An exhibition of early treatises on international law, recently on view in the Reading Room of the Law Library. This display was developed in connection with the School's Conference on International Law and the Lawyer, referred to elsewhere in this issue.

The work of the international lawyer is fascinating. It offers great rewards, intellectually and professionally. It also requires special skills and knowledge and, above all, the ability to deal with people whose general outlook may differ considerably from the American. Proiciency in foreign tongues is a precious asset. In many cases it will also be necessary for the American international lawyer that he has familiarized himself with the so-called civil law, that is, that legal system which constitutes the base of the laws of practically all countries of the world outside the United States and the British Commonwealth. The American lawyer can easily carry on a legal discourse with a lawyer from England, the mother country of the Anglo-American common law, or with a lawyer from any other country whose law is derived from the same source, such as Canada, Australia, India, Pakistan, or Burma.

But let our American lawyer try to carry on a legal discussion or negotiations with a lawyer from Mexico, Brazil, France, Germany, Egypt, Japan, the Union of South Africa, or the Soviet Union. Even if both parties are equally fluent in the use of the English language, they will find it difficult to understand each other. The concepts and mental processes used by one are not those of the other. At best, the parties will need much more time to understand each other than two common-law lawyers. Quite likely they may not reach an understanding at all; at worst, they may believe to have understood each other only to find out later that they have used the same words in different senses or have otherwise talked at cross-purposes. The reason lies in the fact that the conceptual framework and the methods of legal thought are different in the civil law countries, whose legal system originated upon the continent of Europe and now constitutes varying combinations of rules, methods, and concepts developed in ancient Rome, with medieval customs and modern ideas of the Enlightenment, nineteenth-century rationalism, and twentieth-century technology and policy. While in the solution of practical cases common law and civil law often reach the same results, the mental ways in which these results are reached are different—so different, indeed, that it is not easy for a lawyer trained in a legal system of one family to understand one who has had his training in the other.

To make the American lawyer aware of these differences and give him an introduction into the fascinating world of the civil law, law schools are offering courses or seminars in comparative law. For those who seek a more detailed professional training in the civil law, the University of Chicago has designed its Foreign Law Program, which is open to graduates of high standing of its own as well as of other recognized American law schools.

For a long time American international legal practice was concentrated in a comparatively small number of law firms in Washington, New York, and a few other seaports. As business firms of inland regions have begun more extensively to deal directly with foreign suppliers and customers, international legal business has tended to be less centralized. With the development of the St. Lawrence River Waterway, international practice of law is expected to expand considerably in the Middle West.

**International Law Conference**

During the Spring Quarter, The Law School sponsored a Conference on International Law and the Lawyer. The conference was held in conjunction with the annual regional meeting of the American Society of International Law, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year. The speaker at the afternoon session was George W. Ball, of Cleary, Gottlieb, Friendly and Ball, Washington; commentators were David M. Goode, of Lord, Bissell and Brook, Chicago, and Professor Ferdinand F. Stone, director of the Institute of Comparative Law, Tulane University Law School. Professor Allison Dunham, chairman of The Law School's Conference Committee, presided. The subject of the session was "The Lawyer's Role in International Transactions."

The evening session of the conference was devoted to "International Law and Treaties in National Courts." Quincy Wright, Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago and president of the American Society of International Law, was the featured speaker. Professor Malcolm Sharp was the commentator for this session, which was presided over by Max Rheinstein, Max Pam Professor of Comparative Law.