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In Memoriam: Kenneth R Simmonds (1927-1995)

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In Memoriam: **Kenneth R. Simmonds (1927–1995)**

Kenneth Simmonds was a man for all seasons. Nurtured in the historical underpinnings of international law (having completed his D. Phil. at Oxford University on Alberico Gentili), he established himself as a leading British and European international lawyer and scholar. Kenneth was always at the cutting edge of developments in public international and European Community (Union) law. Indeed, Pope John Paul III acknowledged him as such when he selected him as one of the three international lawyers deemed fit to help arbitrate the seemingly intractable Argentine/Chilean Beagle Channel dispute. In this context, *The International Lawyer* was fortunate to have had Kenneth as an active member of its distinguished Board of Editorial Advisors. In this capacity, he generously shared with us his breadth of knowledge, his rigorous intellectual standards, and the wealth of his wisdom and counsel.

Ingrained in British history and culture and a decorated participant in the British defense of freedom in the Second World War, Kenneth was nevertheless a steadfast proponent of an active U.K. role in a new and integrated European order, even when this advocacy was unpopular in British circles. He saw the future of British greatness within a new European order. Though always a lover of the virtues of the English common law, he recognized early on in his career the growing need for the development of comparative, European, and European Community legal studies, and was honored for these efforts by the German and French Governments.

A committed “European,” Kenneth saw Europe in a wider context. He realized the need to create bridges between Western and Central and Eastern Europe, to have European responsibility reach the developing Mediterranean and African states, and to have Europe at the center of the evolving international trade order under the GATT/WTO.

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A prolific academic scholar of the first order, he excelled as a "hands-on" disseminator and transmitter of knowledge. As a distinguished and most popular professor of international law at the University of London, he was at his best with his students. For over two decades he was the driving force behind the British Institute of International and Comparative Law and its renowned *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*. He was also a much sought after lecturer in the United States, the European Continent, the Middle East, and the Asia-Pacific area. Perhaps most importantly but often forgotten about Kenneth, he was a mentor who advanced the careers of numerous legal scholars and teachers around the world (including this writer). He selflessly shared his network of worldwide contacts within and without the academy and he opened up publication possibilities for many through his close relationships with leading U.K., European, and U.S. legal publishers and journals.

Kenneth had a personality, demeanor, and wit that made him at home in the highest levels of academic, governmental, and social circles; yet, he was at his sparkling and mischievous best with his family and friends. A person of uncompromising standards in his profession, he suffered no fools. At the same time, he was a person of enormous humanity who always was there to support and to nurture his family, students, and friends. A lover of classical music, drama, and literature, he was also a great fan of the barbarities, but excitements, of American football. A *bon vivant* of world travel, fine food, and vintage wines, he still cherished his home and garden in the Kent countryside, the love of his family and his pet cats, and a good pint of beer.

Kenneth Simmonds' life was a "celebration" in the best sense of the human experience where the fullness and fragility, the joys and disappointments, and the love and the pains of life produced a special passage that made a difference—a difference to the world of international law and to the hearts of his family and his numerous students and friends worldwide.