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## In Celebration of Eric Stein 1913-2011

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IN CELEBRATION OF

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ERIC  
STEIN

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1913–2011



## THE POPLARS OF EAST AND WEST

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Even the poplars of Bohemia  
marching along the lonely road  
fade in the descending darkness  
after sunset in the foreshortening landscape  
leaves fluttering in the gentle evening breeze  
simple, stolid, without pretense  
hordes from the West  
hordes from the East  
come, stay – go?  
no freedom left in the darkening land  
or in the home  
only in the heart  
The poplars of Flanders  
marching along the abandoned canal  
bent by the icy western winds from the sea  
with long memories  
of sturdy ships loaded with luxurious vestments  
of the crackling sounds from Spanish muskets  
hordes from the West  
hordes from the East  
an interval now of freedom,  
    good life for the burghers  
and internal discord  
The poplars of the meseta of Castile  
scattered clumps of stragglers  
from defeated armies

if you observe long enough  
they vanish in the island of dark oak woods  
emerging again after a longish while  
marching toward the horizon  
which holds desperately on a dark cloud  
pulling and pulling until freed  
propelled by the wind  
races exuberantly across the blue sky  
The great kings are buried in the Escorial  
the great inquisitors  
the noble errant knights  
the buccaneer explorers  
all vanished with the curse of power  
The poplars of Michigan, weather beaten  
guarding the white-red light house  
the white gleaming in the July sun  
the red muted in the November fog  
moving in from the steely, churning lake  
the fog horn droning a melancholy dirge  
Since the last Indian moved North  
nothing – but nothing ever happens  
only the passing of seasons  
in the established order  
Peace – and seagulls

—*Eric Stein*

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## WELCOME

**Virginia Stein**

*and*

**Evan Caminker**

*Dean and Branch Rickey Collegiate Professor of Law*

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## SPEAKERS

**Karen Weiner**

*Family Representative*

**Terrance Sandalow**

*Edson R. Sunderland Professor of Law Emeritus  
and Dean Emeritus*

**Bruno Simma**

*William W. Cook Global Law Professor  
and Judge, International Court of Justice*

**Joseph Weiler**

*Joseph Straus Professor of Law  
New York University School of Law*

**Mathias Reimann**

*Hessel E. Yntema Professor of Law*

**Daniel Halberstam**

*Eric Stein Collegiate Professor of Law*

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***Reception Immediately Following***

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