

IN MEMORIAM

KEITH HIGHET

Keith Highet was a friend to very many of those in this room and a major figure in the world of international law for much of the past four decades.

Tom Franck has written a splendid tribute to Keith in the *Journal* that captures his character and attainments. His character was hard to capture because it was so ebullient. Keith was a man of exceptional vigor, vivacity, flair, and wit. He had a joy in life that was infectious. Keith had guts as well as spirit. His long struggle with a frightful illness was brave, almost brash. He managed to joke about an ordeal and he fought for life with all he had. In that as in much else he was helped immensely by his wife Margel.

This Society owes much to Keith. He served as president with great distinction. He was the Society's president during the pendency of the case brought by Nicaragua against the United States, a period in which relations between the Court and the United States were under unprecedented strain. He visited The Hague during that period, and I gave a dinner for him to which every judge was invited and to which every judge came. He spoke on that delicate occasion with his characteristic grace.

Keith was a member of the board of editors of the *Journal* and for years edited its section on the practice of the United States. He contributed a number of able articles to the *Journal* as well.

No American has ever argued as many cases before the International Court of Justice as did Keith. He was baptized assisting Ernest Gross in the extended and unhappy litigation between Ethiopia and Liberia and South Africa over South West Africa. The frustrating outcome was searing. But he went on to serve as counsel in the Court for a remarkable variety of governments in a range of cases. Keith was a skilled advocate, a seasoned international counselor, and a man with a wide reach in and grasp of the field. He spent some forty years as a practitioner and managed at the same time to write, to teach, and to serve this Society in so many ways.

As befitted his distinguished parentage, Keith was a gentleman of exceptional education and cultivation. He was an accomplished linguist, a man-of-the-world who had seen much of it, who knew its geography and history, and who had an unquenchable interest in and sympathy for its diverse peoples and aspirations. Keith accentuated the positive and eliminated the negative. His fine mind and soaring spirit were matched by a great heart. We mourn his early death as we mark his exceptional life.

STEPHEN M. SCHWEBEL

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