

## The Lauterpacht Collection

– March 2020 update

### Background

Sir Elihu Lauterpacht, renowned scholar, international lawyer and Bencher of Gray's Inn died on 8 February 2017. He bequeathed his international law library to Gray's Inn, once described by him as "the legal home of my father and myself".

Master Lauterpacht is known to have talked earlier of leaving his library to the Inn, but it was in 2011 that he invited Theresa Thom, then Librarian and Edwin Glasgow QC, Master of the Library at the time, to his home in Cambridge. Greeted with great cordiality by Sir Eli and his wife Cathy, they were provided with tea and cake and a personal tour of the library, comprising Sir Eli's memorable book-lined study, substantial runs of shelving in the hall outside and various other enclaves of international law throughout the ground-floor of the property. Master Glasgow gave his assurance that Gray's Inn would provide a home for what he described as "unquestionably a unique and invaluable collection".



In April of 2018, some 100 metres of books, in 185 boxes, were delivered to the Inn and stored in the Library's closed stack, where they have been gradually unpacked, sorted, inventoried, counted and measured. The project has been carried out by Abigail Cass, Assistant Librarian with responsibility for cataloguing and special collections.

### The Collection

As well as a great many books, the Collection contains journals, law reports, pamphlets, off-prints, government publications and conference proceedings. Many items are out of print or hard-to-find, others are signed by Sir Eli – sometimes with his initials etched boldly onto the cover of a paperback. Still other items are

inscribed with dedications from colleagues, friends and students.

Even for those unaware of Sir Eli's life and work, his library tells its own story, showing clearly the milestones of his career, the range of his interests and the level of his engagement, as practitioner and academic, with many of the defining international issues of the last 60 years or so. The post-war settlement with Germany; the Middle East

conflict; nuclear weapons; outer space law; the Vietnam war; and the E.E.C., as it was then – all of these are represented in the Collection and much else besides. Undoubtedly, the Collection would offer fertile ground for anyone wishing to study the development of international law since 1945 or, alternatively, anyone wishing to write a biography of Sir Eli.

Under the Inns Libraries specialisation scheme, Gray's Inn is responsible for maintaining a specialist international law collection for members of the English Bar. It is therefore especially fitting that Master Lauterpacht's bequest provides a major supplement to what is the flagship collection at Gray's Inn Library.

### Reception and Exhibition

To mark the arrival of the Collection, a Reception was held at Gray's Inn on 19 November 2018. Members of the Lauterpacht family attended, along with representatives of the other Inns of Court, colleagues of Master Lauterpacht from 20 Essex Street chambers, the Director of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and the Deputy Director of the Lauterpacht Centre in Cambridge. An exhibition of items from Master Lauterpacht's library was also displayed, illustrating his life and work, curated by Abigail Cass.



## Unpacking the Lauterpacht Collection – storage and access

The entire Collection has now been unpacked and put onto shelves in the Library's closed stack. Nearly 500 monographs have been catalogued and can be searched for via the Library [Catalogue](#).

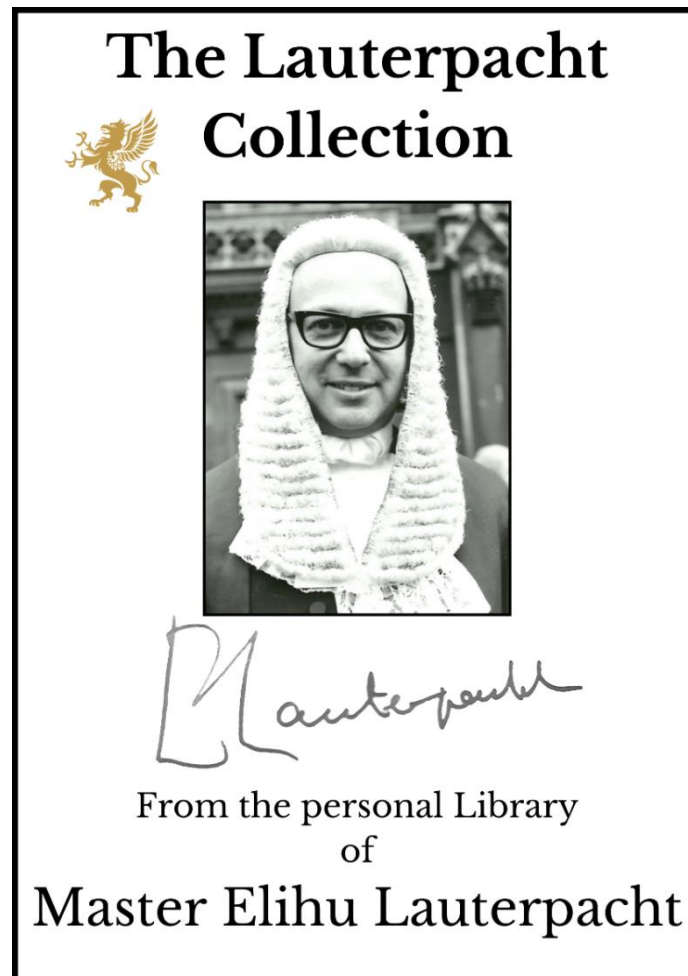
Cataloguing of the monographs has been prioritised as these are the most straightforward items to deal with, unlike some of the more obscure pamphlets and other non-book materials.

In considering access to the Collection in the long term, a number of factors come into play. Ideally, it might be desirable to be able to keep the whole Collection together and to place it in an accessible part of the Library. However, as in many libraries, space is at a premium at Gray's Inn and at present this would not be possible. If placing the Collection in an open access area, there might also be concerns about the security of certain items, such as those which are rare, contain inscriptions or are signed by Master Lauterpacht. Other items, particularly pamphlets, off-prints and government publications, are fragile and require careful storage and handling. The Collection also includes some books and periodicals already held by the Library. Due to constraints on space, the working assumption is that any Lauterpacht copies would be retained, with duplicates from the existing stock offered to other libraries.

A programme of disposing of non-essential stock is currently taking place at Gray's Inn Library. This is aimed at maximising available space to ensure room for growth of materials we are positively obliged to collect. The ultimate location of the Lauterpacht Collection will need to be decided in this context. It is hoped that the weeding programme will eventually allow the option of keeping at least some of the Collection, most likely the monographs, in an open access part of the Library.



## Bookplate



Pictured is the final design for the commemorative bookplate in honour of Master Lauterpacht's bequest. The bookplate will also serve to mark the provenance of items from the Collection, regardless of whether it is kept together or moved to another location in the Library.

## Promoting the Collection to the Bar and academia

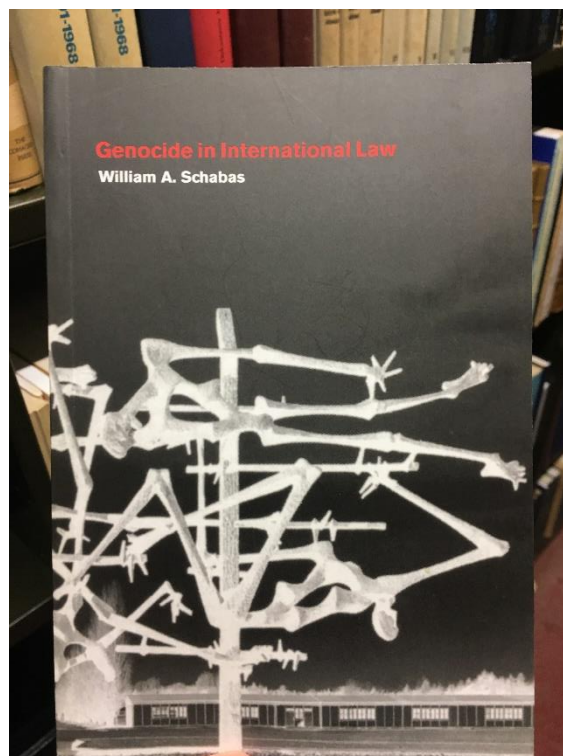
Items of interest from the Collection have been photographed and published throughout the year via the Inn's Facebook and Twitter accounts and a selection are reproduced below. Going forward, the Library intends to promote the Collection to the wider academic community as well as to members of the Bar. This will be done initially via the JISCMail discussion lists for the UK Education and Research communities, starting with LIS-LINK, the general library and information science discussion list. In addition, there are a number of more specialised discussion groups which may be interested in specific subject areas within the Collection, such as international boundary disputes, statelessness and refugees, and the law of the sea.





## Access to the Collection

At present, members of the four Inns of Court may request items from the Collection to be fetched from the Library's closed stack. Academics or researchers who are not members of the Bar may view material from the Collection by [appointment](#) and should contact the [Librarian](#). Items from the Lauterpacht Collection are not normally eligible for loan.





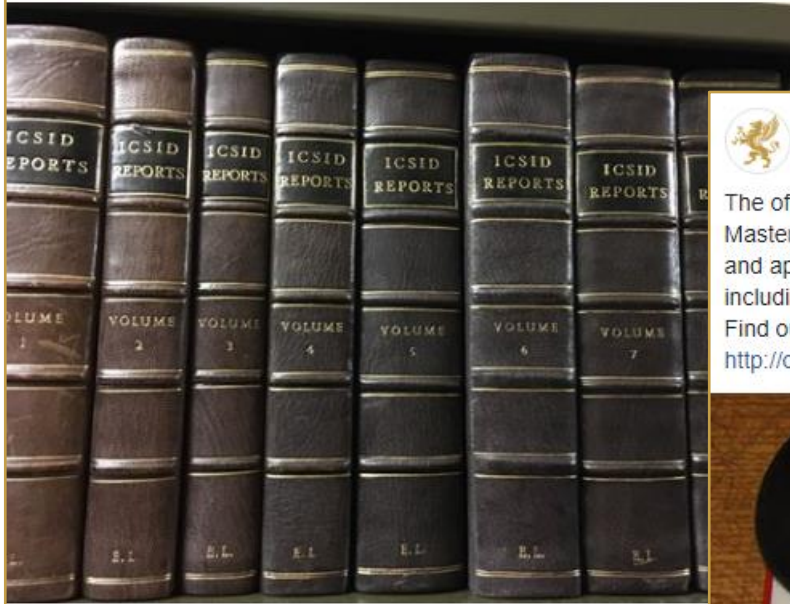
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Gray's Inn

12 November 2019 · 🌐

The Library is now holding Master Elihu Lauterpacht's bound copies of the ICSID reports. The ICSID reports provide the only comprehensive collection of the arbitral awards and decisions given under the auspices of the World Bank's International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes and are a key resource for those working in the field of international commercial arbitration. The elegant volumes pictured here feature Master Lauterpacht's initials on the base of the spine and formed part of his personal collection of international law. Find out more about the Lauterpacht Collection here: <http://ow.ly/F3vR30ng8e8>



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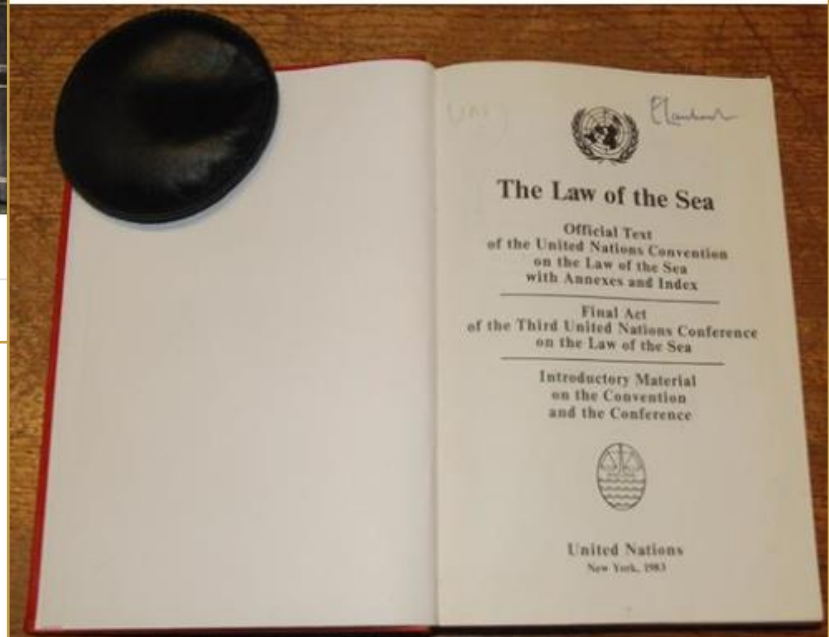
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Gray's Inn

12 March · 🌐

The official text of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Master Lauterpacht helped draft the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and appeared before the International Court of Justice numerous times including in cases pertaining to the North Sea Continental Shelf (1967-69). Find out more about the Lauterpacht Collection here: <http://ow.ly/F3vR30ng8e8>



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1 share

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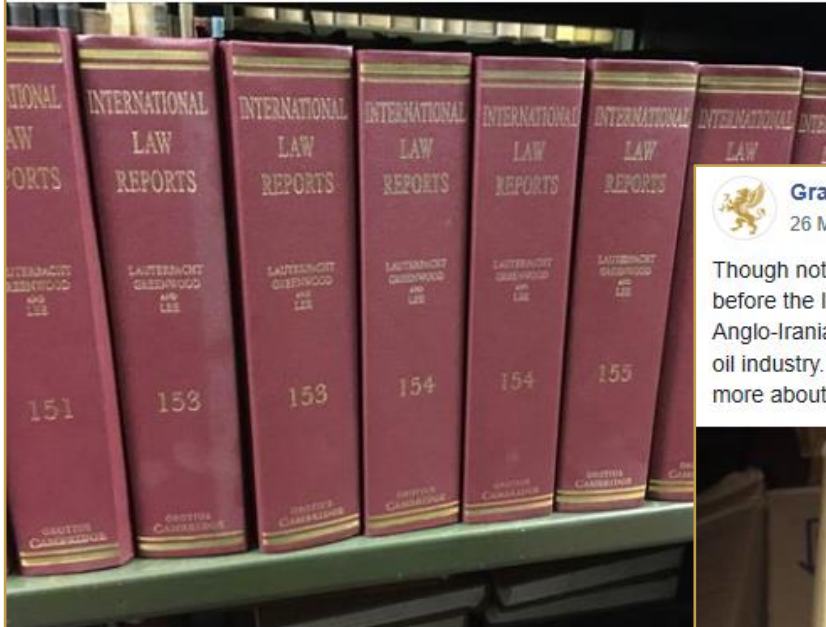
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Gray's Inn

2 July 2019 · 🌐

From 1957 onwards Master Lauterpacht edited the International Law Reports, his father - Sir Hersch Lauterpacht - had previously founded and co-edited the reports with Arnold McNair. In total Master Lauterpacht edited 145 volumes of the ILR [from vol 24 1957- vol 168 2017]. Find out more about the Lauterpacht Collection here: <http://ow.ly/F3vR30ng8e8>



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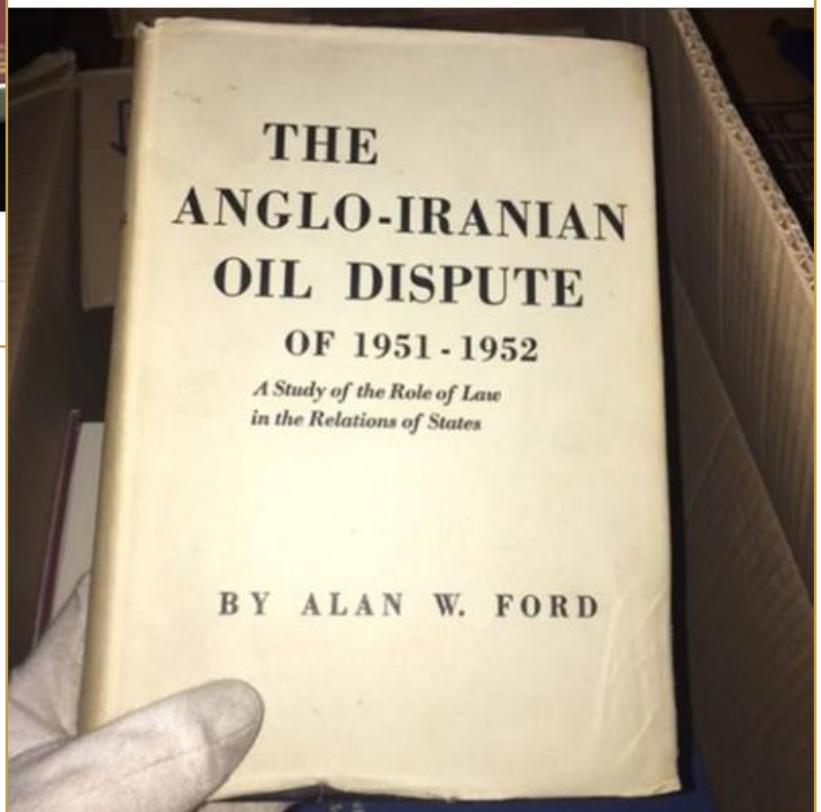
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Gray's Inn

26 March 2019 · 🌐

Though not named as counsel, Master Lauterpacht's first work on a case before the International Court of Justice was the 1951 dispute between Anglo-Iranian Oil and the State of Iran, following Iran's nationalisation of its oil industry. This led to further advisory work for Anglo-Iranian Oil. Find out more about the Lauterpacht Collection here: <http://ow.ly/F3vR30ng8e8>



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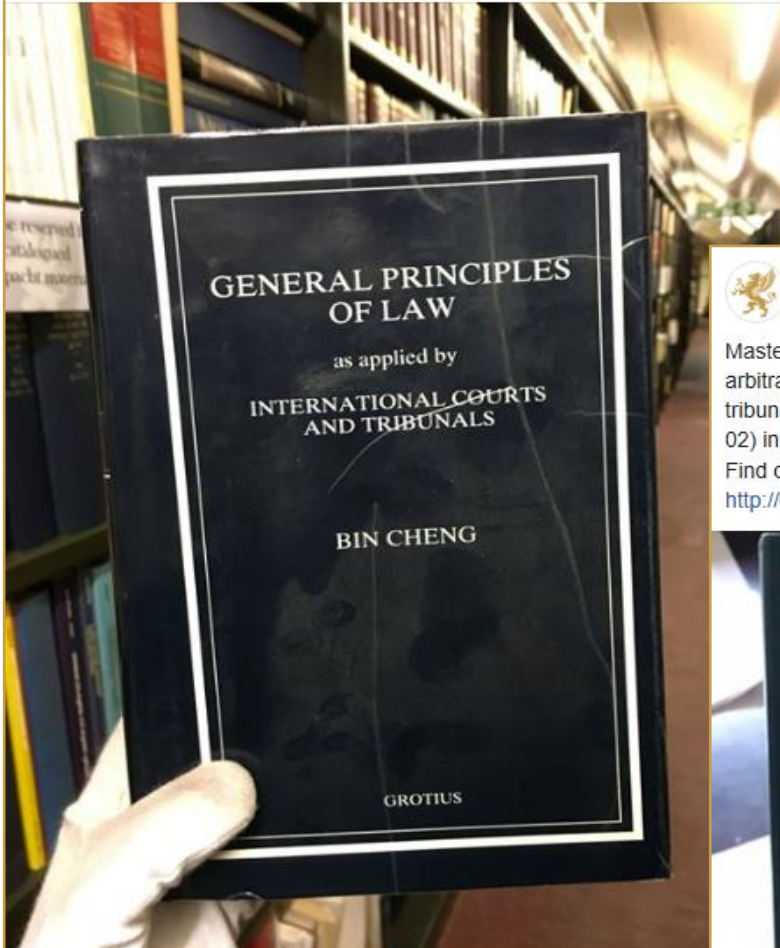
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Gray's Inn

10 September · 🌐

Here we have another example of a work published by Grotius, the publishing imprint founded by Master Lauterpacht, pictured here is his copy of Bin Cheng's 'General Principles of Law as Applied by International Courts and Tribunals'. Find out more about the Lauterpacht Collection here: <http://ow.ly/F3vR30ng8e8>



👍❤️ 28

2 comments

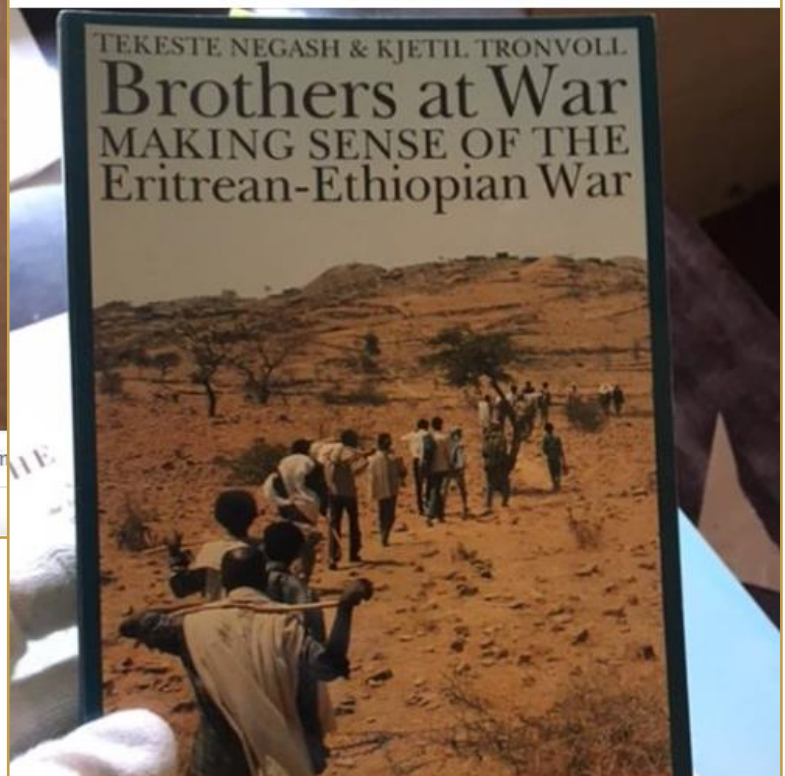
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Gray's Inn

19 March 2019 · 🌐

Master Lauterpacht was an innovative force in the field of investor/ state arbitration, he was chairman or member of numerous international arbitration tribunals including the border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia (2000-02) in which he acted as President of the Boundary Commission. Find out more about the Lauterpacht Collection here: <http://ow.ly/F3vR30ng8e8>



👍 5

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