IN MEMORIAM

HESSEL E. YNTEMA (1891-1966)

Hessel E. Yntema, Editor-in-Chief of The American Journal of Comparative Law from its inception in 1952, died on February 22, 1966 as a consequence of injuries suffered in a motor car accident. With his passing, the important first era of the Journal came to an end.

On the occasion of his seventieth birthday in January 1961, as a token of their gratitude for his work on the Journal, the Editors presented Professor Yntema with a volume of essays written in his honor by friends at home and abroad. In the preface to XXth Century Comparative and Conflicts Law it was said:

The Editors of The American Journal of Comparative Law take pleasure in presenting to their Editor-in-Chief, Hessel E. Yntema, on the occasion of his seventieth birthday this volume of legal essays entitled XXth Century Comparative and Conflicts Law. The volume honors Hessel Yntema for his untiring dedication to the Journal and that for which it stands: better understanding of the law, its problems and function through increased knowledge about the legal systems of the world. That many leading foreign scholars have joined their American colleagues in this tribute indicates the esteem in which Hessel Yntema is held abroad as well as at home for his life-long devotion to this goal as teacher, author, editor and member of international bodies and organizations. The Board of Editors feel deep satisfaction in the production of a volume of high significance to Comparative and Conflicts Law in honor of their distinguished colleague and chief.

Words can hardly give proper expression to the gratitude of the members of the Board to Hessel Yntema for his work in editing The American Journal of Comparative Law since its creation in 1952. Although the Journal is a joint venture of the Board, the labor has been Hessel Yntema’s. Only a deep devotion to Comparative Law can induce one to carry the heavy burden of editorial responsibility for this Journal. The members of the Board of Editors, proud of the success of The American Journal of Comparative Law, for which so much credit is due to Hessel Yntema, offer XXth Century Comparative and Conflicts Law to him as a token of their gratitude and esteem. They wish him long life and much happiness on the occasion of his seventieth birthday.

Hessel Yntema continued to serve as Editor-in-Chief beyond the normal academic retirement age. He treasured the work on the Journal for it kept him in contact with events in the fields close to his heart. The Journal was the beneficiary. Always seeking to promote knowl-
edge about foreign law, in his last year he brought out *The American Journal of Comparative Law Reader*, two volumes of essays that had previously appeared in the *Journal*. This was his last editorial achievement. It was truly the *Journal's* good fortune to have had Hessel Yntema as its first leader.

No appraisal of Hessel Yntema as comparative lawyer will be attempted here. This Memorial Issue of the *Journal* includes biographical and bibliographical data and a number of significant sketches of the deceased. In the Editors' view, Hessel Yntema's stature as scholar and reformer will continue to grow with the passage of time. Persons of his stature are rare.

The Editors desire to attest to certain qualities of their first Editor-in-Chief of which they have special knowledge: the wisdom, fairness, tact and patience with which he presided over the joint venture of more than twenty American law schools and of the American Foreign Law Association. In this last tribute to our colleague of more than fifteen years, we salute the man who in his position as Editor-in-Chief of *The American Journal of Comparative Law* secured the harmonious co-operation of divergent elements within the profession in the pursuit of a common goal.

THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDITORS OF THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE LAW