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Richard Rank, Friend

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RICHARD RANK, FRIEND

When Richard Rank died on December 25, 1973, his family lost a devoted husband and father. The legal fraternity and law librarians, Loyola Law School, and his many other friends lost a great librarian, a distinguished teacher and writer, and the principal architect of an amazing 10-year development of the books and staff of the Loyola library.

Richard received advanced degrees from the University of Tartu, Estonia, from the University of Heidelberg, and from the University of Washington. His legal research and library work took him to the University of Tartu, the University of Uppsala, Sweden, to Cornell University, Istanbul University, New York University, the University of Toronto, and, finally, in 1963, to Loyola of Los Angeles.

A recitation of his activities, his writings, and his membership in learned societies would be long; but I believe that Richard Rank would rather have me describe his devotion to, and the development of, the Loyola Law Library.

So I should like to write on behalf of the hundreds of Loyola faculty members and thousands of Loyola students who have benefited in the past and who will benefit in the future from Richard's dedication, personal teaching, advice and help. I also write on behalf of the several administrators of the university and of the law school who knew, better than anyone else, the endless work, the ability, the dedication, and the loyalty of Richard Rank.

And finally (and this would have been very important to Richard), I speak for our past and present library staff who have lost a great friend, an unselfish fighter on their behalf, a man who knew the importance of books but the greater importance of the people who have made the dead books live and serve the law school.

In 1963, when Richard came to Loyola, the library had 38,500 volumes. By 1973, the library had more than tripled in size. In 1963, the library staff consisted of the librarian and some part-time student help. In 1973, the staff of 15 full time members included 7 professional associates and 8 clerical associates, plus student help.

Richard Rank has left a beautiful and permanent legacy. We shall sorely miss Richard, the librarian; but the greater loss is Richard, the man. He was loyal and devoted to his family, to his friends and

associates, and to his work. We have never seen or heard him do or say a mean or devious or unfair thing. He happily accepted the faculty teasing, which can be epitomized by the frequent comment in faculty meetings: "What's good for the Library is good for Loyola."

Richard didn't mind the teasing; he knew the importance of the library, and the library was his life work.

As we now view the bustling, efficient library today, we borrow the inscription on the tomb of Sir Christopher Wren, the English architect, St. Paul's Cathedral, London:

"If you would see his monument, look around."

*J. Rex Dibble**

* Professor of Law, Loyola University of Los Angeles. This memorial to Richard Rank originally appeared in 67 L. LIBRARY J.-310 (1974).