

Editorial

Professor Isa Diederiks-Verschoor 100 years

On 29 July 1915 Isa Diederiks was born in Amersfoort, The Netherlands. After primary and secondary schools she came to the University of Leiden to study law. She obtained her law degree at the end of the 1930s, and joined a law firm, while at the same time working on a doctoral thesis. On 28 July 1943 she earned her doctor's degree with her thesis on the 1938 Convention of Brussels on the Assistance and Salvage of and by Aircraft at Sea.

After the end of the Second World War she worked, *inter alia*, as private secretary to Princess Juliana of The Netherlands.

In 1953 she obtained permission of the Law Faculty of the University of Utrecht to teach air law as a 'private lecturer', followed in 1954 by her formal appointment as official lecturer. From 1980 to 1984 she was professor of air and space law at the same university. Her many students remember her fondly: until well into her nineties she continued to give them friendly – academic and career – advice, and they on their part, from all corners of the earth, kept her up to date.

She is probably best remembered as long-time (1973–1990) president of the International Institute of Space Law: through a combination of delicate manoeuvring and a no-nonsense attitude she was able to maintain a friendly and constructive balance between her two (Soviet and American) vice-presidents.

She also published her *Introduction to Air Law* and her *Introduction to Space Law*, both of which saw many editions.

In 1975 she became a co-founding member of the Board of Editors of Air Law, later renamed Air and Space Law. She was an editor between 1975 and 1995, actively commissioning articles from her extensive network of air and space law scholars, and publishing several articles herself.

Upon her retirement from the Board she – rightly – became its first 'honorary member'.

The Editors, also on behalf of the Publisher, congratulate her on this memorable birthday, noting that she may turn 101 this year, and thank her for everything she did during her twenty years' membership of our Board.

Wybo P. Heere
Peter van Fenema