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Sanchez de Bustamante y Sirven; “Al Servicio de la Justicia;” “Bustamante: Fragmentos Inmortales;” and “Discursos, Vols. III-V,” By Antonio Sanchez de Bustamante y Sirven

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Al Servicio de la Justicia. Habana: Carasa y Ca., 1930. Pp. 44.


Dr. Bustamante, one of the judges of the permanent international court of justice at The Hague and professor of international law in the University of Havana, long a distinguished figure in international law and policy, has been one of the chief promoters of the codification of international law in America. He has written repeatedly and has spoken constantly in its favor. He has also been in the front rank of those who have sought to work out an acceptable code for the various American republics. His The Commission of Jurisconsults of Rio de Janeiro and International Law tells the story of attempts at international codification beginning with the discussions initiated by Bolivar in the Congress of Panama in 1826 and coming down through other attempts at intervals until finally the question was taken up in earnest by the various Pan American Congresses in recent decades. He gives especial attention to the extensive work in 1912 and to the developments thereafter. The present volume deals primarily with the work accomplished preliminary to and during 1927 by the Rio de Janeiro Commission. There is an appendix containing the texts of treaties proposed by this Commission and of the code of international law it offered to the American republics. This book was largely educational in anticipation of the regular session of the Sixth Pan American Congress which met in 1928 in Havana. The second work, The Code of Private International Law, etc., is an account of the work of the Congress of 1928 and of its discussions and of the agreements to which it came, and also of the action taken by the several republics in response to the private international law code adopted and submitted to them by this Congress of Havana. The proposed code met with a more generous response from the American republics than
had any previous proposals of the Pan American Congresses. It was accepted unmodified by ten republics, while others expressed favorable attitudes. Only five republics made fundamental reservations, and these with regard to only eight of the 437 articles. The volume contains also appendices reporting the proceedings of the subcommittee that worked on the code and the text of the code itself. The speeches of Dolz and Bustamante were delivered in the Cuban senate on behalf of the code.

The Sea Territorial was prepared at the request of the American Institute of International Law and of its president, James Brown Scott, which had discussed the question of maritime territorial jurisdiction at the Havana meeting in 1929 and had resolved to present resolutions regarding it to the League of Nations in 1930. The volume begins with a historical sketch of the question and a summary of the national laws and international treaties bearing upon it. It also reviews the various attempts to codify the related law and practice, and then follows with a detailed and carefully analyzed discussion of the various problems involved and concludes with statements of solutions and rules which would probably prove successful. The Nationality and Domicile is a monograph discussing the doctrine of Varela and setting forth the proposals of the American Institute of International Law with respect to the questions involved. The Three Lectures on Private International Law were delivered at Northwestern University on the Julius Rosenwald Foundation in the autumn of 1923 and they are entitled "Domicile and the Conflict of Laws," "The Conflict of American Systems of Law and Their Adjustment," and "The Execution of Foreign Sentences."

The Permanent Court of International Justice is an address delivered before the Academy of International Law of The Hague in 1923, after he had taken his seat in the body whose work, history, and antecedents he recounts. At the Service of Justice is a report of a meeting of the Cuban Society of International Law at which Cosme de la Torriente and others proposed a scheme of nominations by similar societies throughout the world to the League of Nations of candidates to fill vacancies as they occurred. The Cuban Society nominated Bustamante to succeed himself and named candidates for the three other vacancies. The pamphlet also recounts year by year, 1922-1930, the outstanding labors of Bustamante and the recognition he received from various sources, as well as opinions regarding the code of private international law already mentioned above, which was largely the work of Bustamante. The booklet entitled Bustamante contains representative excerpts from the writings and addresses of Bustamante illustrating his opinions regarding a great variety of political, legal, social, and personal matters. The three volumes of Discourses consist of the more important political, legislative, legalistic, cultural and biographical addresses delivered by Bustamante on public and private occasions through several years.

The books discussed above represent only the more recent contributions of Bustamante to the subjects indicated, but they will serve to show his great industry and unusual achievements in the fields of international law and relations.

L. L. Bernard.

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