

The INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE Celebrates the Life and Achievements of Professor Elisabeth Mann Borgese, founder of IOI

In Memory of Elisabeth Mann Borgese

Founder of the International Ocean Institute

Munich, Germany, April 24, 1918 - St. Moritz, Switzerland, February 8, 2002.

ELISABETH MANN BORGESSE was born in Germany on the 24 April 1918, the fifth of six children of Katja Pringsheim and Thomas Mann. She emigrated to U.S.A. with her parents in 1938, married Giuseppe Antonio Borgese in 1939 and had three children.

She was Professor of political science and adjunct Professor of law at Dalhousie University and a senior fellow at the Center for Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara, California. It was there that she launched her ocean project which led to the establishment of the *Pacem in Maribus* Conferences and the International Ocean Institute. She was a member of the Club of Rome and the World Academy of Arts and Sciences, and an associate member of the Third World Academy. She served as a consultant to UNEP,

UNESCO, UNIDO, and the World Bank. Among other honors, she was awarded the United Nations Sasakawa Environment Prize, the Francis of Assisi Environment Prize, and the Order of Canada.

Professor Mann Borgese is the author of over a dozen books and many research papers and editorials. She was awarded several doctorates *honoris causa*.

But she is remembered more for her love of humanity and her love for the wonderful gift of nature - the ocean. Her struggle for the health of the ocean and its sustainable and equitable governance earned her the name of Mother of the Ocean. In today's enormous ocean challenges she is dearly missed, however the generations she inspired remain committed to her mission and vision.

"the oceans are our great laboratory for the making of a new international order, based on new forms of international cooperation and organisation, on new economic theory, on a new philosophy".

Elisabeth Mann Borgese
Founder, International Ocean Institute
(24.04.1918-08.02.2002)

"Elisabeth was a visionary, who expended enormous energy trying to convince politicians and academics around the world about the need for new models of ocean governance"

J. Guddal, F. Bailet, G. Kullenberg, WMO Bulletin, Vol. 52 No. 1

"She was a treasure, and her life becomes part of the "common heritage" of mankind".

D. Krieger, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

"Her contribution to the cause of the common heritage of mankind has been fundamental and unique".

Hon Guido de Marco, President Emeritus of Malta

"She managed to make a miracle of transforming perfect dreams into reality and gave us an example of how we all may try to put our ideas into life".

Valery Eremeev, President, Oceanological Centre of Ukraine

"Prof. Mann Borgese was a wonderful and a brilliant political scientist. She was one of the great environmental heroes, a true champion for the oceans".

Klaus Toepfer, former Executive Director of UNEP

To list the full life of Elisabeth Mann Borgese would call for a book. Here there are some highlights of her passionate life dedicated to the ocean where dreams could become policies and politics; where grand ideas could be tied down to practical activities and realities. She will always be remembered for her lifetime dedication to the protection of the ocean. She was an intellectual giant and a total human being with an outstanding simplicity.

Career: Editor, Common Cause, University of Chicago Press, 1948-52 - Senior Fellow, Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions, 1964-78; where she initiated ocean project; organized the first Pacem in Maribus Conference, Malta, 1970; published many papers on peace, disarmament, human rights and development, and the Law of the Sea. - Killam Senior Fellow, 1979 Dalhousie University - Professor of Political Science, 1980-Dalhousie University where she taught regular courses on the Law of the Sea and ocean affairs as well as a 10-week summer programme for mid-career civil servants from developing countries - Adjunct Professor of Law, 1996-Dalhousie University - Consultant to World Bank, UNIDO, and UNESCO - Chairperson, International Centre for Ocean Development 1987-92 - Founder and Honorary Chairperson for life, International Ocean Institute - Founder Member Club of Rome

Doctorates *honoris causa*: Mount St Vincent University, Halifax, Canada; Concordia University, Montreal, Canada; Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada; Yokohama City University, Japan; Constanta Ovidius University, Romania;

Honours: Hohes Verdienstkreuz, Government of Austria; Order of Canada, Government of Canada; United Nations Sasakawa Prize for the Environment; Francis of Assisi Environment Prize; Friendship Prize, Government of China; Order of Colombia, Government of Colombia; Gold Medal Muenchen Leuchtet, City of Munich, Germany; Caird Medal, United Kingdom; Member of Honour, IUCN, The World Conservation Union; Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit, Germany

Authored Books: To Whom it may Concern, 1962; Ascent of Woman, 1964; The Language Barrier, 1967; The Ocean Regime, 1968; The Drama of the Ocean, 1976 ; Seafarm: the Story of Aquaculture, 1982; The Mines of Neptune, 1986; The Future of the Oceans: A Report to the Club of Rome, 1987; Chairworm and Supershark, 1994 (for children from 8 to 80); Ocean Governance and the United Nations, 1995; Der unsterbliche Fisch (short stories), 1998; The Oceanic Circle: A Report to the Club of Rome, 1998; The International Sea-bed Authority: New Tasks, 1999; Wie Gottlieb Hauptmann die Todesstrafe abschaffte (short stories), 2001

Books edited: Pacem in Maribus, 1971; The Tides of Change, 1974; Ocean Yearbook, 1980-2001(17 volumes); Ocean Frontiers, 1994

(Excerpt: Annual Report of the International Ocean Institute for 2007)