

PREFACE

When in 1965 the Editor of the present series was privileged to preface Volume I of Professor VERZIJL's *Jurisprudence of the World Court*, the second Volume of which was published in 1966, he could hardly foresee that within the very short span of three years the first part of an even more ambitious project by the same author would be realized and ready for publication.

The first thing the Editor wishes to record this time is his unreserved admiration for the major "feat of arms" which his predecessor in the chair of international law in Utrecht University at his age intends to perform and, partly, has already completed. If anything, the fact bespeaks the author's total dedication to the subject which, standing in a centuries-old tradition, he taught for so many years. A preface not being the proper place for it, all further eulogies should be withheld here. Professor VERZIJL's feelings of modesty might even be hurt by too general an appreciation in which an elaborate weighing of his thought does not come foremost. However, it should certainly be observed that, once the present project has been brought to an end, there will be good reason to rejoice at the possibility for present and future generations not familiar with all of the several languages in which VERZIJL's individual contributions were written of assessing his definite place in the science of international law, in the Netherlands as well as in the world at large.

In his own Introduction to this new work of his, the author himself expands sufficiently on the genesis and the nature of his *International Law in Historical Perspective* to make any further comment superfluous. One feature of it, however, remains to be emphasized. It lies in the field of the history of international law publications in this country. Fortunately, treatises on international law published in the Dutch language are far from exceptional, but one has to go back to the year 1920 to find one written in a foreign language: *Le droit international public positif* in two volumes (Publications de la Dotation Carnegie pour la Paix internationale) by a scholar who was Professor VERZIJL's predecessor in Utrecht, Professor Jan DE LOUÏER. The work, an earlier Dutch version of which is also extant, is still read and quoted in connexion with a number of important aspects of the subject and, astonishingly, more frequently so by foreign writers than by their Dutch colleagues. It is a notable event now to witness Professor VERZIJL embarking on an enterprise similar to that of DE LOUÏER.

Like all the preceding volumes in the series *Nova et vetera iuris gentium*, the present one is published with the financial aid of the Trustees of Utrecht University. It is the Editor's pleasant duty to express his appreciation thereof.

A special grant made to him by the *Nederlandse Organisatie voor Zuiver-Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek* (Netherlands Organization for the Advancement of Pure Research (Z.W.O.)) at The Hague enabled the Editor to commit Miss Polona STROOP to the task of assisting Professor VERZIJL in the preparation of his manuscript for the press. This grant also should be gratefully acknowledged. There is little doubt that without it the work might never have seen the light of day, and the world of international law would have been so much the poorer for it.

Finally, the Editor owes a debt of gratitude to the publishers, Messrs. A. W. SIJTHOFF of Leyden, who again with never-failing enthusiasm exerted themselves to fulfil the exacting standards set for the series.

Utrecht, July 1968

THE EDITOR