

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

JOSEF L. KUNZ, 1890–1970

The death of Josef Laurenz Kunz on August 5, 1970, is a grievous loss to international legal scholarship. Born in Vienna, April 1, 1890, he settled in the United States in 1932, and became a United States citizen. After studies in Paris and London, he earned a doctorate in law at the University of Vienna in 1913, and a doctorate at the same university in political science in 1921. He was later made Doctor *honoris causa* of the National University of Mexico.

Before coming to the United States, where he taught international law at the University of Toledo Law School from 1934 until his retirement, Kunz had been privat-docent in international law at the University of Vienna and had been consultant for the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the *Hungarian-Rumanian Optants* case. He had already established his name as a legal scholar of distinction by publishing, *inter alia*, *Die Völkerrechtliche Option*, Vol. I (1925), Vol. II (1928), *Die Anerkennung von Staaten und Regierungen im Völkerrecht* (1928), and *Die Staatenverbindungen* (1929), as well as contributing some thirty articles to Karl Strupp's *Wörterbuch des Völkerrechts*.

After settling in the United States, Kunz continued his prolific and perceptive contributions to international law and developed an interest in Latin American legal philosophy, law and practice, publishing many monographs in Spanish. Elected to the Board of Editors of the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW* in 1944, Kunz faithfully contributed to its pages critical, constructive and lucid comments on current questions of international law and matters of legal theory which always commanded his interest. The range and depth of his scholarship were immense. He published over six hundred book reviews; and some forty of his selected articles are reprinted in *The Changing Law of Nations—Essays on International Law*, by Josef L. Kunz (1968).<sup>1</sup>

Kunz achieved a lifelong ambition when he was elected Associate of the *Institut de Droit International* in 1957, and Member in 1965, but, with failing health, he characteristically resigned in 1969 in order to make room for younger men in its limited membership.

The catholicity of his interests, the ebullience and charm of his conversation, and the warmth of his personality were a joy to those who knew him. His great learning and skills in legal analysis were a constant stimulus, and these are fortunately available to posterity in his published work.

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<sup>1</sup> See review by Quincy Wright, 63 *A.J.I.L.* 348 (1969). See also, for lists of publications by Kunz, *Annuaire de l'Institut de Droit International, Session d'Amsterdam, 1957, Vol. II, pp. 505–510*, and *Analytical Index, American Journal of International Law, etc., 1941–1960, pp. 277–279* (1968).