

## In Memoriam.

---

PROFESSOR ALEXANDER PEARCE HIGGINS, K.C.,  
C.B.E., F.B.A., M.A., LL.D.

These few words in memory of Professor Pearce Higgins are in no sense a formal obituary notice. His distinguished career has been recorded in many of these and in none with more grace and feeling than in Professor McNair's tribute in the British Year Book of International Law. Here we would rather dwell upon the loss of one of the most kindly men who ever taught in the Cambridge Law School. A notable feature of the Faculty nowadays is the accessibility of its members to the undergraduates and research students. It was not always so and several of us are old enough to remember a time when there was a gulf between professor and pupil that was not easily bridged. Not that it was intentional nor that it was the fault of anyone in particular; it was due to habits of thought peculiar to an earlier generation. Professor Higgins was one of those to whom in no small measure the change was due. He was always ready to help anyone, whether a colleague or a student and whether with his wide professional knowledge or with sympathetic advice in more intimate affairs. He was by nature eminently a 'clubbable' man, and his wide range of experience—Cambridge, Harvard, the London School of Economics, the War Colleges of the Royal Navy and of the United States, the Prize Court, The Hague, the Institute of International Law—greatly strengthened the human touch that was always so marked in him. At one time or another he presided over many assemblies, but over none with more conspicuous dignity and hospitality than a memorable meeting of the Institute of International Law in Cambridge. His loss will be keenly felt by his many colleagues and former pupils and by a multitude of other friends.

P. H. W.

---

CHARLES LYON-CAEN.

The death on September 17, 1935, of Professor Lyon-Caen at the advanced age of over ninety-one years terminated the career of a great lawyer who was admired and esteemed not only in the Latin countries but throughout the world. Born at Paris.

on December 26, 1843, he became Professor of Roman Law in the University of Nancy in 1867, but his restless mind and highly practical outlook rebelled against the study of an ancient system, though in later life he was ready to extol the educational value of the severe discipline which is imposed both on the teacher and the student of Roman law. His transfer to Paris a few years later gave him fresh opportunities, and in 1875 he made his mark by a course of lectures delivered at the *Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques* which placed him in the front rank of French commercial lawyers. As is often the case on the Continent, his academic reputation carried with it a large consulting practice in matters calling for an expert knowledge of mercantile and maritime law. He held the Chair of comparative commercial law in the University of Paris for forty-eight years, and was also for many years 'Doyen' of the Faculty of Law in that University. His written work is considerable: in addition to his famous '*Traité de Droit Commercial*', written in conjunction with his friend and colleague, Louis Renault, the great internationalist, he was the author of numerous monographs on commercial and comparative topics which are characterized by a lucidity of style, a sureness of judgment and a degree of erudition which have seldom been equalled and rarely surpassed.

To English lawyers Lyon-Caen was best known as a convinced and enthusiastic internationalist. The promotion of research in Public and Private International Law was his constant care, and he continued to preside over the Curatorium of The Hague Academy of International Law almost to the day of his death. He was also a firm believer in the value of the comparative method of legal research, and it was largely owing to his efforts that the study of comparative law gained a firm footing in the French Universities.

His death has removed a familiar and striking personality which until lately was prominent at all gatherings of lawyers of different nations. Lyon-Caen's mind was wholly free from any tendency to technicality. He cared little for shadowy abstractions, and was somewhat of a bogey to the fanatical civilians of his day who were content to stick to their texts and shunned contact with realities. To him law was an instrument for the bettering of human relations and not an end in itself. He was a living force in the development of law as a humanizing science both in France and elsewhere, and it is thus that his fame will endure.

H. C. GUTTERIDGE.