Conversations with Kurt Lipstein, Emeritus Professor of Comparative Law: Some Reminiscences over Seventy Years of the Squire Law Library and the Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge

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Introduction

At the time of these interviews, conducted in the Squire Law Library in April and May 2005, Kurt Lipstein was 96 years old and had been associated, in various capacities, with the Library and the Faculty of Law at Cambridge University for over seventy years.269

Kurt was born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany on 19th March 1909. His father was from Königsberg in East Prussia (now Russia) and his mother from Frankfurt. He had an English great-grandfather, and his grandmother had grown up in England. This explains the relative ease with which Kurt eventually settled into England. After his schooling at the Goethe Gymnasium in Frankfurt, Kurt studied law at the University of Grenoble (1927) and Friedrich Wilhelm University in Berlin (1927-31). There, he rubbed shoulders (metaphorically if not actually) with professors such as Wolff and Rabels, and younger colleagues including von Caemmerer, and Metzger. His classical education in Greek and Latin allowed him later to have clear insights into the inner workings of Roman Law - something of a lost art these days.

269 Sadly, Professor Lipstein passed away on December 2, 2006, just a few months after completing these interviews. A memorial service was held in Great St. Mary's University Church in Cambridge on March 10, 2007 at which several notable colleagues and friends contributed reminiscences about Kurt Lipstein’s career. It is a sad coincidence that his demise has engendered a good deal of renewed interest in his life and work.
Once graduated, his practical legal training began in 1931 as Referendar in Königstein and then at the district of Court of Appeal of Frankfurt. But, with the election to power of the National Socialists, his career effectively collapsed. In April 1933 employment in the civil service was barred to Jewish professionals, and in 1934 Kurt immigrated to England to escape persecution. He obtained a place at Trinity College to study for his PhD, which was on the subject of suretyship within Roman Law: the beneficium cedendarum actionum. He successfully defended his dissertation in 1936 before Martin Wolff’s brother-in-law, H. F. Jolowicz, professor of Roman Law at the University of London.
As a PhD student, he was allowed to occupy space in the Squire Law Library, which was then housed on the first floor of the Faculty building situated in what is now the Earth Science department in Downing Street. Thus began an association that continued almost unbroken to his death in December 2006. However, soon after obtaining his PhD, financial matters reared their head: unsuccessful in applying for a scholarship at Trinity, he was also unwilling to become a burden on the English branch of his extended family. His saviour[1] and mentor was Harold Gutteridge, the Professor of Comparative Law. In 1937 Gutteridge began paying Kurt a stipend from his own pocket for giving “supervisions” in Roman Law, Public International Law, and Constitutional Law.

Soon after, the Second World War broke out. In 1940 Kurt was interned as an enemy alien and sent to camps at Bury St. Edmunds and then Liverpool. There he met an eclectic mix of academics and professionals, many of whom later went on to either high office or academic status (or both). He mentions some of these in the interviews. Luckily the university secured his release later in the year, and he returned to Cambridge where he was given membership of Clare College, with which he has been associated ever since.

The Faculty Board then employed Kurt as Faculty Secretary for a small stipend, and in 1944 he married Gwyneth Herford. After the war, in 1946, he was appointed to one of a batch of new lectureships (which included David Daube, Trevor Thomas and R. Y. Jennings), and he remained in this post until 1962, when he was appointed Reader in Conflict of Laws. In 1973, he became Professor of Comparative Law, following in the footsteps of his erstwhile friend and patron, Harold Gutteridge, of whom he reminisced affectionately in our interviews. In 1977 the University awarded him his LLD.

Professor Lipstein formally retired in 1976, but [5] he continued to give supervisions with great enthusiasm and charisma to students at Clare College, and remained academically active and scholastically productive until the end of his life. He also lectured at the annual Summer School in English Legal Methods, offered by the Faculty of Law. His success with the students was grounded in his legal knowledge, but there is no doubt that his charm and sense of humour had much to do with his popularity.

Kurt Lipstein had an unparallelled association with the Squire Law Library, having occupied offices and worked as a scholar in each of its locations: Downing Street (1934-37), The Old Schools (1937-1995), and its
current home: the glass and concrete titanic West Road site (1995-2006). This is a unique achievement, and exploring his memories of its personalities and how the library developed over those 72 years, forms the core of the interviews we conducted with Kurt in 2004. It is interesting to note that the Squire Law Library is only four years older than Kurt himself, and it was fascinating to hear how relatively small and parochial the collections appear to have been in those early years.

Although his earliest works dealt with Roman Law, Kurt’s reputation and later career rested largely on his studies on the conflict of laws within international law (both public and private), and his views (with Gutteridge) strongly influenced the coverage of the subject in Dicey & Morris’s Conflict of Laws (Forsyth 2004). This was also, obviously, colored by Kurt’s tenure as one of the editors for the 6th-8th editions (1948-67). His appointment as Directeur des Recherches of the International Association of Legal Science for the period 1954-59 was an important development in broadening his horizons on the reception of Western law into jurisdictions with different cultures.

During our interviews, it was clear that Kurt was particularly sensible (the word proud would be an unworthy epithet for such a self-effacing man) of the honour accorded him on his invitation to give The Hague lectures in 1972 (and which he published separately in 1976). Forsyth (2004) has given a thorough summary and analysis of Kurt’s achievements in these lectures, and shining through is recognition of Kurt’s trademark: acute and careful analysis of all issues. In his writings he was never one to rush his fences.

When he was asked for the highlights of his career at the end of the interviews, he replied the achievement of an academic career, his membership of the Institute of International Law and the title of Queen’s Council. The first of these he had achieved early, but he had to wait patiently for the others.

Only in 1993 was he elected to the Institute de Droit International, which then gave him the task of preparing a Resolution on a theme of “Taking foreign private international [law] into consideration.” This was a seemingly intractable problem: under the heading “Renvoi” it had twice come before the Institute, with inconclusive results. Kurt Lipstein tackled it with

271 Ibid.
his usual foresight, and when he reported (in 1998), as he modestly put it, his
new “Resolution was accepted with few modifications” (Lipstein 2004 p. 769)273. The question of his success, where others had failed, was raised
during our interviews (question 73), and his reply is a model of
understatement. His final highlight was achieved when he was made an
Honorary Queen’s Council in 1998.

Kurt was an Honorary Fellow of Wolfson College, and lived in the
secluded house in Newnham he built in 1947-8 and shared with Clive Parry,
and their respective families.

Finally, it is clear from the last paragraph of his own reminiscences of
his time at Cambridge, that Kurt Lipstein felt he owed a debt of gratitude to
the institution that gave him the chance to make a new life, when the land of
his birth was no longer welcoming (Lipstein 2004)274. This manifested itself
in a lifetime devoted to upholding its values and faithfully following a path of
true scholarship.

He could proudly claim to be the only living person to have worked in
all three of the Squire Law Library’s homes. His recollections, in his own
words, of many famous and not-so-famous characters that have crossed his
path over the last 70-odd years, are a unique archive for the Library to
cherish.275

**Interviews and Transcripts**

These interviews were conducted by Lesley Dingle with Professor
Lipstein in their shared room on the third floor of the library between 14th
April and 1st June 2005. They are preserved on a CD.276 In this publication
we present our transcribed conversations, together with annotated
explanations, and have compiled brief biographies of the people mentioned.
We also include an index of the sections in which these persons are
mentioned.

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*Jurists Uprooted*, Oxford University Press, 761-770.

274 Ibid, 770.

275 A fuller biography of Kurt Lipstein, including a complete list of his published
works, can be found on the Eminent Scholars Archive entry in the Squire Law
Library at: http://squire.law.cam.ac.uk/eminent_scholars/.

276 The original CD is archived in the Squire Law Library. The audio record can
be heard at http://squire.law.cam.ac.uk/eminent_scholars/kurt_lipstein.php.
Questions are in bold type; Professor Lipstein’s replies are in plain text. Comments added later are in square brackets in italics – those from the authors are attributed to Lesley Dingle (LD), and where extra information comes directly from Professor Lipstein, KL. Each question is consecutively numbered and it is the basis for the Index. A total of four interviews were conducted.

First Interview, Thursday 14th April 2005.

1. Professor Lipstein, you’ve been associated with the Faculty of Law and the Squire Law Library in various ways for the past 71 years. You’ve kindly agreed to share with me some of your recollections over this period and I wonder if we could start in 1934, when you first arrived in Cambridge and cover the period leading up to the Second World War.

Clearly my work was concentrated on the Squire Law Library because I was preparing a doctoral dissertation. The Squire Law Library was at that time housed in a building in Downing Street. You can still see that it was, because there is a stone inscription which says that this was a building that was put up at the expense of Rebecca Squire and her brother. The library was on the first floor and was just one big room. That contained all the books that existed. And then there was a little staircase which led up to the roof rooms and there were the additional books which nobody wanted to look at. They were the ones on comparative law and they were the beginning of the library on comparative law and that was where the professor sat, Professor Gutteridge.

Down below were only two people. There was the librarian, Mr. Staines, who didn’t know anything about law, but he was simply there to catalogue the books and to stack them away when it was necessary and he was helped by Mr. Hill. Mr. Hill did all the labour which was required. This he did during the daytime. When that was finished he served as a servant at dinner at Caius College and then when that was finished he patrolled the streets with a proctor as a so called “bulldog,” with a nice black coat and top hat. That was the library. Two men and one big room. The library itself was housed together with the law school which was downstairs and that is where I began. I didn’t go to many lectures. I went to the ones on Roman Law by Professor Buckland which were indeed very good. I do not believe I went to others because I was far too busy preparing my dissertation. But of course there were other people whom I met there. There were very few PhD students. At the time it was not done. The degree had only been introduced
after the First World War. We were practically the first people to apply for it. This meant that with me was the Frenchman who later on became the famous Professor René David of France.

2. Were all the materials you needed available in this small library?

No, we used what we could use, and what we hadn’t, we hadn’t.

3. How did this library compare with the library you were used to in Germany?

As far as English law was concerned it was a very comprehensive library. There weren’t at that time many periodicals, and textbooks were also not that frequent. So one could deal with that in one very big room. The foreign law library was just being built up because Gutteridge had only come to Cambridge in 1930 or 1931 and I came in 1934. So there wasn’t very much yet. It was enough for two rooms in the roof.

4. Was he responsible for comparative law?

Gutteridge was responsible for comparative law and had to lecture on conflict of laws and was known as the reader in comparative law. He was the only one who developed the comparative law – he was the only one who taught it. Nobody else knew anything about it. He did everything. He came in 1930. I came four years later – by that time there was something. He was very much the man in charge until the World War. I was only a young foreign student.

5. So what sort of a man was he?

To describe him in English terms, a Yorkshireman. That is to say, he was thick set, loved good food, loved good life. What was extraordinary was that he had grown up in part in Italy, because his father had had some illness and the doctors had advised him to retire to a country with a good climate. And so he retired to Naples. And if you go to Naples even now, you will find in the main square, a mens’ outfitters shop called Gutteridge. That was papa – how he occupied his time. Gutteridge himself grew up there. He spoke fluent Italian although he spoke it with a strong local accent which the professors who visited him later on, found very funny indeed. [KL: He was in the First World War although he was already too old for that and he knew they wouldn’t take him so he knew that if you joined the band you could be accepted so he said he could play the piccolo. Of course he couldn’t play the
piccolo, but he was accepted and then they found out. So now he was in the army and he was sent to the Balkans and fought the war in the Balkans.]

6. So he was fully conversant with Italian Law?

He had by that time a lot of international contacts. He was one of the members of the United Nations committee [LD: This must be a mistake, the UN did not exist until after WWII. It may have been the League of Nations] which supervised the work of a committee in Rome on the unification of the law of arbitration – which in due course had consisted of three people, René David from France, a German called Ficker and an Englishman, Wortley. That is how René David came to us, because in supervising this committee Gutteridge found out that David had another few years before he had to take up his job in France, so he said, “Come to England and join Trinity Hall. Take a PhD.” That is what David did, and that is how I got to know him.

7. What sort of a person was he, as you recall?

He was a man of much wit. The first year he joined the student body at Trinity Hall and rowed. This was the year when the French government fell every month one. He rowed and one day he came and said, “Sorry chaps, can’t row today.” “What’s the matter?” “I’ve been appointed minister of the marines.” Then he came back a few minutes later, “Alright chaps, I can now row.” “What’s the matter?” “Minister has resigned.” That was René David who had of course a long career and a very famous one both in France and Ethiopia. Especially he made the code for Ethiopia later on. The most famous thing is probably when he was made prisoner in 1944 and he was in charge of a unit and somebody still continued shooting so they lined him up - lined the officers up - and said “War crimes and you’re going to be shot.” But René David when he had been himself a member of that committee in Rome had told the English and the German members, always to speak their own language with him so he was absolutely fluent in German. So he replied in fluent German, “You’re committing a grave mistake. I’m an intimate friend of General Goering.” That of course stopped everything. He was not shot. Nobody was shot and everybody survived.

8. You mentioned the other PhD student whom you were with, Daube. Did you get know him quite well?

We knew each other quite well. We came from the same background and were both fighting our own way and so I didn’t see him an awful lot. I mean we talked to each other, but he was clearly a very much better Roman
lawyer than I was. He had been assistant to a most famous German professor, had been recommended to Buckland in Cambridge, been given a scholarship in Caius. He was quite clearly better than I, so we didn’t deal with our own subject matter because I knew he was the one who was much better. I concentrated on private international law. I did Roman Law and I made a dissertation on Roman Law, but I concentrated on Private International Law so that we didn’t overlap.

9. To that end you became Professor Gutteridge’s assistant?

He was very kind to me. In 1936 I got my doctorate and was invited to become a research fellow in Trinity, but I didn’t get the research fellowship so I had nothing. Although my British family were going to pay for me it was really a rather awkward situation, especially since my British uncle didn’t like people who had no firm occupation. So Professor Gutteridge formally made me his assistant and paid me something.

10. And there were other lawyers at the time who were very famous, such as the Whewell Professor, Professor McNair?

McNair was an extremely kind man to me. I had an introduction to him from some other friends of mine. He was a man of few words, but very clear, very straightforward and he had a seminar where we all met once during term time to discuss topics and he asked me to give a paper and that was my first introduction to a paper in English which was later the basis of my article on Private International Law in international tribunals. This was open to all the teachers of Public International Law, the supervisors of Public International Law and students who were interested. It was a very nice meeting which I remember with pleasure.

11. Which was attended by many famous people?

There were a number of them. There was Mervyn Jones who later on wrote a very good book on public international treaties and unfortunately died young. There must have been quite a number of others whom I cannot now remember. There always were a lot of people from abroad.

12. Do you have recollections of Professor Buckland who was on the Library Committee 1926-1934?

I certainly remember Buckland because he was one of my first ports of call when I investigated coming to Cambridge. I was taken to him by a law
fellow of Trinity to meet him at No.7 Grange Road where Buckland lived. His house is now nearly back to back with mine. And there was the elderly gentleman, benevolent, very learned and very much a civil lawyer. He was strictly limited to civil law and did not know very much other law, but within this he was a great expert and a very kind old man— he was by that time nearly 70. We had a discussion in his library and we agreed I should come and join the Faculty. After that I mainly went to his lectures which were extremely good, very well prepared, probably too difficult for youngsters.

13. Did he supervise your PhD?

No professor would supervise a PhD. No, that is probably wrong. Daube probably was looked after by Buckland. I wasn’t. So I was looked after by Patrick Duff.

14. Do you have any recollections of Professor Duff?

He was a good classical scholar, but otherwise he did not excel. He did not produce any further work after he published a book and an article.

15. What do you remember of Mr. Harry Hollond who joined the Library Committee in 1929?

That is of course a very different matter. Harry Hollond was a member of the Suffolk gentry where his family had a big estate and where of his mother he used to say “My mother is a whore.” That did not mean what you might think, The whore was spelt Hoare - she was a member of a famous banking family. He had been a pupil of Maitland and prided himself that he was interested in the history of English Law. He’d been a fellow of Trinity since before the First World War, been a major in the war, come back and been a very dominant person. He acquired a very dominant influence in Trinity College. In my day he was the vice Master and he really set the tone. He was very kind to me. In the first days, of course, I was a complete outsider. But in the days afterwards when I had become a supervisor, he used to see me quite a lot because in 1944 I had become the Secretary of the Faculty and Harry Hollond had been the Chairman of the Faculty for at least 10 years. So we met every Tuesday once a week to deal with Faculty affairs in his rooms in Trinity for lunch in order to settle all outstanding matters. A good administrator, a man of good common sense, probably not an outstanding lawyer, he did not produce any notable written work and he always said he might have produced the text book on property law had Cheshire not done so, but he was certainly an outstanding personality who set
his tone to the Faculty because he was very strongly influential in who was appointed and the appointments are mostly due to him, including my own. A personal reference to him is to be found in the book by Snow called *The Masters*.

[KL: “At one of the lunches he said, “Kurt your English is so good. Your whole behaviour is so much in accordance with local. Why don’t you change your name?” To which I replied, “There are two grounds. For one thing I have published already a certain amount under my own name and it’s awkward if I have to always add in brackets formerly I was so and so. There is an example of this somewhere in Europe and I never liked it. And secondly, I don’t like to fly a false flag and sail under it.” To which he replied, “Well, you need not call yourself McDuff”].

16 Professor, any recollections of Mr. Wade?

Emlyn Wade, not to be confused with Bill Wade, was a Fellow of Caius. A good constitutional lawyer, but a somewhat stiff formal man whose imagination was probably not enormous, but whose knowledge was very good indeed and whose good common sense emerges from the following that when it looked in 1938 that there might be a war with Germany and this country, he asked, “Kurt, are you going to be under the prerogative?” which for a constitutional lawyer means “can you be interned without trial”. To which my answer was “Yes”. He was that kind of straightforward man who would have a straightforward question or a straightforward answer.

17. Sir Hersh Lauterpacht who was on the Library Committee from 1938-1954 helped to develop the international law collections. Perhaps you have some memories of him?

He came after a distinguished tenure in London. There may have been some doubts as to whether to appoint him or not to the famous chair, but finally he was and he tackled his new task with energy. So, shortly afterward, the international law activities in Cambridge were certainly considerable. He was of course an editor of *Oppenheim*. He did all the lecturing and at the same time he had to accommodate himself to the new surroundings in which he lived, which was now college life which he hadn’t done before. Fellowship which was something new to him, but he established himself well and of course during the war was constantly used by the government in England and he had to go quite frequently to the United States.
18. Other famous names which you encountered during this period include the name of Professor Winfield?

Winfield was a Fellow of St John’s and had at that time reached really the top of his career. He had written already a number of other things and then just written his famous text books on the law of tort. He was a man who was not very loquacious. He was very precise and very helpful. I in turn was helpful to him because in his book there appear all sorts of references to me when I was only a little research student. So we must have had some conversations and things together. He was a good lecturer and altogether a man whom one trusted the moment one saw him. Absolutely straightforward. So was McNair.

19. Another name which springs to mind is that of Professor Hazeltine, who was Chairman of the Library Committee from 1926?

Hazeltine was an American. He had had an interesting career because he had studied legal history in Germany with some of the most famous German people and then came to England and had had a Downing professorship which at that time meant he had a house in Downing college. Since he was a divorced man, he lived alone, served by a butler. I used to go there quite a bit because I discussed certain problems of legal history with him. He was a very forthcoming, very friendly man of considerable knowledge though he had not much influence because he did legal history and was an American and as soon as the war broke out he was persuaded to go back to America and so I never saw him after that.

20. When you did your PhD, one of your supervisors was Professor Jolowicz who at that stage was in London? Do you have any recollections of him?

He was only my examiner. So I met him when I was examined for my PhD. This was the father of Tony. I can’t say much of that. I remember being once there for the oral examination. I had to go down to London to his house, that was the examination. That was in 1936.

21. In 1937, you became Professor Gutteridge’s assistant and started an active program of research. You were also given the job of the upkeep of the foreign law section of the Library.

I had to re-arrange it. Professor Gutteridge of course had always the last word. I was merely the help.
22. **Did you select materials?**

    I cannot remember. But we must have done so, but we didn’t buy that much at that time. We kept it to the main textbooks and one or two periodicals, and nothing more. The budget was obviously very much smaller.

23. **So this takes us up to May 1940 where you had the unfortunate experience of being interned in Liverpool until September 1940. Once again, during that experience you met some interesting people, including the grandson of the late German Kaiser [LD: von Lingen]. Do you have any recollections?**

    The only funny recollection I have was that we were given special writing paper which was so prepared that you couldn’t send secret messages. It looked awful. And he was there saying, “Very awkward, very awkward. My aunt has a birthday. I cannot send her this.” That was Queen Mary.

24. **And there were other illustrious people in that gathering, for example Lord Justice Kerr was one?**

    Lord Justice Kerr was a student at Clare College at that time. One didn’t know he was going to have a very good career. He was just a little law student. No, of famous people, also not yet famous, was Perutz who later on won a Nobel Prize for his structure of haemoglobin. There was the future Astronomer Royal for Scotland. There was one future professor of medicine in biology in Cambridge. They were quite an interesting lot of people.

25. **That must have uplifted you despite the seriousness of the circumstances?**

    One lived from day to day. Didn’t look around very much. That was how to survive.

26. **So you were released in September and you returned to Cambridge. You continued with your supervisions. In 1944 you were married. That was a turning point. You look upon it as a very important milestone?**

    Yes, after all it’s one thing being an old bachelor and then starting a married life. I was very fortunate to marry a woman who was very much a personality in her own right [LD: Gwyneth, nee Herford]. I’m not going to give you the history of all she did, but I can tell you she ended up as one of
the backers of the New Liberal Democrats, as a city councilor, as a brown owl. Everything which had to be dealt with, she dealt with.

27. In that same year you were appointed as Secretary of the Faculty of Law?

In the First World War the University closed down. They didn’t do that in the Second World War. But of course there were very few people to study - only those who were not called up because of some physical defect or because they were waiting to be called up and were very young or foreigners, mainly from the Commonwealth countries. [LD: At night during the war KL did firewatching duty from the roof of the Squire Law Library in the Cockerell Building]

28. So things continued in a slightly low key way?

Yes it was all very much restrained until suddenly peace broke out and then suddenly the Faculty from thirty became one of several hundred students and that meant a tremendous amount of work preparing everything for the return – I had to.

29. And you in 1946 became a lecturer?

I became a lecturer.

30. Well that takes us up to the end of the period I had hoped to discuss and perhaps next time we can do the next chunk?

That will be more difficult to say because I lectured and administered, but I can’t tell you an awful lot about the library. I can tell you what we did when we moved it here.

Second Interview 20 April 2005

31. Professor Lipstein, last week you told me about your experiences before and during the War and I wonder if we could just go back to the period from May to September 1940 when as Professor Emlyn Wade once said, you fell under the prerogative?

Yes, I was interned. It went very smoothly and quietly because I’d been working on Whit Monday in the Squire Law Library [KL: "on a project of Professor Gutteridge’s"]. When I walked home to lunch my good friend
Clive Parry came and said the police had been and “they want to arrest you, but they say have lunch first” After that we all met in the Guild Hall. We were transported to Bury St Edmunds and from there in due course after a week, which we spent on the meadow very pleasantly, guarded by an officer who was a pupil of one of us, we were sent by train to Liverpool [KL: "and I spent four months in those surroundings and was spared both deportation or joining the Pioneer Corps, but was claimed back by the University of Cambridge to start my teaching at the end of the summer"].

The crowd with whom I first stayed, had some rather interesting members. Cambridge did not have many elderly refugees. We were all young people. And ours was a potential rather than a real status. But Perutz later on got a Nobel Prize. Michael Kerr, who was a student, became Lord Justice of Appeal. Another became professor at university of Cambridge in science and one became Astronomer Royal for Scotland. So it was quite an interesting number of people. One whom nobody else recognized, but of whom one said he looks like Frederick the Second of Prussia, was in fact the eldest grandson of the Kaiser who’d been tucked away in Cambridge to be saved from the National Socialists and who was studying at Corpus Christi under one of the family names, [KL: "von Lingen"], which of course none of us knew. I got to know him quite well. He was a good companion. Uncomplaining and capable of dealing with all the drudgery which occurred for us. I still remember that he was given some writing paper which was designed so as not to be capable of being used for secret messages. It looked awful. And there he was saying “Very awkward, very awkward. My aunt has a birthday. I cannot send her this.” The aunt was of course Queen Mary.

32. So the war ended and you became a lecturer. Did you find that the law school and the library had changed greatly and do you have recollections of the immediate post war period as people came flooding back?

Yes, there was a great change. [KL: “The main task was getting back to normal life because we were flooded with people coming back.”] Unlike in the First World War, the university had not closed down, but it had worked on a very reduced level. And the Faculty of Law probably had not more than 60 students - partly those who had not been called up, partly those who were not going to be called up and partly some members from the Commonwealth who’d come. And now suddenly we had several hundred people flooding in and had to start a whole new course. What’s more, these were people who’d been through the war, many had been officers. They were people who had a mind of their own. [KL: “Many had had responsible positions, and therefore
were not willing to take orders as told or to accept the teaching as it was. On the whole, we managed. “] I was at that time in 1944 appointed Secretary of the Faculty. It fell upon me to plan the teaching as these people flooded back, to administer the faculty, to deal with the finances and to represent it in every respect. [KL: “I had to deal with administration of the library and with correspondence. I was extremely busy and sat up to 11 o’clock at night in the library because I had to type my own letters and file my own correspondence and there was nobody else to help me. This was in addition to my teaching duties.”]

33. Could the library cope with the influx?

The library was not bad and in those days the demands on reading were not as hard and detailed as they are now, especially since these people intended to read primary courses and not do research. [KL: “I think we managed, but at that time the amount of publication was very limited and what we had was the stock from which we started in 1939 and there wasn’t much ordered from that time.”]

34. You found yourself on the Library Committee for a number of years. Roughly from 1946-1974. Several well known academics were on the Committee at this time and I wonder if we can start with your recollections of Professor Hamson who was on the Library Committee from March 1947-1964, Chairman in 1955-1957?

Hamson was the son of the British Consul in Istanbul and his wife who was a French woman [This is a slip of the tongue - it was his mother who was French, Terese Boudon, LD] and this determined his whole character. [KL: “An interesting man. A strong catholic – he married a Scottish protestant and it was a delightful marriage between the two which I witnessed from the moment it started. A man of considerable character with firmly set ideas and views. A very good lawyer – perhaps a little too subtle – a good teacher. And altogether a man it was a pleasure to deal with. Directly after the war he spent a whole year in France and came back therefore with considerable strength in French law and therefore became Professor of Comparative Law.”] He was fluent in French, it was perfect, and he was very much attached to France and he was also conversant with Greek because he’d grown up partly in Istanbul and as a result was a man of very broad culture. He was a classical scholar. He was one of the early young lecturers in the law school who made a name for himself. When I met him he was a very active person, interested mainly in contract, but also introducing foreign law because he was fluent in French. Of course he was a man who had been interned in
Germany for six years because he’d been a member of the contingent which had been sent to Greece when Germany invaded Greece in 1940 and he’d been captured. Six years of imprisonment had left a permanent imprint on his personality.

[LD: Additional notes on Hamson added after discussion with Kurt Lipstein, May 2006.] In approximately 1955, Kurt Lipstein and Hamson were both in Turkey at a meeting the International Association of Legal Science, and KL recalled. "Before the session started, the members with wives and children were invited to sail up the Bosphorus to dinner. On coming back, on a wonderful warm September evening, the Turkish members of the party who lived on the Asian side of Istanbul left us. But we were told that there was some revolt in Istanbul. As we arrived in the lovely warm evening and tried to disembark from our vessel we were met by bayonets. The only remaining Turkish member who had been a misfit in Turkey and knew Cambridge well, now arranged with an auxiliary policeman who came from the same village as he, that we should be given a boat to land behind the lines of revolution in order to reach our hotel. Most of us belonged to this group. Some who did not, and who had to go to their hotel in the Turkish quarter, found that they got through because one of the lecturers knew Turkish. We walked up the hill to our hotel and Jack Hamson and I formed the rearguard to see that nobody was left unattended. The advance guard was led by the representative of UNESCO, an émigré Pole. When he was asked by the revolutionaries who he was, he determined that it was best to be a follower of Islam, but not too much, so he answered that he came from Pakistan, and he was cheered! Hansom and I watched the revolutionaries in their cars, hooting and looting the streets, and saw to it that our charges were unharmed. And in doing so JH said to me, there is real progress here, 50 years ago we’d all have our throats cut."

35. So he served on the Committee from 1947–1964 and he was the Chairman from 1955-1957?

[LD: There was no comment, KL just nodded.]

36. Someone else I’d like to ask you about is Sir William Wade who served on the Library Committee from 1951–1961.

Bill Wade was one of the outstanding students in the pre-war period from 1938. [KL: He came to Cambridge just before the war as an undergraduate. He had an interesting war because he was in Government office and then he was sent to the British delegation in Washington.] During
the war he was mainly used as a member of the British delegation in the United States where he married an American woman. [KL: *He came back to a fellowship in Trinity College where he became Bursar later on as well.*] He was an extremely able man, specialising in Property Law and Administrative Law. In both cases he made a name for himself. He was always precise and to the point. [KL: *His future career was one between Cambridge and Oxford. At Cambridge he became Master of Caius College. He published a great deal and had considerable influence.*]

37. **Professor Robbie Jennings, was on the Library Committee from 1957-1972, Chairman from 1963-1972?**

Him I knew well. When I joined Cambridge as a student, he too was a student, but already enjoying a scholarship to America. I did not see much of him during the war. He was mainly attached to the intelligence in the army, I think in India. He was an outgoing person, capable, friendly and probably left a considerable imprint on the Faculty. [KL: *He succeeded Lauterpacht [Sir Hersch, LD] when Lauterpacht became Judge of the International Court of Justice. It fell upon him to deal with all matters of public international law. How far he affected the buying of the library, I cannot say.*]

38. **Mr. Dias served on the Library Committee from 1959-1962?**

An able lawyer specialising in Roman Law because he was originally from Ceylon, belonging to a well-known family there. I knew him quite well. He was a good, excellent teacher. In the course of his life was a co-editor with Markesinis of a book on the law of tort [LD: *The English Law of Tort, 1976*] of which I think he probably bore a very strong brunt. [KL: *A very good lawyer. Determined in his teaching, but otherwise quiet and reticent.*]

39. **Dr. Glanville Williams who was on the Committee from 1957-1967 and Chairman from 1966-1967?**

He was an old friend of mine to whom I owe a great debt of gratitude. We were both research students in 1934, he at John’s, I at Trinity. At that time he was a very lively, happy, friendly young man with blonde curls and a love for hiking and going out on tours. He was one of the best pupils of Winfield, who said that when he was a student for PhD, he deserved to have an LLD when he wrote his book on *Liability for Animals.*
When the war came, he took a step which affected his whole career. He became a conscientious objector and this lead in due course to the loss of his fellowship and his remaining merely a teacher without a college. After the war he accepted an appointment to London only to come back later on to a professorship when most of his past history was forgotten.

40. In 1938 Willi Steiner, a refugee from Austria, where he had studied law, came to the UK and studied for his bar exams. He then worked for the London School of Economics before his appointment in 1959 as Assistant Librarian at the Squire Library. This was a full time position while Dr. Ellis Lewis was the part-time Librarian. One of the things Willi did was to re-catalogue the collections. The catalogue was printed in book form and is still used today, and he also devised a new classification scheme for the Library. Did these two innovations have a significant impact upon the library and its users?

I believe they did, although it met with a certain antagonism. [KL: “It didn’t affect me, but then really I knew where to look for the books. But it probably meant that later on you could distinguish the various types of law books by trying to look not according to the place where they were put, but according to the category of books which were to be found in certain places.”] Placing books on shelves merely by indicating the shelf at which they are is an incomplete method, especially since books have to be moved, and therefore, soon the instructions are wrong. He devised a scheme, very detailed, as to subject matter, and I believe that it has worked. [KL: “Prior to his arrival the system consisted of guide cards on the edge of the stacks.”]

[LD: In another interview KL made the following comments about Willi Steiner: "A man who hadn’t really started as a librarian, but who became very much a librarian with all the interest of it as his interest in classification shows. For us, his main concern was that he saw to it that the library’s breadth of material was much extended. Before then it was the Common Law library of English Law with very little, even of the Commonwealth or American materials, except the American Supreme Court Reports. What you find today is an entirely broad collection of American law reports, and similarly of Commonwealth law reports, together with any necessary textbooks. All this is due to him”].

41. Prior to Willi’s arrival there had been a long-serving team of Dr. Ellis Lewis, Teddy Hill and Clarence Staines. How did Willi's arrival into this stable team alter the way the library was run?
42. In 1968 Willi was responsible for appointing Mr. Peter Zawada to the library staff. Today Peter is head of Reader Services. Do you have any recollections of him in those early days.

A very helpful young man who gave a lot of his time to keeping the library in good order [LD: i.e. Peter Zawada]. But of course his real services only came into being after the war [LD: referring back to Willi Steiner].

43. Professor Parry, when Chairman of the Library Committee in 1968 wrote that Willi had succeeded in transforming the library?

I have no doubt that Parry was right. He transformed the library from a useful library at English Common law to a research library which enabled people to deal with a world wide range of books in a great number of subject matters.

Third Interview 10th May 2005

44. Professor Lipstein last week we covered the period after the War and the influence of Willi Steiner. He left in 1959 and perhaps we can talk today about the library staff and committee members who continued after Willi left? Do you recall Mr. Gordon Hughes who in 1961 was appointed as Second Assistant?

We were looking for a Librarian and at that time trained legal librarians were not easily to be found. Hughes came as an administrator and he did his job very efficiently with a pleasant manner, appreciated by everybody, but of course he wasn't a legal expert, and the result was things were administered well, but that was all he could do.

[LD: So he became the Squire Law Librarian as you say, in an administrative capacity, with no college teaching, and he had the degree of]
MA conferred upon him and then he retired in 1982 because of ill health? KL: I believe that is so, but I cannot remember it

45. Do you have any recollections of Mr. Prichard from 1962?

Very little. He was of course a student at Cambridge and became a member of Caius College. Always interested in property and legal history and always a very reliable man, but I cannot say much more.

46. Mr. Jolowicz who was here [LD: i.e. served on the Library Committee] between 1964 and 1965?

[LD: this was the son of Professor Herbert Jolowicz]. Again I cannot remember much because I may or may not have taught him when I was young, but of his work on the library I have no particular recollection. A competent person at all times.

47. Any recollections of Mr. Lauterpacht, later Sir Elihu Lauterpacht who started on the Committee in 1964?

He was of course always interested in Public International Law, and as far as I can think of he must have helped us a good deal on that basis. That was his great strength.

48. In 1968 Mr. Major became Squire Librarian. While he was in this position, the library expanded into the ground floor of the Cockerell Building. Do you have any recollections of this period?

I remember slightly that it relieved us of the duty when we went to the library to go up a staircase to the first floor. Instead of that, we were much enlarged and we needed more space so that it was a great relief to have the ground floor. It made the whole building more accessible because you started on the ground floor and then worked your way upwards. Moreover it was possible then to keep all the technical machinery downstairs.

49. Professor Clive Parry, Professor of International Law 1969-1982 served on the Library Committee from November 1966. 1967 became Chairman. I know he was a personal friend of yours. Do you have any recollections you can share with me?

I remember him well when he came as a student because he was a child prodigy. Obtained the degree of LLB in Birmingham at the age of 19.
Came to Cambridge to Downing College to read for what was then the LLB, which he did with his usual efficiency to the extent that when he was being examined for the Hughes Scholarship and found the paper didn’t cover the syllabus, he stopped the examination and had the paper reset. It gives an idea of the man’s energy, courage and general imagination. He did very well in his exams. Then if I remember rightly, obtained some kind of grant to study at the famous institute of Public International law in Berlin, Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, and that is where he was in 1938 when he quickly left because war looked like threatening. Came back and we worked together quite a lot, especially on the Digest of International Law which was the work of McNair and Lauterpacht’s father [LD: i.e. of Hersch Lauterpacht]. He was a great friend, as he especially showed in times when I was in difficulties and there were such times both professionally and financially, and then especially later on when the war came and I was in difficulties because of my status.

50. How did he help you?

He helped me when I needed money to pay for being admitted to the Bar when I could have gone to my family, my great uncle. He certainly helped when I was interned and saw to it that the necessary people were mobilized to apply to the Home Office to get me home. We worked a great deal together. His energy, his critical energy and his general interest in literature and anything made him a stimulating companion.

51. Can you tell me anything more about his work?

While I knew him, he wrote one or two books, one on nationality. But he never spoke much to me about his work, as well as I did not speak to him about my work. The only interesting thing which might be recorded is that he is the expert of having married the same woman four times in one day!

He was first during the War first attached to the Black Watch, but was invalided out. At that moment he became Professor of International Law at the University of Ankara in Turkey. I do not know what his actual position was, and I never asked him. In that connection, he got to know the secretary of the American Ambassador and in fact proposed to her and was accepted. Since she was a member of the American Embassy, a consular marriage in the American Consulate was indicated. But he was British and therefore a similar consular marriage in the British Embassy was indicated. But he was also an employee of the Turkish state and therefore a civil marriage was proper and a perhaps a religious marriage might make the matter look firmer. He was during the war in Turkey and had varied experiences. He often saw the
German Ambassador. Didn’t speak to him, one von Papen. He told me at the end of the war when the German Embassy was occupied by the allies, it turned out that they had a direct telephone line to the British Embassy which the British Embassy did not know. He then came to England. Was a fellow of Downing. Was the Law Fellow there, a very energetic person. When we built a house and we had to build a house big enough to take two parties, he became the co-tenant and we lived happily together for ten years. And then he moved and I saw less of him after that, but we always kept in great contact.

52. As I understand, he was a very charismatic man?

Yes, if you could take his critical ability.

53. Do you recall Mr. Hopkins who was, and is still, your friend during 1970?

I really have no idea. We are now very much connected together because we are both benchers of the Middle Temple. At that time he was a very young man. He was a creation of Clive Parry.

54. Did he help him with the Treaty Series?

He helped out with everything.

55. Professor Stein, who was on the Committee in 1970?

He was of course by then quite an authority, but I cannot remember anything particular which he did.

56. In 1971 Professor Baker, who is now the distinguished legal historian, became the Squire Law Librarian. While he was in this position, Willi Steiner’s classification and re-cataloguing were completed. Then Baker resigned to become full time university lecturer. Do you have any recollection of this time in the early 70s?

Not really. Baker was really a scholar and not the Librarian. I did not have very much contact with him.

57. In 1973 you became the Chairman of the Library Committee?
I never remember that I had been. I thought I was never allowed to be. [LD: KL was Chairman from 1973 to at least 1974, but there are no records preserved from 1974 to 1980].

58. But you were active on the Library Committee for many years?

For many years. I knew a good deal about the library which other members did not know so intimately so I could be some help.

59. And you were responsible for building up the Private International Law and the Foreign Law?

Oh yes, and the foreign law.

60. Mr. Glazebrook 1974?

I cannot really remember anything.

61. Mr. Turpin?

Again, no doubt they were helpful, but I cannot remember any particular activity.

62. Dr. O’Higgins?

Higgins was a public international lawyer more interested in his own work. Nice and agreeable and helpful person. He was interested in Public International Law. He also was an Irishman, and therefore could help with the Irish collection.

63. In 1982 the Library was incorporated administratively into the University Library. Do you have any recollections of this time? Do you recall the circumstances under which this happened? What if any, were the consequences on the readers?

I have no direct recollection except that as far as I remember we were not very happy about it. It meant that the financial side got into a much bigger administration and didn’t give us either the extent or the manner where we could administer our own affairs. The Steiner modification of the classification was I think accepted as something strategically, excellent though people found it difficult to get accustomed to.
64. But no additional staff appointments were made as a result of incorporation into the University Library?

Certainly not.

65. In 1983 Mr. McVeigh was appointed as Squire Law Librarian and he oversaw the move to the new quarters in 1995 when the library moved from the Cockerell building to the Sidgwick Site. What were the reasons for the move? Can you remember?

It’s difficult for me now to say whether it was more the university administration which was keen to take over the Cockerell building, or whether it was our difficulty in accommodating our books. I think both agreed, and the only question was who would have to give way to whom. If we took over the whole building (Cockerell building) the university administration would have had to build a new building. It would probably have been the better answer. It would have given them greater technical ability. But no, it wasn’t done. The easier, quicker way was taken that we had to go out and they could enlarge.

66. Architecturally the new building is controversial.

It certainly was controversial from the beginning because of the whole structure which combined lecture rooms, administration and the Library in a way in which lecture rooms on the ground level were not insulated so that any change of audience within each hour meant a great deal of noise of people moving. This was already realized by the Committee. The University Librarian resigned because he took exception to the form of the building. So it was a controversial matter, with a very famous architect who had his own way. It then turned out of course that there was too much noise and considerably expensive changes had to be made.

67. In your opinion was the move a success?

It certainly gave us more room, but it gave up that feeling of may I say cosiness which the old library had. Nice wooden panelling, big tables which lawyers need, comfortable chairs. Instead of that we have a modern building of concrete, vast open spaces and small tables which are not good for lawyers who need many books in front of them, and chairs which were designed by the architect or his minions and are less comfortable than what we had before.
68. So if you were to contrast the facilities that you enjoyed at the old building?

I would go back.

69. It occurs to me that you are probably unique in that you are the only person who has ever worked in all three of the Squire Libraries; Downing St, Cockerell Building and the Sidgwick Site. Would it be true to say that, do you think?

That is quite correct. I certainly began in 1934 on the Downing Site. Nobody who was there with me is still alive. Nor for that matter are many who were with me in the Cockerell Building.

Fourth Interview, 18th May 2005

70. We've spoken about the library. I wonder if we could concentrate today on your own research, a great deal of which was conducted in the library. I gather you were the first academic in the UK to introduce the teaching of EU law. It was a very insightful thing to do. What made you take this step, which in retrospect has proved so important?

I wonder myself. I certainly realized this was something very new and different from anything that had happened before and that is why I offered to give a course which was non-examinable and open to the whole university on this new Treaty, and that developed into a course of lectures; and in due course people really felt they must know something about it because when this country joined the Treaty, lawyers had to know something. Only I realized it a little earlier.

71. You also published a text-book in 1974 on EU law. Was this the first of its kind?

There were books on it before, on the Treaty, especially on its constitutional and judicial aspects and the procedural aspects. Mine only touched on that when necessary. I tried to show the effect of the European Treaty and of the subordinate legislation by Brussels on Private Law in the countries concerned.

72. In his article in the recently published work "Jurists Uprooted", Dr. Forsyth picks out your Hague lectures in 1972. Great scholarship was displayed here, using mainly original sources. Von Bar says it was the
best essay on the development of private international law. Can you recall the circumstances in which you gave these lectures?

I was invited and it is always rather a compliment to be invited by the Curatorium of the Hague Academy to do so, but what I did was I fell back on my lectures in Cambridge, perhaps enlarging certain parts of it in order to make them more acceptable to the continental audience. But it was indeed the result of some of my lectures and my work in Cambridge. One had to go there for a week or two and give a lecture a day and for the rest one was free.

73. In 1998 you became the Reporter on a Commission set up by the Institute de Droit International which considered the problem of renvoi. Two previous commissions had considered the problem, but not resolved it. According to Dr. Forsyth your report was a tour de force and a personal triumph.

I never realized it at the time. I went about it systematically, again relying on my experiences as a lecturer at Cambridge. It’s true – there had been two attempts before to tackle it, but they’d both been theoretical attempts. I tried to do the matter in a practical and pragmatic way. I solved the problem at least in one way, showing how it could be done, not trying to lay down absolute rules.

74. And Dr. Forsyth wasn’t the first to describe it as a tour de force?

No, Mr. Justice Collins who attended the lectures said something very similar.

75. Dr. Forsyth also says that judges do not often acknowledge reliance upon academic work, but Lord Denning used your conclusions on the criteria for recognition of foreign governments in the case of Hesperides Hotels v Aegean Holidays in 1979. This picked up on an idea which you first developed in the 1950s. Do you think that the following of academic ideas is a desirable thing for judges to do?

If you can write clearly and decisively as to the rules which you are dealing with. If you merely start a long theoretical discussion, it doesn’t help.

76. Do you recall how you felt when this judgement came out?

I knew that I was on good terms with Denning. I knew that he was sympathetic with my ways and I was sympathetic with his.
77. Did you meet him?

Yes, I knew him – a very nice man.

78. Any recollections particularly?

I don’t think so. I think I met him always in an official capacity.

79. You revisited the area of Conflict of Laws before international tribunals sixty years later in a paper you wrote in 2002 (75 Jahre Max-Plank-Institut für Privatrecht). According to Dr. Forsyth you are the leading scholar in this area. What made you go back to this topic 60 years later?

There is a general burden on all teachers, namely to write when some of their colleagues reach the age of 60, 70 or 80 to get a book devoted to their life. You have to find a topic which is not too long and doesn’t cover what you are just working on a bigger scale. So I saw that there was more practice and I knew I had written on it at length to see how this topic had developed over the last 60 years. [LD: Christopher Forsyth (now Professor) has mentioned subsequently to me that during the period 1975-76, when he was reading for his LLB, both Kurt Lipstein and Otto Kahn Freund (who was visiting Goodhart Professor), were a great influence upon him when he took courses in Comparative Law and Conflict of Laws].

80. You were appointed by the Lord Chancellor to advise the UK Government on the Hague Treaties. How difficult was it working with a Government department?

The Government departments are very practical and they were not always in sympathy with the international ways I had dealt with. I did my work independently. Whether or not I succeeded in getting it translated into English law is another matter. I think I dealt with the administration of estates.

81. You have also written on the reception of western law into Turkey and India. You must have read widely on these jurisdictions. Although the Squire has reasonable coverage of Indian materials, the Turkish collection is weak. How did you obtain your material?
My topic was the reception of Swiss law in Turkey, therefore I only had to find out how far Swiss law was taken over in Turkey and then look how it operated. So it only meant looking at Swiss law in another country.

82. You appeared before the International Court of Justice in Liechtenstein v Guatemala (The Nottebohm Case). Was it difficult to procure material for such a case?

I didn’t have to because the case was prepared by Lauterpacht’s father who was at that time still an advocate and not yet judge at the International Court of Justice. I took over from him when he became a judge and couldn’t continue. Therefore, I was merely an inheritor.

83. As I understand, you procured a very beautiful car which you still have today?

That is correct. And it is known after the case – was named after the Nottebohm case. But I shouldn’t forget that my first work was with Gutteridge on unjustifiable enrichment in the Conflict of Laws. We both wrote that together. I prepared it and he supervised it. And that filled the gap in Private International Law.

84. Dr. Forsyth’s article in "Jurists Uprooted," concludes that your wealth of experience cannot be achieved again by anybody because you were brought up in the continental tradition and yet spent so much of your life immersed in the Common Law. Do you think this is a valid point?

Yes, because it means that you have to face people who are willing to change from one country to another, to change their lifestyle. It has happened before. After all, Oppenheim moved from Germany and became an English lawyer. And it can happen again. But it does happen mainly if there are technical disturbances in the world which force people to change from one country to another. That doesn’t happen that often. So there always will be people who change from one system to another. But to the extent that it happened in the 30s and 40s it is unlikely to happen again.

85. Is there something lost because academics with such a background are not around anymore?
I am sure there is. I have said somewhere that the massive experience which people brought who moved in the 30s, 40s and 50s will not easily be replaced because this mass movement is most unlikely to happen again.

86. **What in your opinion has been the highlight of your academic career?**

I aimed at an academic career. Therefore being appointed to Cambridge Faculty was probably the best and the earliest. Two things which I aimed at in my later life was I was to have the title of Queen’s Council, and became a member of The Institute of International Law, and I achieved that too, though later in my life. Those three things were the three highlights.

**Conclusions**

Kurt Lipstein was a remarkable man. His physical longevity and scholastic endurance were self evident (he had just completed a highly successful Summer School in English Legal Methods, in which his engagement with his young, and not-so-young, audiences was both touching and effective - July 2006), but his unique role in legal academia is worth re-emphasising.

Much has been written of the great contributions made to English and other legal systems, by émigrés, such Kurt Lipstein, from Germany immediately before the Second World War (e.g. *Jurists Uprooted, German-Speaking Emigré Lawyers in Twentieth Century Britain*, Beatson & Zimmerman (eds) 2004), and it can be seen from the transcripts of our conversations that his friendship with, and knowledge of, this fraternity contributed immensely to his own unique role in the development of private international legal studies over the decades. This needs no embellishment, but closer to home, his old friend and mentor, Clive Parry, put his finger on another pulse when he wrote in the preface to Kurt’s Festschrift in 1980 “...he is almost home-grown from the point of view of the Cambridge Faculty...” Indeed. The young, continentally-trained lawyer, transplanted into the soil of the Common Law, flourished, and uninterrupted for 72 years (except for his brief experience with the prerogative in 1940) has come to epitomise all that is unique and worthy in the Faculty.

His tenure spanned two major translocations of the Faculty and Squire Law Library (1937 and 1995), and his own life was almost as long as that of the Library itself (95%, it was opened in 1904). He saw it grow from a few thousand volumes held in one room, to over 200,000 volumes in its
present glass and steel edifice. He was able to talk about eminent academics (McNair, Buckland, Gutteridge, and Winfield), whose own tenures extended to the early years of the 20th Century, as well as young inter-war contemporaries who later made their marks in the Faculty (e.g. Parry, Jennings, William Wade, Williams) and elsewhere (e.g. David, Daube), and post-war arrivees.

It was a privilege to be associated with this gracious, friendly and very learned gentleman, and to have collected some of his memories.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank our colleagues Andrew Gerrard and Matt Martin for technical assistance with the recordings. Matt Martin also took the photograph of Professor Lipstein in his study (October 2006), while Professor Lipstein provided the photograph of himself as a young man.

Cases to which Professor Lipstein refers


**Brief biographic notes on people mentioned by Professor Lipstein**


**Collins Hon. Mr. Justice, Sir Andrew**, 1942-. Judge of High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division 1994-.


Dias, Mr. R. W. M. 1921-. Lecturer in Law, University of Cambridge (Jurisprudence & Tort) 1951-1986. Served in the RAF as rear-gunner in Coastal Command (1942-46). Emeritus Fellow Magdalene College.


Hopkins, Mr. J. A. University Assistant Lecturer in Law Cambridge University 1965–1968, University Lecturer, Cambridge University, 1968-2004. Downing College, Honorary Bencher of the Middle Temple.


Jolowicz, Professor J. Anthony, 1926- Emeritus Professor of Comparative Law, University of Cambridge. Trinity College.


Lauterpacht, Professor Sir Hersch, 1897-1960. Whewell Professor of International Law, University of Cambridge 1938-55. Born near Lemberg (Lwow) in Eastern Galicia (then Austrian, now part of Ukraine). Like Kurt Lipstein, he was a Jewish emigré who also lost most of his family during the Holocaust of WWII. During WWI he was drafted into the Austrian Army, but did his service in his father’s timber factory. Obtained


Major, William T., 1930-. Librarian, Squire Law Library 1968-70. Lecturer in Law, City Polytechnic (now City University of London), International Lawyer.

Markesinis, Sir Basil (Spyridonos). 1944-. Professor of Common and Civil Law, University College, London, 2001-.


Oppenheim, Lassa Francis Lawrence, 1858-1919. Whewell Professor of Public International Law, University of Cambridge, 1908-1919.


Queen Mary, Queen Consort of George V. 1867-1953.

Snow, Baron of Leicester (Life Peer), Charles Percy. 1905-1980. Author and physicist. During WWII was Technical Director in Ministry of Labour. Wrote a series of novels under collective title Strangers and Brothers. The Masters, referred to by KL, was written in 1951.

Squire, Rebecca Flower, 1822-1898. Benefactor of Squire Law Library. The cost of building the original Squire Law Library was defrayed in terms of her will. Cambridge accepted the project after Oxford had turned down the terms offered by the Trustees of the fund established in her will. Construction and fittings were allocated £15,000 and books £1,500. Land was purchased from Downing College and the library was formally opened by Edward VII in 1904. Readers were first admitted in 1906.

Staines, Clarence, Senior Assistant Librarian Squire Law Library 1931-1968.


von Bar, Christian. 1952-. Professor of Law and Director of the Institute of Private International and Comparative Law of the University of Osnabrück 1981-.

von Lingen (Kaiser’s grandson). Grandson of the last German Emperor, William II who abdicated in 1918 [his reign began in 1888]. William’s mother was the daughter of Queen Victoria.


Wortley, Ben Atkinson, 1907-1989, Professor of Jurisprudence and International Law, University of Manchester, 1946-75.

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