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OFFICIAL GIFTS AND DONATIONS

OFFICIAL GIFTS AND DONATIONS

A collection of items presented to the International Court of Justice





The historic building of the Peace Palace and the Judges' Building.

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A display case in the Museum of the Court.

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Foreword

Two buildings, one collection

Built in the early twentieth century, the Peace Palace is one of The Hague's most iconic buildings. Its imposing architecture calls to mind The Hague's reputation as the "city of peace and justice".

Whether you are stopping for a quick photograph outside the Peace Palace gates, entering the building for a guided tour or coming to the Palace for work, you cannot help but be inspired by the majesty of this "temple of peace".

The Peace Palace has been the seat of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, since its inauguration in 1946. Its predecessor, the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ), was also housed within the Palace's grand walls, from 1922 until its dissolution. Managed by the Carnegie Foundation, the Palace is now home to the ICJ, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) as well as The Hague Academy of International Law.

Tucked behind the historic building of the Peace Palace sits a lesser-known but no less important structure — the New Wing, built in the late 1970s. The Judges' Building, as it is also known, houses the Court's deliberation room and the offices of the ICJ judges and their assistants. It also showcases many of the gifts that have been presented to the Court over the years.

Although the Peace Palace is not a museum, its many treasures, on display in the historic building and the gardens, are admired by thousands of visitors each year. These include gifts offered by PCA Contracting Parties and Member States of the League of Nations or the United Nations as a token of their appreciation for the Palace as a symbol of peace and justice.

Since most of the gifts given to the Court are on display in the New Wing, they are often inaccessible to visitors. In presenting the gifts and donations that States, judges and others have offered specifically to the ICJ or the PCIJ, this booklet will allow the general public to discover works that visitors to the Peace Palace rarely have the opportunity to enjoy.

The Hague, December 2024.

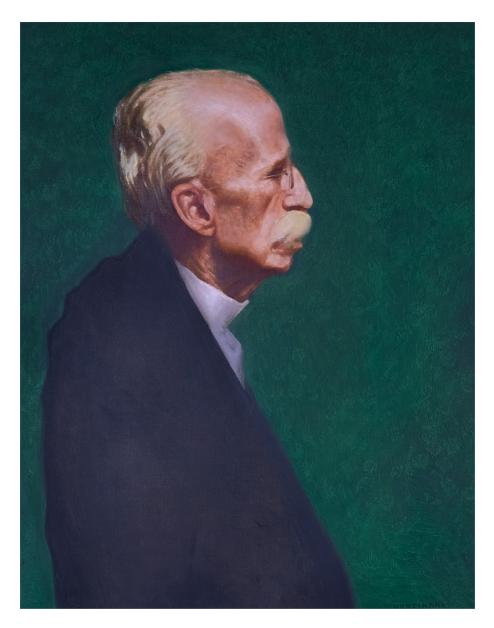
Philippe Gautier Registrar



Official gifts

The Court's collection of donations and gifts comprises artwork and historic objects presented by States as an expression of their appreciation and respect for the work of the ICJ and their commitment to upholding international law. Most of these items are associated with the themes of justice and peace, or the values embodied by the work of the Court.

Traditionally, the significance of a particular gift is explained by a high-ranking official of the donating State at a ceremony attended by Members of the Court and other distinguished guests.



Portrait of Judge Ruy Barbosa Brazil (1950)

This portrait of Judge Ruy Barbosa is the work of Brazilian painter Candido Portinari. Judge Barbosa took part in the Second Hague Peace Conference and was elected as a member of the first bench of the Permanent Court of International Justice in 1922. He passed away soon thereafter, in 1923.

J. de Sousa Leao, Brazilian Minister at The Hague, and Américo Lacombe, Director of the Ruy Barbosa House, presented the portrait to the Court in 1950, on behalf of the Brazilian Government, at a ceremony held in the office of ICJ President Jules Basdevant.



Persian rug Iran (1963)

In 1963, Iran presented this Persian rug to the Court and the Carnegie Foundation. Originally placed in the Great Hall of Justice, and later moved to the first floor of the Peace Palace, it is designed to hang on a wall with the fringe at the bottom resting slightly above the floor.

This piece is a Persian Tabriz with a wool pile on a silk warp and weft. The design is a classic foliate design of scrolling blossoms and vines, with decorative spandrels in the corners, enclosed by multiple meander borders.



Portrait of Benito Juárez Mexico (1974)

Benito Juárez was a lawyer and politician who served as the twenty-sixth president of Mexico, from 1858 until his death in 1872.

This portrait — the work of Mexican painter Salvador Almaraz López — was presented to the Court in 1974 by President Luis Echeverría Alvarez, on behalf of the Mexican Government. ICJ President Manfred Lachs promised that it would be permanently displayed at the seat of the Court with an inscription below it of Juárez's words: "Respect for The Rights of Others Is Peace."



Reproduction of a Roman mosaic entitled *Le droit prime la force* Tunisia (1979)

In 1979, in remembrance of a visit paid to the Court some twenty years earlier by Habib Bourguiba, the President of Tunisia, the Tunisian Government presented the Court with this beautiful reproduction of a Roman mosaic discovered in Kelibia.

Marsyas, half-hidden behind a hill, watches the goddess Athena (Minerva), who sits on a rock, playing the flute and gazing at Apollo, who holds a reed in his left hand. The image represents scene leading up to the legendary contest between Marsyas and Apollo.



©Carnegie Foundation

Cedar of Lebanon (C. libani) Lebanon (1984)

In 1984, the Lebanese Republic donated a cedar tree to the Court. A national symbol of this Mediterranean country, the tree was planted in the garden of the Peace Palace at a ceremony attended by ICJ President Taslim Olawale Elias, the Lebanese Ambassador to the Netherlands and the General Director of the Carnegie Foundation, among other dignitaries.

Owing to construction work on the grounds of the Peace Palace, the tree was later moved to a new location in the garden but, sadly, it did not survive. In 2008, Lebanese Ambassador Zeidan Al Zaghir offered the Court a new tree on behalf of his country. This beautiful specimen is now thriving on the Peace Palace grounds.







Showcase displaying Berber jewels Algeria (1989)

In June 1989, at a ceremony hosted by ICJ President José María Ruda, Algerian Ambassador Hafid Karamane presented the Court, on behalf of his country, with a showcase containing several Berber jewels.

Made of silver, semi-precious stones and glass, this jewellery is an example of the dowry items traditionally used by the Berber people of Northern Africa.

Benin sculpture Nigeria (1990)

This cast bronze sculpture depicts a Benin monarch standing on a rostrum and holding a staff of office. It is an example of the art created from the fifteenth century onwards in the Kingdom of Benin, in what is now south-western Nigeria.

The sculpture was donated to the Court by Nigeria in 1990, at a ceremony attended by Nigerian Ambassador Iro Ladan-Baki and ICJ President José María Ruda.





Cast of column VI of the Gortyn Code Greece (1999)

This cast of column VI of the Gortyn Code was presented to the Court in 1999 by the Government of Greece at a ceremony in which ICJ President Stephen M. Schwebel, Members of the Court, and Greek officials took part.

Written in Doric Greek, the Code was originally inscribed on the wall of what may have been a civic building in the ancient Greek city-state of Gortyn, in Crete. Dated to the first half of the fifth century BCE, the text codifies the civil law relating to matters such as property, slaves, gifts, dowries, marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance and debt.



Bronze plaque entitled *The peaceful resolution of disputes* Sri Lanka (2001)

Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, President of Sri Lanka, presented this plaque to the Court in March 2001, as a gift from her country.

Entitled *The peaceful resolution of disputes*, the plaque — created by Sri Lankan artist Tissa Ranasinghe — depicts two warring chieftains, poised to engage in battle, breaking their weapons and laying them at the feet of the Buddha, after hearing him speak on the importance of avoiding the use of force.



Sculpture of the goddess Maat Egypt (2006)

Maat was the Egyptian goddess of truth, justice, morality and balance. On her head is an ostrich feather, symbolizing truth. According to legend, judgment was passed on the souls of the dead by placing their hearts on a scale balanced by Maat's feather.

This sculpture of Maat, a replica of a work on display at the Egyptian Museum of Cairo, was presented to the Court in January 2006 by Egyptian Ambassador Ahmed Fathalla, on behalf of his country, to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the ICJ.



Portrait of Judge Mineichiro Adachi Japan (2006)

In June 2006, this portrait by J. Furyoschi of Judge Mineichiro Adachi, who served as President of the PCIJ from 1931 to 1933, was unveiled by Mr. Tsuneo Ouchi and Mr. Tomomitsu Sato, of the Adachi Memorial Hall Foundation, at a ceremony in the Green Room of the Peace Palace. The ceremony was attended by Members of the Court, including President Rosalyn Higgins and Judge Hisashi Owada, as well as Ambassador Kyoji Komachi and other officials from the Japanese Embassy in The Hague.



Bust of Francisco de Vitoria Spain (2007)

This bust depicts Francisco de Vitoria, a sixteenth-century Dominican friar who founded the School of Salamanca and is considered to be one of the fathers of international law.

A gift from the city of Vitoria, Spain, it was presented to the Court in April 2007 by Spanish Ambassador Alfonso Dastís, together with the Mayor of Vitoria, Alfonso Alonso, at a ceremony attended by Members of the Court and elected representatives of the city of Vitoria.



Mosaic of Al Khazneh ("The Treasury") Jordan (2007)

This mosaic depicting Al Khazneh ("The Treasury") was presented to the Court in 2007 by Jordanian Ambassador Al Hassan, on behalf of the Government of Jordan, to commemorate the visit to the ICJ of Their Majesties King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein and Queen Rania Al Abdullah in October of the previous year.

Featuring a massive façade measuring 30 metres wide by 43 metres high carved into a sheer face of dusky pink rock, the Treasury is one of the most elaborate buildings in the ancient city of Petra. It was originally built in the early first century AD as the mausoleum of an important Nabatean king and represents a fine example of Nabatean engineering.

World Tipitaka Edition Thailand (2007)

In October 2007, this set of Buddhist scriptures was presented to the ICJ by the Supreme Court of the Kingdom of Thailand, on behalf of Princess Galyani Vadhana, at a ceremony attended by the Thai Ambassador, Suchitra Hiranprueck, together with ICJ President Rosalyn Higgins and other Members of the Court.

This 80-volume collection was published by the Dhamma Society and offered on the occasion of the eightieth birthday of the then King of Thailand.





Sculpture of Buddha Nepal (2013)

In 2013, the Government of Nepal, represented by Ambassador Ram Mani Pokharel, presented the Court with a sculpture of Buddha at a ceremony attended by Members of the Court and representatives of the Nepalese community.

Cast from copper alloy and fully gilded with 24 karat gold, this sculpture is a representation of Buddha Shakyamuni. Draped beautifully across his shoulder and arm, the Buddha's monastic robes are exquisitely detailed.

Silver-plated shofar Israel (2013)

This silver-plated shofar was presented to the Court by Israeli President Shimon Peres during a visit to the ICJ on 30 September 2013.

Used in Israelite rituals since ancient times and typically made from a ram's horn, the shofar is one of the main sacred objects in Judaism. This wind instrument symbolizes the horn used to gather the tribes of Israel during the Exodus. The book of Joshua mentions that shofars were also used by the Israelites in bringing down the walls of Jericho during their conquest of Canaan. Today, they are mainly used in the religious customs of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.





Bust of ICJ President Manfred Lachs Poland (2014)

This bust of ICJ President Manfred Lachs was made by Polish sculptor Robert Sobocinski.

It was presented to the Court by Poland in April 2014 to mark the centenary of the eminent jurist's birth. The ceremony was attended by ICJ President Peter Tomka and Polish Ambassador Jan Borkowski, among other guests. Judge Lachs left an important mark on the work of the ICJ, serving on the Court for 26 years, including as its president from 1973 to 1976.





Replica of the stele bearing the Law Code of Hammurabi Iraq (2014)

In the spring of 2014, the Government of Iraq presented the Court with an impressive replica of a 2.25-metre-tall basalt stele bearing the Law Code of Hammurabi. Enacted by the sixth king of Babylonia in approximately 1754 BCE, the code consists of 282 laws dealing with all aspects of life. It also sets out punishments based on the principle of *lex talionis*, or "an eye for an eye", scaled according to social status and gender.

The replica was unveiled at a ceremony attended by ICJ President Peter Tomka, Members of the Court, and Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs Hoshyar Zebari, among other distinguished guests.



Replica of a limestone female head from Arsos Cyprus (2016)

In November 2016, Alexandros Zenon, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus, together with Cypriot Ambassador Elpidoforos Economou, presented the Court with an exact replica of a limestone female head from the village of Arsos. The pedestal for the sculpture was donated by former Cypriot Ambassador James Droushiotis, who also attended the ceremony.

Dated to the beginning of the third century BCE, the head is a fine example of early Hellenistic sculpture from Cyprus.



Sculpture of a harpy eagle Panama (2022)

In 2022, Panamanian Ambassador Elizabeth Ward Neiman presented the Court with a sculpture of a harpy eagle (*Harpia harpyja*) at a ceremony attended by ICJ Vice-President Kirill Gevorgian.

The harpy eagle is the national bird of Panama and a symbol of the country's rich biodiversity and lush rainforests. This bird of prey nests in the rainforest's canopy and plays a crucial role in maintaining the balance of its ecosystem, reflecting the importance of preserving Panama's natural heritage for future generations.

The sculpture was carved from a single block of cocobolo, a dense exotic hardwood found in the rainforests of Panama, and hand polished to a natural lustre.



Model of a *jalbut* Qatar (2024)

In May 2024, Qatari Ambassador Mutlaq Al-Qahtani presented the Court with a teak model of a traditional sailing ship known as a *jalbut*.

Jalbuts were used for pearl diving and fishing, and as one of the principal means of transporting goods and passengers in Qatar, contributing to the country's renaissance and economic recovery. The origin of the name *jalbut* can be traced back to the English "jolly boat".

Photo right: The Museum of the Court.





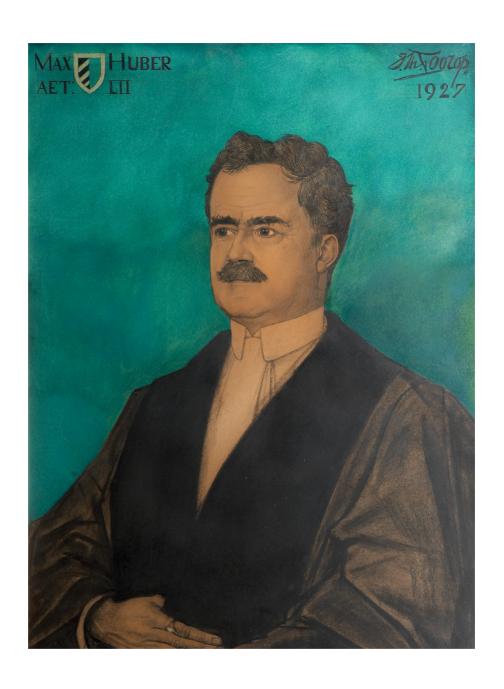
Donations from former judges of the PCIJ and ICJ

Many former presidents of the PCIJ and the ICJ have presented the Court with a gift at the end of their term of office. Such gifts usually come in the form of portraits, although busts, a medallion, a plaque and a statue have been received as well. Together, these items have contributed to the splendour and magnificence of two emblematic rooms of the historic building of the Peace Palace: the Green Room and the Red Room.

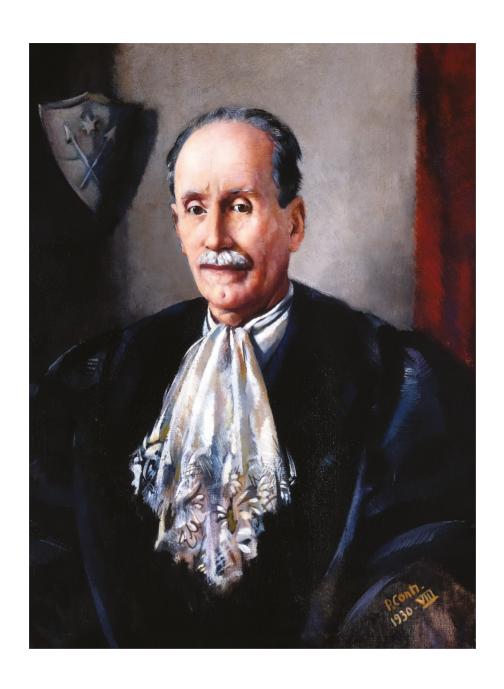
The Court's portrait collection, which also includes portraits of non-presidents, is mainly displayed in these rooms, while the busts and most of the other items presented to the Court can be found in other parts of the Palace, such as the New Wing, the Museum and the gardens.



Bernard Loder by A. van Welie Judge of the PCIJ (1922-1930) President of the PCIJ (1922-1924) Netherlands



Max Huber
by J. Toorop
Judge of the PCIJ (1922-1930)
President of the PCIJ (1925-1927)
Switzerland



Dionisio Anzilotti by P. Conti Judge of the PCIJ (1922-1946) President of the PCIJ (1928-1930) Italy



Viscount Robert Bannatyne Finlay by F. Watt Judge of the PCIJ (1922-1929) United Kingdom



Didrik Nyholm by H. Moltke Judge of the PCIJ (1922-1930) Denmark



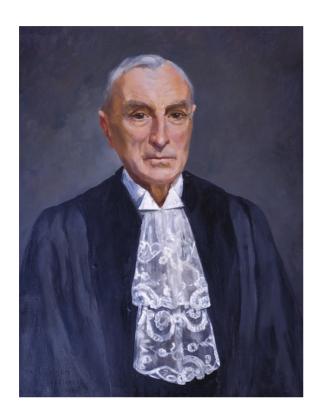
Mineichiro Adachi by G. Devreese

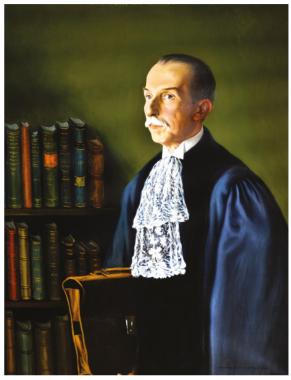
Judge of the PCIJ (1931-1934) President of the PCIJ (1931-1933) Japan





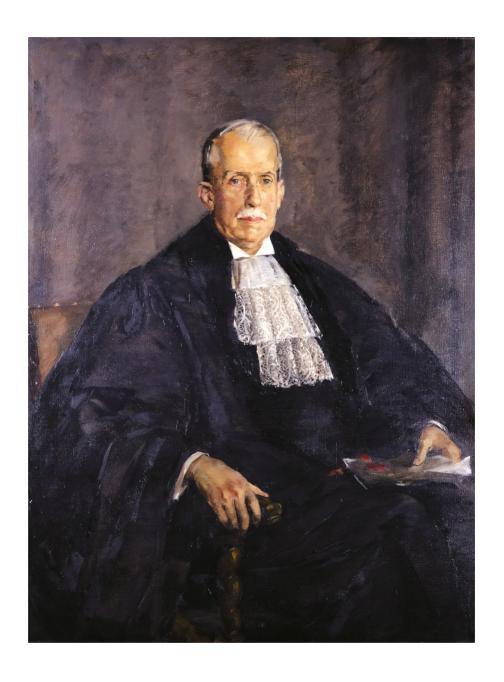
Frank Kellogg by P. de László Judge of the PCIJ (1931-1935) United States of America Walther Schücking by R.S. Bakels Judge of the PCIJ (1931-1935) Germany





Sir Cecil Hurst by J. van Lynden-de Clercq Judge of the PCIJ (1929-1946) President of the PCIJ (1934-1936) United Kingdom José Gustavo Guerrero by M. Félez Bentura Judge of the PCIJ (1931-1946) President of the PCIJ (1937-1946) El Salvador

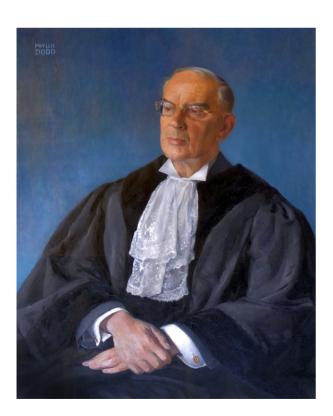




José Gustavo Guerrero by S. Schröder Judge of the ICJ (1946-1958) President of the ICJ (1946-1949) El Salvador



Jules Basdevant by M. Winiarska-Gotowska Judge of the ICJ (1946-1964) President of the ICJ (1949-1952) France



Sir Arnold Duncan McNair by P. Dodd Judge of the ICJ (1946-1955) President of the ICJ (1952-1955) United Kingdom



Green H. Hackworth by S. Schröder Judge of the ICJ (1946-1961) President of the ICJ (1955-1958) United States of America



Helge Klæstad by A. Hiorth Judge of the ICJ (1946-1961) President of the ICJ (1958-1961) Norway



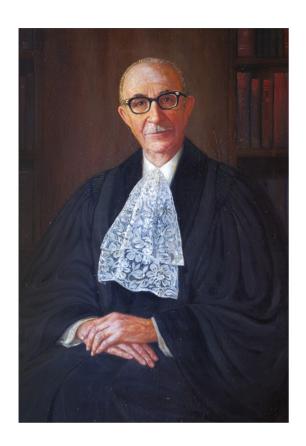
Sir Hersch Lauterpacht by J. Kupfermann Judge of the ICJ (1955-1960) United Kingdom

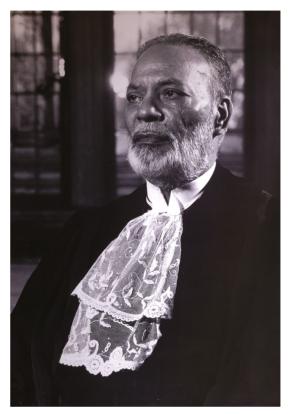
Bohdan Winiarski by M. Winiarska-Gotowska Judge of the ICJ (1946-1967) President of the ICJ (1961-1964) Poland





Sir Percy Claude Spender by M. Winiarska-Gotowska Judge of the ICJ (1958-1967) President of the ICJ (1964-1967) Australia





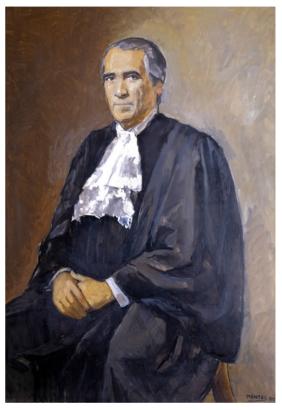
José Luis Bustamante y Rivero by G. Osorio

Judge of the ICJ (1961-1970) President of the ICJ (1967-1970) Peru

Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan by Max Koot Studio

Judge of the ICJ (1954-1961, 1964-1973) President of the ICJ (1970-1973) Pakistan





Manfred Lachs by S. Albrecht Judge of the ICJ (1)

Judge of the ICJ (1967-1993) President of the ICJ (1973-1976) Poland

Eduardo Jiménez de Aréchaga *by J. L. Montes*

Judge of the ICJ (1970-1979) President of the ICJ (1976-1979) Uruguay



Sir Humphrey Waldock by N. Booham

Judge of the ICJ (1973-1981) President of the ICJ (1979-1981) United Kingdom

Taslim Olawale Elias by L. Samson Judge of the ICJ (1976-1991) President of the ICJ (1982-1985) Nigeria



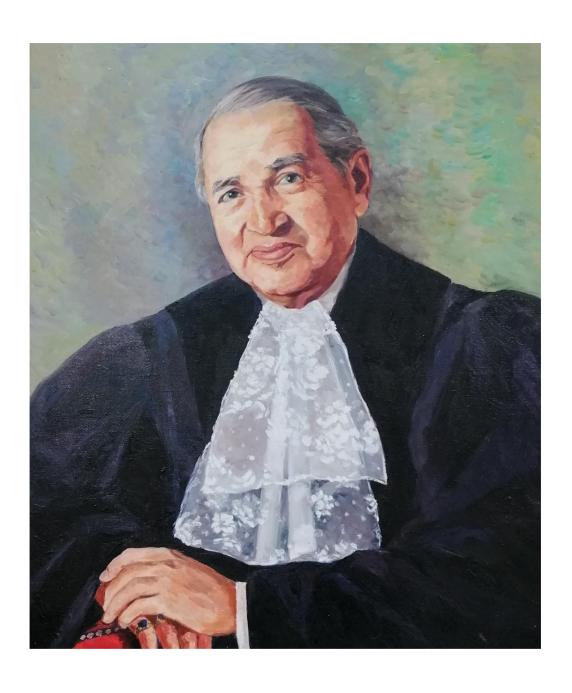
Nagendra Singh by S. Sathe Judge of the ICJ (1973-1988) President of the ICJ (1985-1988) India



Indian vase Gift from Judge Nagendra Singh

In March 1987, this Indian vase was given to the Court by Judge Nagendra Singh, who served as President of the Court from 1985 to 1988.

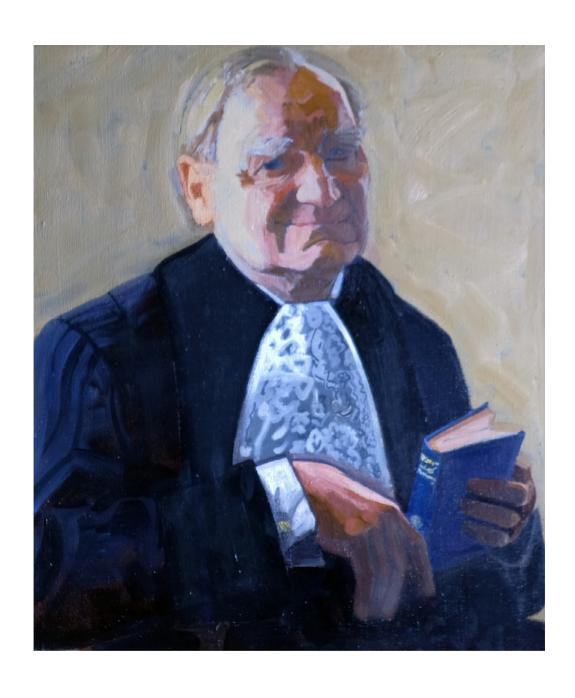
The brass vase, unusually large in size and finely enameled with a floral motif, is a typical example of the decorative brassware of Moradabad, in the state of Uttar Pradesh.



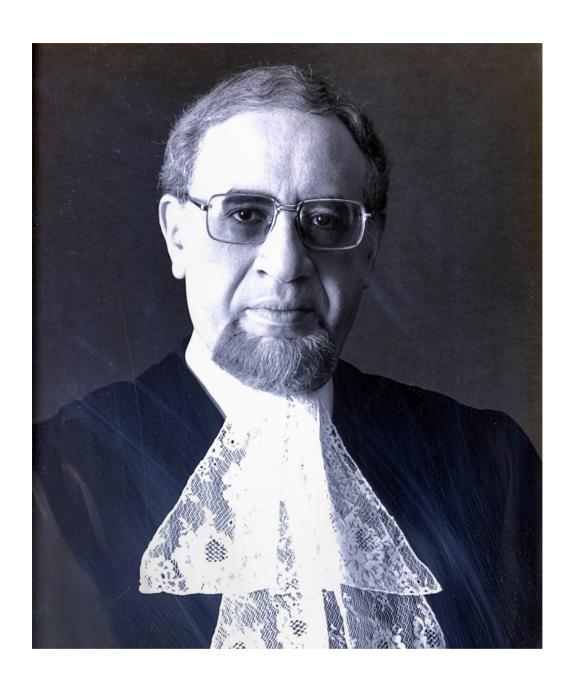
Nagendra Singh by N. Sathe Judge of the ICJ (1973-1988) President of the ICJ (1985-1988) India



José María Ruda by C. Alonso Judge of the ICJ (1973-1991) President of the ICJ (1988-1991) Argentina



Sir Robert Yewdall Jennings by P. Gopal-Chowdhury Judge of the ICJ (1982-1995) President of the ICJ (1991-1994) United Kingdom



Mohammed Bedjaoui by Max Koot Studio Judge of the ICJ (1982-2001) President of the ICJ (1994-1997) Algeria

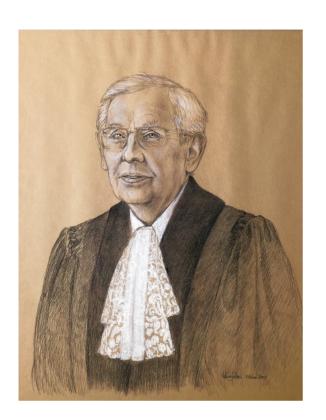


Stephen M. Schwebel by P. Lombardi

Judge of the ICJ (1981-2000)

President of the ICJ (1997-2000)

United States of America





Gilbert Guillaume
by V. Tertrais
Judge of the ICJ (1987-2005)
President of the ICJ (2000-2003)
France

Shi Jiuyong by R. Lijun Judge of the ICJ (1994-2010) President of the ICJ (2003-2006) China





Dame Rosalyn Higgins by P. Richardson Judge of the ICJ (1995-2009) President of the ICJ (2006-2009) United Kingdom

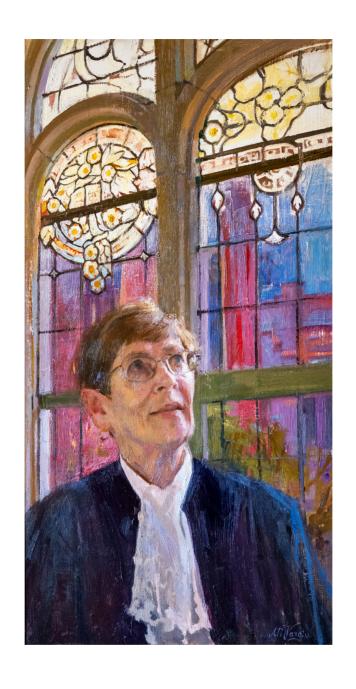
Hisashi Owada by Eibin Otsu Judge of the ICJ (2003-2018) President of the ICJ (2009-2012) Japan



He tāngata - statue of a judge by D. van Eendenburg Gift from Judge Kenneth Keith

Judge of the ICJ (2006-2015) New Zealand

Sir Kenneth Keith presented the Court with this wooden statue representing a judge dressed in traditional wig and robe shortly before his departure from the Court in 2015. He wished for it to be placed in the garden of the Peace Palace, where it could be admired by all. It was originally installed there but later moved to a place where it would be better protected from the rain. "He tāngata" refers to an expression taken from the Maori proverb "He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tāngata he tāngata he tāngata" ("What is the most important thing in the world? It is the people, it is the people, it is the people, it is the people.").



Joan E. Donoghue
by A. M. Vargiu

Judge of the ICJ (2010-2024)

President of the ICJ (2021-2024)

United States of America

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