

**Obituary – Sir Maurice Bathurst C.M.G., C.B.E., Q.C., 1913-2004,
President of BILA, 1971-1975**

by Alison Green

Sir Maurice was an eminent international lawyer who was at the centre of many of the major international law events and disputes of the twentieth century.

He attended Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham school and retained his interest in that school as a long term Chairman of the Board of Governors and through the Haberdashers' livery company, of which he became Master. He obtained a first in his law degree at King's College London. He then went on to receive Doctorates from both London and Cambridge Universities and an LLM from Columbia University. He qualified as a solicitor before joining the Foreign Office.

He had a distinguished career as Legal Adviser with the Diplomatic Service and was attached to the British Embassy in Washington from 1941-1943 at a crucial time in the Second World War. He was part of the UK Delegation to the San Francisco Conference which set up the United Nations after the War and was involved in drafting the UN Charter.

After the War he was based in Germany and was part of the prosecution team at the Nuremberg trials. He became a Judge of the Supreme Court of the British Zone in Germany and then was Legal Adviser to the British Embassy in Bonn until 1957.

In 1957 Sir Maurice was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn. He was Legal Adviser to the Foreign Office and represented the UK at many major international conferences and was involved in drafting many important treaties, constitutions and agreements.

At the Bar he became an eminent silk. His advice was sought mainly in international law matters, such as the dispute between Chile and Argentina over the Beagle Channel and in the protracted Tin Litigation. He also was involved in constitutional and European Community matters, which were of growing importance. He became Head of Chambers at 5 King's Bench Walk and a Bencher of Gray's Inn. In 1984 he received a knighthood for services to international law.

Sir Maurice became President of BILA in 1971 and always retained his interest in the Association and its activities. He remained President of the BILA Charitable Trust until the early 1990s. In that position, he made sure that he read the finalists for the BILA book prize.

Sir Maurice will be remembered by BILA for his active support of the Association over many years, his friendship and for his sense of humour.