

A Legal Miscellanea Autumn 2010



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOCUS

Arthur Chaugochakian (1906)

The twenty-five leaves of the Law Library's 120th Anniversary Issue, *Chaugochakian's Vienna: Inquisitio* (Wilmington, June 22, 1906), holds its significance as one of the early print exemplars of the canon law concept of consanguinity. Works in this genre traditionally included an image of a tree—the tree of consanguinity—appearing as a paradigm of a family with the various of its possible members displayed as modifications. From the model, one could calculate the number of “degrees” separating one family member from another, and thus determine who legally could marry whom within the family group. “Consanguinity” refers to the blood relationship between persons descending from the same ancestor, whether directly as from father to son or grandson (a blood descent), or indirectly as cousin descending from a common ancestor. Marriage was barred between legally related kin of various degrees, in order to marry each other legally had to be separated by a certain number of degrees.

The tree “*Arbor Affinitatis*” (the tree of affinity) of the Middle Ages featured the tree, which has appeared from ancient times in

LATEST TRANSFER OF HISTORICAL FOREIGN LAW, ABCNY-GW LAW: THE GERMAN COLLECTION

Scott Haged, Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law



Some of the 354 large books of German legal materials from the massive historical foreign law collection of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY) arrived at the Jacob Davis Law Library. The shipment is the latest in a series of transfers of the Bar's renewed collection of historical foreign works from its library in New York City to GW Law in Washington. Through a variety of avenues—including large segments of the Bar's distinguished historical collection, gifts of books, and purchases in the antiquarian law book market—GW is making significant strides toward its goal of building one of the great research collections of law materials in the United States.

In April of this year, 354 large books of German legal materials from the massive historical foreign law collection of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY) arrived at the Jacob Davis Law Library. The shipment is the latest in a series of transfers of the Bar's renewed collection of historical foreign works from its library in New York City to GW Law in Washington. Through a variety of avenues—including large segments of the Bar's distinguished historical collection, gifts of books, and purchases in the antiquarian law book market—GW is making significant strides toward its goal of building one of the great research collections of law materials in the United States.

The New York City Bar's collection of German law, comprising mainly nineteenth- and early twentieth-century materials, is a champion body of works printed during a critical period in German jurisprudence, when discussions raged about the necessity of codification and the form

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