

IN MEMORIAM

Professor Maarten Bos (1916-2004)

On 7 June 2004 Professor Maarten Bos passed away peacefully at the age of 87. Professor Bos's passing away not only signifies the loss of one of the Review's founding fathers and its Honorary Editor-in-Chief, but first and foremost a friend and an inspiring and eloquent scholar, an international lawyer and professor *pur sang*.

Maarten Bos's life was dedicated to the study and development of international law. After obtaining his Master of Laws at Leyden University in 1941, he went on to earn his Doctor's degree *cum laude*, also at Leyden University, by defending his thesis on '*De procesvoorwaarden in het volkenrecht*' [The Prerequisites of Judicial Proceedings in International Law]. In 1952 he moved to New York, where he worked at the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs until his appointment in 1958 as Professor of International Law at Utrecht University. During the following 26 years many generations of law students studied international law under Maarten Bos. He also was very active in the International Law Association and its Dutch branch. He was President of the ILA from 1970 to 1972 and stayed on as Vice-President. In 1959 he became member of the board of the Dutch branch, serving as its Secretary from 1962 to 1968 and its Chairman from 1968 to 1971. For his exceptional merits the Dutch branch nominated Maarten Bos as its Honorary Member in 1992. In other respectable associations his knowledge of international law also was noticed. He became *membre associé* of the *Institut de Droit International* in 1973 and full member in 1979. In 1989 Maarten Bos was honoured by his colleagues and friends with a *Liber Amicorum* (Wybo P. Heere, ed., *International Law and Its Sources*, Deventer, Kluwer 1989), in which a comprehensive biography and bibliography can be found.

After his retirement as Professor of Law Maarten Bos remained an active advocate of the development of international law. Above all this attitude can be found in his relationship with the *NILR*. For many years Maarten Bos was the personification of the Review. In 1953 he founded the Review together with Bob Erades, and served as member of the Board from 1953 to 1993. In 1985 Maarten Bos succeeded Bob Erades as Editor-in-Chief. He presided the board meetings with much wisdom and was admired for his great knowledge of various subjects of international law. Maarten Bos required the highest quality of work from authors. Any article that did not meet those quality standards was rejected without any hesitation. In Professor Bos's view articles should not only

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be interesting to read, but should also remain relevant after their publication. After the celebration of *NILR*'s fortieth anniversary in November 1993, Maarten Bos resigned from the Board. In January 1994 he was nominated its Honorary Editor-in-Chief. He always remained interested in the *NILR* and its Board Members. On many occasions we welcomed him and his wife Joke, and in turn he presented us with eloquent, humorous speeches about the history of *NILR*.

Although being advanced in years Maarten Bos had a perfect, almost photographic, memory. One day, in preparing *NILR*'s Golden Jubilee in November 2003, I called Maarten Bos and asked him whether the 'time of birth' of the Review – 12 November 1953, at 11.45 p.m. – really was correct. Without any hesitation Maarten Bos told me exactly how things went in 1953 and even recalled the address where a parcel with the first copies of *NILR* was delivered. This anecdote perfectly illustrates not only Maarten Bos's great sense of humor, but also his lucid mind. On 21 November 2003 we celebrated *NILR*'s Golden Jubilee in Utrecht with a festive luncheon. Maarten Bos and his wife were present, and the Board enjoyed their company very much (the photo of the Board taken at this luncheon is published in this issue). Maarten Bos was so delighted that he was able to attend this momentous event, although his health was deteriorating at that time. With the help of Joke he fought the inconveniences of his age, until the inevitable farewell came on 7 June.

The Board pays respect to Maarten Bos, our dear friend and colleague, a wise and gentle man, an eminent legal scholar. Our sympathies go to his wife, children and grandchildren. May he rest in peace.

P. Vlas
Editor-in-Chief