

IN MEMORIAM

WOLFGANG GASTON FRIEDMANN

1907–1972

Professor Wolfgang Gaston Friedmann, who was killed during a robbery on the streets of New York on September 20, 1972, was a great and good man. As his friends and colleagues on the Law Faculty of Columbia University and in the American Society of International Law, we shall miss a rare human being, a distinguished scholar, a stimulating intellect, an academic leader. We shall cherish the memory of his warm personality, his tolerance of those who disagreed, his concern for those in need of aid.

Professor Friedmann was born in Berlin, Germany, on January 25, 1907. After graduating from the law faculty of the University of Berlin in 1930, he engaged in the practice of law and in 1933 was appointed a judge on the court for labor matters, but was soon dismissed by the new Nazi regime for his courageous judicial independence. He left Nazi Germany in 1934 and settled in England, where he became a British subject, a law teacher, and a barrister. He was awarded the LL.D. degree by the University of London in 1947. Subsequently, he lived and taught in Australia and Canada, whence he came in 1955 to Columbia as Director of International Legal Research and Professor of International Law. His desire to spread and deepen the understanding and appreciation of international law inspired the formation of the Columbia Society of International Law, a student organization, and the foundation of the *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*, now in its twelfth year. Their success and distinction stimulated the organization of similar societies and journals in a growing number of other law schools. He also helped in many other ways students and recent graduates who were interested in international law.

Professor Friedmann was an indefatigable worker and a world-famous legal scholar. He had friends and admirers in almost all the countries of the world. His legal interests were not limited to international law. He became a recognized authority on sociological jurisprudence and on comparative law. He wrote the first comprehensive treatise on Australian administrative law. He published a standard textbook on world politics and numerous articles and notes on torts, contracts, and anti-monopoly law. A list of the books and articles written or edited by him, printed in the Spring 1971 issue of the *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*, occupies fourteen closely printed pages (pp. 32–45). Since this list was compiled, Professor Friedmann wrote or edited several additional books and articles.

He was a thoroughly competent legal scholar, but it was not the narrowly technical aspects of the law that really interested him. He thought of law as a means of improving the condition of man, eliminating the defects in

our societies, and moving in the direction of universal peace and welfare. But although he was an idealist and a reformer, he never lost sight of reality. He well understood the bounds of the possible. Above all, he was rational and moderate.

As his recent writings on economic development and on the future of the law of the sea illustrate, he thought of the welfare of all mankind as the goal to be pursued and had no use for narrow and myopic nationalisms. His ideas and ideals were truly transnational.

Long an active member of the American Society of International Law, he served for some years on its Board of Review and Development and was a leading participant in several study panels. All three of us served with him for varying periods as editors of the *American Journal of International Law*. All his activities were marked by forward-looking vision, creativity and intellectual courage, combined with tolerance and good humor.

The untimely death of Wolfgang Friedmann is a tragic loss not only to his family, friends, and colleagues, but also to the American Society of International Law, to Columbia University, to legal scholarship everywhere, and to the world.

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