

geance de nous procurer la liste des publications, livres et articles de revue, classifiés par cette Bibliothèque dans les deux domaines du droit international public et privé au cours des trois derniers mois précédant la parution de chaque numéro. Cette liste sera ordonnée selon la méthode adoptée pour le catalogue systématique de ladite bibliothèque et constituera, nous l'espérons, une documentation précieuse pour tous les internationalistes.

Autre conséquence à tirer des dimensions réduites de notre pays: le cercle de nos lecteurs ne peut être très grand. Il faut espérer que ce cercle graduellement s'étendra au delà des Pays-Bas. Il était donc clair qu'à ses débuts tout au moins notre revue ne pourrait paraître sans une aide financière. Qu'il nous soit permis d'exprimer ici toute notre gratitude envers les Directeurs du *Legatum Visserianum*, qui ont immédiatement reconnu l'importance de la fondation de cette revue, et nous ont généreusement accordé une subvention. Notre reconnaissance va également à M. le Directeur-Bibliothécaire du Palais de la Paix ainsi qu'à la Direction de la Maison d'Editions Sijthoff, qui ont bien voulu collaborer à la réalisation de nos projets.

Nous espérons que la publication de la « *Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Internationaal Recht* » pourra contribuer au développement du droit international et nous sommes heureux d'en présenter ici le premier numéro à nos lecteurs.

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FOREWORD

We feel that the interest attaching to a Netherlands Review, entirely devoted to the study of international law — both public and private — cannot be better emphasised than has been done by the two most outstanding Dutch scholars in these two branches of law in the preceding introduction.

What they have written chimes completely with our own views on the subject. The Board of Editors have felt that they should reserve part of this first issue, which they are very pleased to be in a position to offer to readers in this country and abroad, to an explanation of their conception of the manner in which a "Netherlands International Law Review" may best serve to further the study of international law.

The Review intends to be a scientific periodical in which Netherlands jurists — whatever their position — will be able to follow the development of both spheres of the law which it is designed to cover, and in which, on the other hand, foreign jurists will be enabled to find the contributions made to that development by the Netherlands.

Our aim is to attain the highest possible standard in our chosen field.

The Review does not represent any official opinion. Any author whose work is accepted is understood to be speaking for him or herself and to be expressing a purely personal opinion. We would, however, fail in our object if we were not prepared to invite our foreign colleagues to cooperate. We will gladly offer the opportunity to contribute to the Review to any foreign author who wishes to associate himself with the work which we shall be doing by the publication in its pages of the results of his studies and research.

The Netherlands are, however, a small country and knowledge of our language is correspondingly restricted. But if the Review intends to live up to its purpose it is essential that its contents should be more widely understood than could be the case if we confined contributions to our own tongue.

We are therefore prepared to include papers written in English or French. We disclaim in advance any desire to compel a Netherlands author to write in any language other than his own. Such an attempt would not only be contrary to our feelings of national pride and a flagrant contradiction of the title of our Review, but it would also tend to defeat our purpose. Language must as far as possible form no bar to the expression of the reflections and opinions which a writer may wish to offer. Studies in Netherlands will be as warmly welcomed as papers in either of the other languages specified above. But in order to promote the international usefulness of the quarterly we feel that such papers should be accompanied by a brief summary either in English or French, and we would ask any writer using Netherlands to append such a summary to his article. If a summary is submitted in Netherlands it will be translated into English on behalf of the Board of Editors.

In addition to studies in the fields of public and private international law there will be a number of regular features. These will include book reviews, Netherlands judicial decisions in public and private international law cases, and as far as space permits, the texts of international documents important to the Netherlands which are not easily accessible. We would like to draw special attention to the survey of literature. The Director of the Library of the Peace Palace at the Hague has undertaken to supply us with a survey of any important books and periodicals which have been incorporated in its classification scheme during the preceding quarter. The list will be classified in the same manner as is the catalogue of the Library. In this way we hope to be able to offer to scholars and practitioners of international law a valuable source of documentation.

The fact already mentioned that the Netherlands are a small country faces us with other problems which we cannot ignore. The circle to which our Review will appeal in the first place will

not be a large one. And for the moment we can do no more than hope that this circle may gradually extend beyond the Netherlands. We are therefore obliged to reckon with the fact that at first we shall have to depend for financial support upon other outside sources. We are in this connection most grateful to the Directors of the Legatum Viſserianum who immediately recognised the importance of the projected publication and lent a willing ear to our request for help. A word of appreciative thanks is due here to the Director of the Library of the Peace Palace and also to the publishers, both of whom are prepared to cooperate whole-heartedly in the realization of our plans.

It is our sincere hope that by the publication of this review we may succeed in contributing, as far as it lies within our power, to a further growth of international law.

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