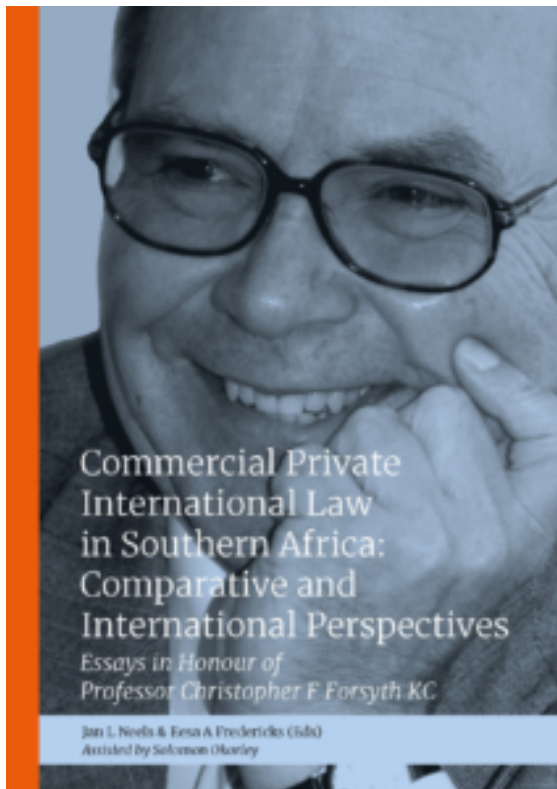


**Out Now - Open  
Access Commercial Private  
International Law in Southern  
Africa: Comparative and  
International Perspectives: Essays  
in Honour of Professor  
Christopher F Forsyth KC**



Professor Christopher F. Forsyth is undoubtedly one of the leading figures in private international law in Africa, particularly in Southern Africa, where his scholarship has had a profound and lasting influence. His seminal work, *Private International Law - The Modern Roman-Dutch Law Including the Jurisdiction of the High Courts* (5th ed., Juta, 2012), is not only an indispensable reference for

scholars and researchers, but also an authoritative work before Southern African courts, where it is frequently cited with approval.

It is therefore a great pleasure to bring to readers' attention the publication of the *Festschrift* in honour of Professor Forsyth, celebrating his remarkable scholarly legacy: *Commercial Private International Law in Southern Africa - Comparative and International Perspectives: Essays in Honour of Professor Christopher F. Forsyth KC*, edited under the able guidance of Professor Jan L. Neels and Professor Easa A. Fredericks, with the assistance of Dr Solomon Okorley. Thanks to the generosity of the editors and the approval of the publisher, UJ Press, the volume is available **in open access**, making this outstanding collection of essays freely accessible to readers around the world.

The book's blurb reads as follows:

*This book contains a collection of essays in honour of Professor Christopher F Forsyth KC, emeritus Sir David Williams Professor of Public Law, sometime Professor of Private International Law, and Life Fellow of Robinson College, University of Cambridge.*

*The essays focus on Professor Forsyth's contribution to the development of commercial private international law in Southern Africa, particularly through his monograph *Private International Law. The Modern Roman-Dutch Law* (five editions between 1981 and 2012). This standard text is authoritative in Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.*

*The essays are written from a variety of comparative and international perspectives, but all focus on the further development of commercial private international law in the Southern African region. The authors are from Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Malawi, Mauritius, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Portugal, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.*

One aspect of Professor Forsyth's scholarship that I have found particularly stimulating is his emphasis on the "comparative ethos", including his observation that English courts do not engage sufficiently in what he called "comparison as virtue" (CF Forsyth, "The Value of the Comparative Ethos to the Judicial Process in the Conflict of Laws", in C. Visser (ed.), *Essays in Honour of Ellison Kahn* (Juta, 1989), 154). Equally noteworthy is his emphasis on the theoretical foundations of private international law and his commitment to pursuing the objective of decisional harmony, an objective that, regrettably, seems to have been relegated to the background in more recent years. This is particularly reflected in his frequent citation of a remarkable passage from Professor Otto Kahn-Freund's *General Problems of Private International Law* (1976), 323-324 (also published in *Collected Courses of the Hague Academy of International Law*, 1974-III, 469-470), a passage that appears to serve as a reminder of one of the primary objectives of private international law:

*"The pursuit of harmony is the principal task of those who make it their concern to think about private international law .... An immense intellectual effort has been invested in this discipline for many centuries. If any result commensurate with this effort is ever to be achieved, a clear vision of the ideal of harmony must be combined with an equally clear insight into the social facts which will ever prevent it from being attained. Only those advance society - this is a commonplace - who combine the qualities of Don Quixote with those of Sancho Panza. Many will never be able to see more than a tilt at windmills .... Sometimes they may even be right. But one hopes that there will always at least be some who can see that these hazards are giants of injustice, and who will, as best they can, try to overcome them."*

Readers will also greatly enjoy the heartfelt tributes paid to Professor Forsyth in Part I (*Laudatio*) and Part II (*Personal Reflections*). These chapters highlight many dimensions of his outstanding contribution to legal scholarship while sharing personal anecdotes that reflect not only his enduring academic legacy but also his warmth, generosity, and cheerful personality.

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