

BOOK REVIEWS

JUBILEE BOOK 1923-1973. Edited by R.J. Dupuy. Leyde, Holland: A.W. Sijthoff, 1973. Pp. 277.

In celebration of its 50th anniversary the Hague Academy of International Law has published a book which is meant to give an overview of the varied activities of this venerable institution which is devoted to the teaching, discussion and dissemination of international law. What must impress the reader most is the list at the back of the Jubilee Book of the lectures and subjects which have been given at the Academy since 1923; these sets of lectures are contained in the *Recueil de Cours*. The *Recueil de Cours*, which makes available the thinking of the outstanding scholars of international law in our times, would alone suffice to mark the Academy as the foremost institution of its kind in the world.¹

The Hague Academy, however, is more than just a series of lectures given in the past and to be added to the *Recueil de Cours* in the future. The other indispensable function of the Academy is evidenced by the frontispiece showing the participants at the opening session in 1923—the contact between distinguished scholars in the several areas of international law and young men and women who aspire to careers in the various branches of international law.

The editors of the Jubilee Book have attempted, with much success, to mix reminiscences by great men in the field with the history of the Academy and with descriptions of the prospects for creative work to be done under the auspices of the Hague Academy. Professor Verosta has written a short history of the Academy. Reminiscences of the first Session have been contributed by Professor F. Castberg and by Judge Philip C. Jessup. A summary of the 50 years of lectures on Public International Law by Professor R.Y. Jennings is followed by a description by Professor A.E. von Overbeck of lectures in Private International Law given at the Academy over the years. Reports on the Research Center of the Academy, the External Program, and the history of the Association of Attenders and Alumni of the Academy are also included in the Jubilee Book. Mrs. M. van Leeuwen Boomkamp-Oppenhuis de Jong has carefully prepared a series of graphs (some of which are quite complicated) and lists detailing the countries represented by attending at the various sessions, the lecturers and where they came from, the number of diploma holders in various years and other such information.²

The Jubilee Book describes in detail the various programs of the Academy:

¹Lectures by scholars such as H. Lauterpacht, Scelle, McNair, Alvarez, Chaumont, Gidel, Kelsen, H. Rolin, Brierly, Battifol, Reuter, C. de Visscher, Mann and Friedmann, appear in the *Recueil de Cours*. Many outstanding American scholars have lectured at the Academy including: Philip Jessup, Herbert Briggs, Elliot Cheatham, Louis Henkin, Quincy Wright, Willis L.M. Reese, Oscar Schachter, Manley O. Hudson and James N. Hyde.

²The present Secretary-General of the Hague Academy, and editor of the Jubilee Book is Professor R.J. Dupuy (France); the President of the Academy Curatorium is Professor F. Castberg (Norway); the Secretariat is headed by Miss N.M. Maarleveldt (Netherlands).

the External Program of the Academy which sends scholars to lecture at special sessions organized in developing regions of the world, the Research Center which annually takes place at the conclusion of the regular Academy session and brings together young scholars who work for a number of weeks on one specific topic, and the Doctoral Fellowships given to doctoral candidates (mainly from developing countries) to spend several months at the Academy. These creative programs were largely inspired by Judge Philip Jessup and Professor Wolfgang Friedmann. A program of seminars by two young scholars designated as directors of studies for each session was created in 1964 at the suggestion of Judge Jessup; Professor Friedmann contributed a Working Library for this program.³ Unfortunately, for the past two years this program of seminars has been restricted to candidates for the Academy Diploma rather than being open to all attenders as originally intended.

It has been suggested by some attenders that they were not satisfied by the lectures offered them in a particular year either because the subjects were of little interest or because at least some of the lecturers did not appear to be well prepared. As is described in the various reports in the Jubilee Book, each session is made up of general courses in public and private international law and of courses in specific subjects within the several areas of international law that are of current interest. Each general course is meant to give the attenders, and the readers of the *Recueil de Cours* an insight into the general field as seen by a prominent scholar. The courses on specific subjects are meant to interest the attenders and also to add to the subjects covered in the *Recueil de Cours*.

The Hague Academy is not a substitute for law school training in public and private international law. Attenders are presumed to be prepared for advanced work in the several areas of international law and are placed in contact with outstanding scholars who present lectures and seminars. Obviously the process of selection of lecturers is difficult and it would appear that there are cases when extraneous reasons lead to the choice of a particular lecturer. The attender at any one session of the Academy is necessarily present for only a moment in the continuous cycle of lectures and thus must be satisfied with something less than all that the Academy represents over the years. The general course and some of the other lectures at one session may satisfy fewer attenders than those given at another session; however, the atmosphere of the Academy which is so conducive to the free exchange of ideas—from the profound to the mundane—by jurists of every juridical background and economic and political persuasion is an important element of every session.

The Jubilee Book is bound to come into the hands of many persons interested in international law.⁴ For such persons, it serves both as an introduction to the history of the Academy and as a record of its many accomplishments.

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³This special library should not be confused with the substantial Peace Palace Library which is also available to Academy attenders.

⁴The Jubilee Book has been distributed to a number of persons and scholarly journals but it does not appear to be for sale.

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