
This compilation of essays written in tribute to Douglas M. Johnston, who passed away during the month of May 2006, is a *liber amicorum* in the truest sense of the word: A book written by friends, almost half of which were once his own former students. Just like the picture to be found when opening the book, the latter radiates the same kind of warmness and respect for a man described in these different essays as ‘modest,’ ‘generous,’ ‘inspiring,’ and ‘humorous,’ to name but a few of his much appreciated qualities. In the field of academia, he was not only an innovator, who constantly tried to build bridges between the different disciplines of science, but also what Sir Graham Day labelled in his Foreword as a ‘begetter’ (p. x), *i.e.*, a person with organizational instinct who was able to muster support, as well as finances, for his cross-disciplinary initiatives. Indeed, 2004 was the year in which Dalhousie University celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Marine & Environmental Law Programme (MELP) with the establishment of its Marine & Environmental Law Institute (information available on Internet at <law.dal.ca/Files/FINAL_Hearsay_2005.pdf>). The development of this Programme has been profoundly influenced by an important (Ca$ 1 million) funding secured in 1978 to found the Dalhousie Ocean Studies Programme (hereinafter DOSP), in which Douglas M. Johnston, who held a permanent appointment at the Law Faculty of this university for fifteen years (1972–1987), played a substantial role at the time. This also, probably explains why the primary initiative to publish this book found its roots in Halifax, rather than Victoria, where Douglas M. Johnston ended his teaching career at the University of Victoria. If one adds the years as emeritus professor after 1995, it could even convincingly be argued that Douglas M. Johnston spent more time at the latter university. Nevertheless, his imprint on Dalhousie University seems to have been more profound. Moreover, his Dalhousie years were the most productive of his life in terms of scholarly writings. It can be stated in general that he was a very prolific scholar leaving 143 articles, books, essays, collection of essays or proceeding papers, the most productive years being when he held a permanent appointment at university law schools, and of the latter category, the Dalhousie years stand out as most creative (as meticulously dissected by Christian Wiktor and Ted McDorman, in their contribution “The Publications of Douglas Millar Johnston,” p. 740).

The book is divided in three main parts, which will all be treated in order. A first part concerns 1). a Foreword by Sir Graham Day, already mentioned above; 2). a Preface by the three co-editors, namely Aldo Chircop, Ted McDorman, already mentioned, and Susan Rolston, all three former
students of Douglas M. Johnston at Dalhousie University; 3) the same three people are also responsible for the writing of a Biographical Note together with Christian Wiktor, the former head librarian at the Law Library of Dalhousie University; 4) a contribution of Brian Fleming on the last work of Douglas M. Johnston, finalized posthumously by his son, entitled “This Historical Foundations of World Order: The Tower and the Arena” (2008); and 5) a contribution of Edward Miles on the qualities of Douglas M. Johnston as a practicing diplomat. This first part, of which the Foreword and Preface *stricto sensu* are extraneous, since they precede it, nevertheless can conceptually be considered as a single whole since all these contributions look back on the life and person of Douglas M. Johnston.

Part II subsequently gathers the contributions of different friends and colleagues, twenty-five in number, of which about two-third explicitly refer back to Douglas M. Johnston in their separate contributions. The latter are preceded by an introductory piece where the editors of the book ‘set the stage,’ *i.e.*, they give a short introduction on the history of international regime formation, with special emphasis on the oceans, followed by a succinct indication of the different contributions to follow. The contributions are grouped around six general themes, namely, Ocean and Environmental Regime-building: Global Perspectives, International Straits and Navigation Routes, New Standards for International Shipping, Fisheries Conservation and Human Rights Perspectives, Marine Environmental Protection, and Dispute Settlement and Regional Cooperation.

The first theme on global perspectives of ocean and environmental regime-building contains a majority of contributions already published elsewhere and reworked by their respective authors. Under this theme, it is first of all interesting to note that the contribution of Jutta Brunnée, which focuses on the Stockholm declaration within the broader development of international environmental law, and that of Meinhard Doelle, which does the same with respect to climate change mitigation, takes a different approach. If the former seems rather to downplay the importance of the difference between the legally or non-legally binding nature of instruments, the latter exactly sees a way forward through the conclusion of a binding treaty on integration. John Gamble, Ryan Watson and Lauren Piera, based on the Comprehensive Statistical Database of Multilateral Treaties developed at Pennsylvania State University Erie, came to the interesting conclusion with respect to multilateral treaties governing ocean regimes, that a steady and consistent increase in their number can be witnessed: in absolute as well as in relative numbers such treaties have steadily increased for each 20–year period during the 20th century. Many of the legal developments falling under this first theme are triggered by technological progress, but Jay Batongbacal raises the perti-