Early manuscripts shown at Bavarian Law Library included those shown here. The one above, "Digests of the Corpus Juris Civiliis," 14th century Italian manuscript, right page shows Emperor Justinian with attendants, inside columns are text of statutes, outside ones comments. Digests include 50 volumes of monographs by classical jurists.

"Schwabenspiegel," 14th century manuscript, medieval law book written by an Augsburg monk on the basis of the "Sachenspiegel" about 1275. Commonly used in Bavaria, Swabia and Switzerland as a standard legal work.


"Lex Bajuvarorum," 12th century manuscript, deals primarily with position of Church. This Bavarian tribe law goes back to 741-44 and is based on laws of Visigoths' King Euric.
Bavaria's Law Library

BAVARIA'S LAW LIBRARY celebrated its first anniversary recently in a ceremony in which Dr. George N. Shuster, US state commissioner for Bavaria, Dr. Josef Mueller, minister of justice of Bavaria, Dr. Anton Konrad, president of the Supreme Court of Bavaria, and Chief Justice William Clark of the US courts of Allied High Commission, Court of Appeals, participated.

When Leo M. Goodman, chief presiding district judge for Bavaria, assumed his new position in Munich in October 1948, he found the judges of the US Courts of the Allied High Commission for Germany in Bavaria with only 18 law books, all of little research value. The indispensable law books and material which are required for the correct and reliable application of the laws which form the basis of decision were missing.

At the first anniversary celebration of opening of law library, Judge Leo M. Goodman (right) shows shelves now filled with recently acquired books to, l-r., Josef Mueller, Bavarian minister of justice, Chief Justice William Clark, US Courts of Allied High Commission, and George N. Shuster, US state commissioner for Bavaria.

Judge Goodman tackled the task confronting him. He started to build a law library. At that time only limited funds were available for buying the most-needed American law books and research material. Consequently, the direct and simple method, of ordering, paying for and registering them in the library, was not possible. Hence another course had to be taken — either to acquire the

"Statutum in Favorem Principum" (above), 13th century manuscript, statute signed by Emperor Frederic II, May 1, 1231, and was issued as result of conflict with local principalities. It enabled the secular princes to strengthen sovereignty. (PRB OLCEB photos by Maske)

Golden Bull of Charles IV, 14th century manuscript (right). This document with impressive seal was issued by King Charles IV in 1356 and sets forth the basic regulations for the election of the German King and the position of the electors. It was in force until 1806 and is considered as one of the most important constitutional laws of old Reich.
books by donations or by loans. Numerous letters were written to US universities explaining the dearth of materials. The Bavarian National Library in Munich, which contained a large collection of the decisions of the United States Supreme Court, was also contacted.

American Universities, including the Universities of Pennsylvania, Columbia, Harvard, City College of New York, St. John’s and North Carolina, sent second copies of urgently needed law books including American Jurisprudence, Corpus Juris, Encyclopedia of Law and Procedure, Restatement of the Law. The Bavarian National Library put approximately 300 volumes of its collection on American decisions at the disposal of Judge Goodman, and the New York Public Library and the Practicing Law Institute of New York also made a number of valuable contributions.

The most urgent needs of the judges and lawyers of the Bavarian occupation courts were thus satisfied. In the meantime a small number of books and commentaries on German law were purchased from funds provided by the US Military Government for Bavaria. These books were placed in two rooms of the US District Court in Munich.

This success of putting dependable material at the disposal of his judges did not satisfy Judge Goodman completely. He made the library available not only to the judges and prosecutors of the American courts but also to the law students at the University of Munich, to Reiterendare (law graduates) and Assessoren (applicants on probation for the higher law service), who, as candidates for a doctor’s degree, were interested in Anglo-American law.

The Public Interest in the library, which at that time was still not comprehensive, aided Judge Goodman in his resolve to extend the library beyond the original purpose of serving only judges and lawyers of the court. The new aim was to make it a source for instruction as well, which paralleled the information program of the Occupation Authorities. This further goal, then, was to develop the library in that direction and to organize it as an intellectual center for the training of Bavarian lawyers and specifically for law students.

The original two rooms soon became too small. The library was moved into a larger room with two small reading rooms annexed. A librarian was employed. Later a quiet room in which students of Anglo-American law could devote themselves to concentrated study was established. Through loans, purchases and gifts, the library collected 2,700 volumes.

The official opening of the library was held last year, at which time Judge Goodman dedicated it to public use in the presence of American and German dignitaries.

The library is open on weekdays from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Approximately 30 to 40 persons visit the library daily; most of them are assessors, law graduates and law students of the University of Munich, and other universities. To date the library has had a total of 5,000 visitors. The number of its contributors and sponsors, both private and public, in Germany and in the United States, has continued to increase. Its 5,000 volumes represent the largest library in Bavaria, if not in all of Germany, on Anglo-American and international law.

An Exhibition of German History of Law was instituted at that time. The Bavarian National Library, the Bavarian National Archives and the Bavarian National Museum made available original priceless documents, scripts, books and pictures which illustrated the development of German law from the early Middle Ages up to modern times.

Among these were the Lex Romana Visigothorum (the so-called Codex Alarici) of the 6th century; an Emancipation Decree by Charlemagne of the year 777; the Lex Salica; the Lex Bajuvarorum; the Code of Old Saxon Laws; the Statutum In Favorem Principum by Emperor Frederick II; the Ottonic Bond; the Golden Bull by King Charles IV; the Grosser Brandbrief of the year 1374; the Ancient Code of Swabia and many other memorable documents. Also on display were Durer’s “Prodigal

“Grosser Brandbrief,” 14th century manuscript. An agreement between the king and the representatives of the Church, nobility and the municipalities for the preservation of the public peace. This document, in beautiful and even script and with its many seals, is dated 1374. The ancient pact is significant because it is an impressive example of the co-operation among the king, the people and the Church in a particularly troubled period of the Middle Ages.