

## Editorial

The present issue of *Air and Space Law* is the last to be overseen by the irrepressible Peter van Fenema. After twenty-three years as (coordinating) editor for the journal, he has now decided it is time to put his drive and energy to different use.

Peter is Adjunct Professor of Air and Space Law at McGill University (Montreal, Canada). He first graduated from Leiden University in 1969 with a thesis on satellite communications, followed by another from McGill University in 1973 on the 1972 Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects.

Under Henri Wassenbergh, Peter then moved to KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. For the better part of twenty-five years, Peter was active in the field of (the negotiation of) bilateral air transport agreements, rising to become Vice President Foreign Relations and Cooperation between 1990 and 1997.

In September 1999, two years after his departure from KLM, he obtained his Doctor of Laws degree from Leiden University with a thesis on space transportation law and policy and export controls, entitled ‘The international trade in launch services – The effects of U.S. laws, policies and practices on its deployment’. He currently teaches (part-time) at McGill University, and frequently lectures on air and/or space law and policy at other institutions worldwide.

His wealth of experience, both in academia and in practice, has been invaluable to the continued success of the journal. The volume and quality of the content included in *Air and Space Law* under his aegis is in no small part due to the extent of his network of colleagues and friends, scholars and practitioners alike.

Always the gentleman, Peter has effortlessly played host to most of the editorial board meetings since his accession, from the grand setting of KLM’s boardroom in Amstelveen to his own humble office in Amsterdam and onwards into the digital arena, having gently guided senior members of the editorial board into the twenty-first century through the institution of conference calls and the like.

His attention to detail and focus on the storyline of each and every contribution may well have resulted in lengthy correspondences with authors, but always increased the quality of the resulting articles.

In addition to his successful legal career Peter also had many other interests and activities of which Dutch language teaching to non-Dutch citizens, reading assistance at a primary school and pop singing are most noteworthy.

The Publishers, also on behalf of the Editorial Board, would like to offer thanks for the immeasurable time, effort and patience he has invested in *Air and Space Law*; he will be hard to replace and sorely missed!