

Acknowledgments

This book celebrates a jubilee. First and foremost it tells the fascinating story of an institution. Yet, more than that, it relates the genesis of an idea, or should one say an ideal, from the first dawning of the concept of peaceful settlement up to the day its embodiment was given The Hague as a permanent abode. Finally, the book ventures to show, in a nutshell, the development of the law, from the early notions of justice and equity as they originated within the various municipal spheres of a wide, wide world up to their first assembling in a brave effort to function on the international level and within one, multicultural society.

To be sure, international law is a unified discipline. There is no such thing as Eastern or Western international law, for international law must, by very definition, be international. The law, as we have inherited it, has developed in the modern era mainly from Western sources. However, especially through the work of the Court in the past fifty years, the mainstream of the law is being continuously enriched by contributions from all quarters of the globe. The bench of the International Court of Justice, bound in terms of its Statute to be representative of the main forms of civilization, reflects these multiple strands of global influence. Those influences shaped the nascent discipline as it evolved in many cultures and must continue to nourish it as it grows to meet the needs of the richly textured international society of the future. This book ventures to do justice to these many contributory sources, highlighting the stages by which they made contact with the Court at The Hague.

To the many who have come to appreciate his work in past years it will not come as a surprise that the *auctor intellectualis* of this book's concept is Judge Christopher Weeramantry. It is with him that the project originated and it is due to his persuasive qualities that it materialized. If anything, the book itself must serve as a token of my acknowledgment to him. It should also be seen as an expression of my gratitude to the Court and the Registrar for generously allowing me to accept this challenging commitment.

Obviously, a publication like the present one cannot be produced without the active support of many. First of all, I must say a special word of thanks to the President of the Court for the warm and generous Foreword which he has so kindly contributed to the book. I owe deep gratitude to Alan Stephens, and through him Kluwer Law International, for their steadfast optimism throughout. I am indebted to the Director of the Carnegie Foundation for the facilities provided in the production of this book. I thank Arthur Witteveen, the Court's Secretary in Charge of Information Matters, for having enriched the book by generously putting twenty years of experience with the Court into the appraisal of its case-law and the conclusions to be drawn therefrom.

Bert and Lilian Mellink made a dream of mine come true with their detailed reproduction of the magnificence of the Peace Palace, thus paying tribute to the visionaries of the peace ideal. The exacting lay-out of this book has been completed with a discerning eye, meticulous care and infinite patience by Antoon J. van Vliet. Annebeth Rosenboom, Teun de Graaf and Anneke Zoutendijk were ever approachable. Finally, among the many colleagues and friends who went out of their way to serve my numerous claims for help I must mention Mrs Doreen Bloemendaal, Ms Maureen Sullivan, Mrs Pavan Sodhi and my dear Loes.

I have felt privileged and strengthened knowing all of you were around at all times.

A. E.