

Dear Pieter,

With great pleasure I accepted the idea of our friends in ICCA to contribute to a compendium of memories at the occasion of your 100th birthday. As others will no doubt reiterate your unbelievably successful career of so many achievements in many professional fields, I will rather recall a couple of very personal memories.

The first is of 1981: Our colleague Arthur Bülow, then Secretary of State at the Federal Ministry of Justice (and one of your companions at the New York Conference of 1958) was presented a Liber Amicorum at a reception in Cologne. You attended and met for the first time a young lady who said that her name was “Ali Böckstiegel”. You greeted her cordially and told her: “I know your father as a colleague in arbitration.” When Ali then informed you that this “father” was indeed her husband, though we had not been married long, you begged her not to tell me of the misunderstanding. Ali, of course, told me right away. Since that time, whenever we met, we had a good laugh about the incident. I attach two pictures from that evening.

The second memory I would like to recall is of the many meetings both of us had as members of the Council of the ICC Institute of World Business Law in Paris. Most of the time we sat together and when the lunch break approached, you would tell me that, rather than joining the usually good lunch, you would leave for that time and make some of your usual visits of art galleries. I always felt slightly guilty for preferring to just eat, while you satisfied your appetite in the arts. And this feeling was endorsed when you told me of the modern paintings you purchased which we later saw during our visits in your home during the four years I spent at The Hague.

No wonder, I found it most appropriate that the Liber Amicorum you received from colleagues and friends was titled “The Art of Arbitration” though it referred primarily to your widely admired way to write about and conduct arbitrations.

Pieter, the older we get, the more do we realize that what finally counts most is having and being with friends. Ali and I send you this note of friendship and wish you all the best in your life of exceptional length and accomplishments.



Karl-Heinz

Pieter, Mrs. Oppenhoff and Ali Böckstiegel 1981:



Pieter, Ali and Karl-Heinz Böckstiegel at Reception for Arthur Bülow:

