

INTRODUCTION

Habent sua fata libelli (amicorum). When the Department of International and European Law, at the Faculty of Law, Administration and Economics of Wrocław University decided to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of Professor Wolfke, we planned to organize a jubilee conference in June 2015, hoping for his participation, as had been an established custom. In this respect, we remembered the previous celebrations of Karol Wolfke's birthdays organized in Wojnowice Castle in 2005 and at his home Faculty of Law in 2010. The admiration for his lively style and sense of humour, taken together with the highest scientific respect for his academic achievements, guaranteed the attendance of numerous representatives of the community of international lawyers.

Unfortunately, Karol Wolfke passed away in March 2015. But the sad event did not change, nor weaken, our determination to pay a tribute to one of the most eminent international lawyers by organizing a conference in his honour. On 15 June his former pupils, colleagues and friends, together with his family took part in a commemorating conference "Selected Problems of International Customary Law".

This *Gedächtnisschrift* does not only contain the papers read at the jubilee conference. Many of Professor Wolfke's colleagues and friends kindly provided their own contributions. Several other chapters have been written by scholars not directly connected with Karol Wolfke. The process of gathering the texts has been lengthy, but eventually it was possible to include all the papers.

The present introduction is not the best occasion to look at the life of the Late Professor Wolfke since this has been perfectly done by his life-long friend, the late Professor Jan Kolasa and his former pupils. They offer different perspectives of respect and admiration to Karol Wolfke.

Without doubt Professor Wolfke's key area of interest was the sources of international law and in particular international customary law. He left a permanent mark on international law through his writings which provided him a world-wide reputation as a leading specialist in this domain. For that reason it comes as no surprise that the overwhelming majority of chapters in this collection refer to customary law, both of a general character (offering expositions on its identification, structure and elements) but also from different specific perspectives. Several studies on customary law refer to the use of force, law of the sea, international economic law, immunities, and the custom's position in the Polish legal order. A careful examination of responsibility is followed by a series of studies in international courts and tribunals as well as in international criminal and humanitarian law.

Amongst many lasting achievements, Professor Wolfke's pioneering contribution to international environmental law is worth mentioning and

remembering. This has also found reflection in the contributions devoted to various aspects of this field of (international) law. Several studies on the European Union law form a separate section of the collection.

All contributions aim at paying a tribute to an outstanding scholar, eminent international lawyer and a Great Man.

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