Goodbye

It seems like yesterday I was writing a short piece to introduce myself. Today, five years later, I am saying goodbye to you and welcoming Bob Lutz of Southwestern University Law School as the new editor. I pass the leadership into good hands, and I wish Bob the good fortune I had in working with so many of you. Bob will be assisted by Linn Williams, Vice-President and General Counsel of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. We are very lucky to have The International Lawyer (TIL) in such capable hands. My only regret is to be unable to say goodbye to many of you personally.

We have lost a number of good friends in the past few years. I think particularly of Eberhardt Deutsch, Al Freeman, John Laylin, Win Haight, Brendan Brown, Clive Parry and Len Theberge. There are In Memoriam pieces to Al Freeman, Win Haight, Brendan Brown, Clive Parry and Len Theberge in this issue.

We have tried over the past few years to shift the emphasis of TIL almost exclusively to practical matters, to articles, features and book reviews primarily of interest to practicing lawyers. I will not single out particular articles except to note that I was very happy that we were able to publish Eli Lauterpacht’s description of a career in international law.

If we had any success in charting new directions, thanks must go first and foremost to Dick Schwartz, Associate Editor, and hardest working man at TIL. Other obligations did not permit Dick to throw his hat in the ring for editor. Ed Pastucha, an Assistant Editor, was a marvelous help with budget matters. He would have generated quite a bit of advertising revenue for the Section, if the ABA bureaucracy did not block his very creative approach at every turn. Ed’s message was, and is, quite simply that TIL readers are an awfully attractive and unexploited market for any number of advertisers if the ABA would get off the dime, or at least out of the way of, dynamic people like Ed. (Section leadership please copy.) Al Golbert, our other Assistant Editor, did a fine job arranging the “Index” to each volume, an exacting, tedious and important task.

Our authors gave us quality. Those of you who are always planning to write that article or book review but never get around to it know the time it takes to put an article together, check the cites, proof it and get it off to us. We now have more good articles than we can print, an enviable position, and actually have to turn down good material. We thank the authors whose excellence set the standard to make this embarrassment of riches possible.

But authors didn’t just appear on the door step, at least not right away. The Editorial Advisory Board got out and generated the articles we needed, and if they couldn’t get somebody to write an article, they wrote it them-
selves. I think particularly of people like Dave Gill, Joe Griffin, the late Win Haight, Fred Goldie, Ed Gordon, Wallace Baker, Harry Olsson and Peter North as first among equals in that regard. Paradoxically, the people who helped us most were not the most vocal. Quite the contrary. Those who were most concerned publicly about supporting TIL were usually the ones too busy to do anything. Hence, Ruddy’s Law: The amount of assistance received from an individual is inversely proportionate to that individual’s public pronouncements of concern.

The ABA periodical staff were marvelous. Hope Bulger, Pat Hatcher, Richetta White and most especially Carol Planera were always available, always cooperative and always professional. I can’t count the number of times Carol Planera saved me from one gaffe or another.

For a while we worked with UCLA Law School. It didn’t work out for whatever reasons, distance, communications or different expectations. Nevertheless, it was a worthwhile experiment for which we thank Dean Warren and the UCLA law students who did all they could to make it work.

The Section Chairmen were to a man upbeat on TIL, and it was a great source of support to know they were in my corner. I won’t name everyone else who was important because that would only lead to omissions and feelings inadvertently hurt. I will say though that no one could have been better morale boosters than Vic Folsom, Ed Re and Pat Murphy.

I know of one article where we really blew it by publishing material clearly out of date. One goof too many and entirely my responsibility. We also published an article which received praise from one reader because he had written a considerable part of it, a fact omitted by the author. I know of no foolproof way to stop plagiarism and unattributed material, but if you do let Bob Lutz know.

With Carol Planera’s help all these little crises were resolved, and you probably didn’t even know we were pulling our hair out.

Finally, I thank Exxon for permitting me to become editor of TIL and then supporting my work as editor. Exxon only knows how to do things one way, First Class, and their support of TIL was no exception. Bill Slick, Dick Ryan, Ken Roberts, Fred File, John Rebman, Lance Olinde and Del Wherry were the Exxon people responsible for seeing TIL had all the help it needed. Jon Butcher, the secretary Exxon assigned to do TIL work did such a good job, I put him on the Advisory Board and he even did a couple of book reviews for us. Once ensconced in Washington and left to my own devices, I returned to more modest ways which only served to emphasize how much Exxon had done.

In all it’s been a wonderful experience. I’ve met wonderful people, learned a lot (especially how much I don’t know) and played a small part in an important journal. It’s time to go, and I thank you for having me for the past five years. Goodbye.

FRANK RUDDY