

HONORARY GRADUATE

Bob Alexander Hepple

Bob Alexander Hepple was born in Johannesburg on 11 August 1934. In 1952 he matriculated from the Jeppe High School for Boys. Thereafter he entered the University of the Witwatersrand and read for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, which he obtained in 1954. He followed this by completing the Bachelor of Laws degree with distinction in 1957, being awarded the Society of Advocates' Prize for the best law graduate and the Millin Prize for Commercial Law and moots. During this time he was President of the Students' Representative Council and a member of the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) executive. He was also Chairman of the Law Students Council during 1956-1957. In 1958 Hepple was admitted as an attorney of the Supreme Court of South Africa. From 1959 to 1962 he was a lecturer in law at the University. Then he joined the Johannesburg Bar. Bob Hepple, with his keen sense of justice, was active in politics, and was detained at the time of the Rivonia trial in 1964.

In 1964 Bob Hepple went into exile in Britain. He studied at the University of Cambridge, where he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Laws with distinction in 1966, in which year he was called to the English Bar by Gray's Inn. In 1993 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Cambridge for published work.

Bob Hepple has held a number of teaching posts in English universities. From 1966 to 1968 he was a lecturer in law at the University of Nottingham. In 1968 he was elected to a fellowship at Clare College, University of Cambridge and appointed a lecturer in law at that university. In 1976 he was appointed Professor of Comparative Social and Labour Law at the University of Kent, which chair he held in an honorary capacity from 1978 to 1983. From 1982 to 1993 he was Professor of English Law at University College, University of London, where from 1989 to 1993 he was Dean and Head of the Department of Laws. The academic career of Bob Hepple reached its apogee with his election in 1993 as Master of Clare College, University of Cambridge.

Hepple has had a distinguished career in the field of labour relations. He has taught in and written widely on labour law. From 1977 to 1982 he was full-time Chairman of Industrial Tribunals (England and Wales), a position he continued to hold on a part-time basis from 1982 to 1993.

Of particular significance is the substantial contribution of Bob Hepple to the development of labour law in the European Union. He has served as an independent expert to the Commission of the European Union on labour law directives (1974 -), rapporteur for the United Kingdom on the Model European Contract of Employment (1977-80, 1988), a member of the European Labour Law Research Group on the Making of Labour Law in Europe (1978 -) and rapporteur for the United Kingdom on the Regulation of Working Conditions in the EEC (1988-9). In addition he has been employed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as a consultant on labour relations. He has served as an ILO expert to advise the Government of Namibia (1990-1) and the Russian Federation (1992) on their respective labour codes. In 1994 he was appointed as ILO expert to advise the South African Government on the drafting of its labour relations legislation. In this capacity he played a major role in the creation of a widely acclaimed labour code for the land of his birth and education.

Bob Hepple has also been appointed to a number of public offices outside the field of labour relations. From 1986 to 1990 he was a member of the Commission for Racial Equality; he is a member of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education and Conduct; a trustee of the Canon Collins Educational Trust for South Africa; Chairman of the Board of Managers of the Smuts Memorial Fund, Cambridge; and Chairman of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate.

Bob Hepple has published widely on legal topics, particularly in the field of labour relations. His publications include *Race, Jobs and the Law in Britain* (London 1968), *Individual Employment Law* (with Paul Higgins) (London 1971) and *The Making of Labour Law in Europe: A Comparative Study of Nine Countries up to 1945* (London 1986).

The University is proud to be able to express its appreciation to one of its distinguished graduates, who, driven into exile by political forces, has achieved great success in England in the fields of legal scholarship, education, labour relations and public life, by conferring on Bob Alexander Hepple the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.