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Introduction

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Introduction

I warmly welcome a *Festschrift* volume honoring our colleague Professor Louis B. Sohn. It is a happy coincidence that this comes during his presidency of the American Society of International Law. He is a giant among international lawyers and has left a major imprint upon his chosen profession. So far as this writer is concerned, I believe one of his greatest contributions has been his courage in looking into the future—to look at what international law ought to become. This has led some commentators to put him down as something of a dreamer, but there is no doubt in my mind that the law is steadily moving in the directions he has outlined.

Louis Sohn was the first of the legal scholars in residence in the Legal Office of the Department of State. He has served in many temporary, official capacities, including his appearance before the International Court of Justice on behalf of the United States. He has dared to assert as international law certain instruments which were not intended to become international law at the time of their origin, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Louis Sohn is not only a most distinguished lawyer but is a warm human being who reaches out to both students and colleagues as an inspiring companion. This *Festschrift* salutes a lawyer and a man of noble stature and is a fitting tribute to one of our truly great international lawyers.

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