

Preface

This is the first volume of the AUSTRALIAN YEAR BOOK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

As the title page shows, its purpose is to present an annual survey of current problems of public and private international law, together with a digest of Australian practice in the field of public international law during the preceding twelve months.

That such an annual survey should at last make an appearance is a measure of the increasing interest in both subjects exhibited by Australian practitioners and scholars.

The modest aim of the publishers and of the editor is, above all, to be informative, and thereby to contribute to the extension of the world rule of law.

It has been encouraging to receive from Sir Percy Spender, President of the International Court of Justice, not only the first article in this volume, but also his message of good wishes for the project. As readers may be aware, Sir Percy was the first Australian to be elected a Judge of the Court, and has become a distinguished President.

The editor wishes to add that the *Year Book* would not have been possible without the keen interest and public spirit of Mr. W. H. Nichols, former Managing Director of Butterworths, Sydney. In this connexion, also, Mr. F. C. Judson, Director of that firm, has contributed to the enterprise his skill and publishing knowledge. Finally, it remains to acknowledge special indebtedness to Miss Gail Matchett for research and other assistance in seeing the volume through the press.

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J. G. STARKE