Foreword II

Lord Collins

This fine *Companion* celebrates more than 125 years of the existence of the Hague Conference and its great achievements in the field of private international law.

Scholars and practitioners know of the widespread acceptance, and enormous influence, of the Hague Conventions on, in particular, child abduction, adoption, legalisation and service of documents, and cross-border taking of evidence. The more recent choice of court and judgments conventions will eventually have a great influence on international commerce.

In this volume there are 35 contributions from foremost experts around the world. They deal with the history of the HCCH, its role in an increasingly globalised world, and its role in the future. Especially valuable is the critical analysis of the existing HCCH instruments.

Although it is invidious to single out particular contributions, to take a few examples of the fine scholarship on display, Professor Horatia Muir Watt of Sciences-Po Law School shows how the HCCH has kept pace with modern theories of private international law; Professor Ronald Brand of the University of Pittsburgh Law School discusses the history of the 2005 Choice of Court Convention and the major issues considered during the course of negotiations and resolved in the text; Professor Richard Garnett of Melbourne University Law School contributes a detailed discussion of the recent Judgments Convention, which is likely to achieve greater success than previous efforts in this field; Guy Morton, a very prominent City of London solicitor, discusses the Hague Securities Convention; and Professor Philippa Webb, of King's College London School of Law, contributes a comparative study of *forum non conveniens*.

All scholars in this field will need to take notice of this comprehensive work, and practitioners in ever-increasing international litigation will find much that is of great practical importance.

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