse Lee Bennett she believes that "[b]ooks are the compasses and telescopes and charts which other men have prepared to help us navigate the dangerous seas of human life," a belief especially true of the law books Kate Wallach knows and loves so well.

Paul M. Hebert
Dean

Baton Rouge, La.
July 1, 1975

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