

Obituary

In Memoriam Professor Daan Goedhuis

The prominence of people is the product of their time and the place they live in.

Professor Goedhuis, who passed away in England this month at the age of 90, witnessed the growth of air transport before and after the second world war and the advent of the exploration and use of outer space.

Motivated by a desire to be part of and stimulate progress in international understanding, to which he rightly thought civil aviation could greatly contribute, and having an engaging and scholarly personality, he made an impressive career.

He was Secretary-General of the International Air Traffic Association before the war, which gave him the knowledge to write a Handbook on Air Law, in the Dutch language, in 1943. He then escaped to England.

After the war, he became Air Attaché at the Dutch Embassy in London and chaired many delegations in bilateral air talks of the Netherlands with other States.

He was the Chairman of the successful International Conference, held at The Hague in 1955, to amend the Warsaw Convention of 1929.

His work and position gave occasion to Leiden University to establish a Chair in Air Law in 1947, the first in the world and already in 1961 extended to Space Law, which he occupied till 1977.

He published a great number of articles on private and public air law and on space law, *inter alia* for the International Law Association (ILA). His 'Questions of public international air law', published in the *Recueil des Cours* of the The Hague Academy of International Law in 1952, was widely quoted.

His crystal-clear, well-considered and inspiring reports of the ILA Conferences are a pleasure to read and think about.

He was uncompromising in his fight against the possible military escalation in outer space.

He will be sadly missed by his family and his many friends.

Henri Wassenbergh.
The Hague, October 1995.