

ANTHONY ANGELO

*G P Barton QC**

I do not recall Anthony Angelo as an undergraduate. On my return from a year's extended research leave at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in London in 1964, I met Anthony for the first time as one of a small class of three graduates who were taking International Law for their LLM. They were a lively, conscientious, and committed group. After graduation one worked in Treasury for many years; the other became a Law Reform Commissioner in British Columbia; and Anthony Angelo was the third. They were all "bright", but Anthony shone. His seminar papers showed evidence of wide reading and particularly an appreciation of foreign legal sources. He had graduated in Modern Languages at Victoria before moving to Law studies. What was most unusual was that Anthony had been a member of the National Ballet and was a student of choreography – not a normal qualification for Law studies!

After completing his LLM Anthony went on an extended overseas visit including a period of study in Italy. I recall his letters from Spain and his evident interest in the Civil Law, particularly in France. That may well have been the factor that triggered off his interest in Comparative Law. What heightened that interest was his experience in Mauritius, which he visited on his way back to New Zealand. The legal system in Mauritius had a fascination of its own, but particularly for a lawyer from a common law background as it represented a composite system drawn from civil law sources as well as English common law. Anthony's interest was not merely theoretical: he responded to the evident need in Mauritius to assist in the development of legislation to meet the aspirations of Mauritius on its attaining independence in 1968. His interest in Comparative Law has been maintained throughout his entire academic career.

Shortly after his return to New Zealand in 1967, Anthony was appointed a Lecturer in the Law Faculty, primarily involved in teaching Legal System, Family Law, and – of special significance – in Comparative Law. Until then Comparative Law had not been available as a law subject at any university in New Zealand. Anthony's pioneering contribution to legal education was not restricted to Victoria University. In 1970 he was appointed a Visiting Lecturer in Law at Monash University, Melbourne, and was a part-time Lecturer in Law at the University of Melbourne. He taught the first Comparative Law course at Monash University, and also taught Japanese Comparative Law Studies at both of those universities as well as conducting an honours programme in Anthropological

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Jurisprudence at Monash University. For some years in the early 1970s he assisted as a part-time tutor in Japanese Language at the Wellington Polytechnic.

Over the years I have been greatly privileged to watch Anthony's burgeoning career from his student days. Only once over that period did I have the special advantage of seeing Anthony at work. It was while he was engaged for the University of Tokyo Press in translating and editing into English the basic textbook by Professor Yosiyuki Noda entitled *Introduction to Japanese Law*.¹ For a period of some weeks I was privileged to spend time with Anthony discussing, analysing, and settling on appropriate English equivalents for what had originally been written in Japanese by Professor Noda. Anthony had complete command of the Japanese terms: his explanation of those concepts was clear and concise.

In the early days of his academic career, Anthony played an important part in providing academic hospitality to visiting scholars. One such was Professor Kenichi Yamagami, a visitor from Kyoto in Japan who had come to observe the work of the Royal Commission on Social Security in New Zealand chaired by Sir Thaddeus McCarthy. For the tenure of the Japanese scholar's visit he shared a room with Anthony at the University, who assisted the scholar in an understanding of New Zealand legislation and at the same time perfected his command of oral Japanese. That association strengthened Anthony's involvement with Japanese universities in the field of Foreign and Comparative Law, which has continued to the present day.

Anthony's academic qualities and standing among academic lawyers were recognised by his appointment as a Senior Lecturer in the Law Faculty at Victoria. He continued to be in the team involved in the Legal System course, but his chief academic responsibilities were in Comparative Law, Conflict of Laws, and Legislative Drafting.

For a period in the early 1970s Anthony assisted in the office of the Attorney-General in Mauritius, later becoming a special adviser to the Ministry of Justice in Mauritius with responsibilities for establishing a Law Revision Unit, and for staff training. I had the privilege of spending a brief time in Mauritius when Anthony was there in 1974, and was able to see how successfully he identified himself with the legal profession and with Government officials. It was no surprise that he was ultimately appointed Legal Adviser to the Government of Mauritius, and for some years in the early 1980s, was Special Legal Adviser with respect to law revision in Mauritius.

Early in his academic career at Victoria, Anthony became a member of the Editorial Committee of the New Zealand Universities Law Review, which he renewed 20 years later. He retained a special interest in legal writing and the production of law reviews. For almost 10 years he was Editor of the Victoria University of Wellington Law Review, and encouraged participation from Faculty, students, and other lawyers in a wide range of subjects.

¹ Yoshiyati Noda, Anthony H Angelo (trans and ed) (University of Tokyo Press, Farat Grove (Oregon), 1976).

In 1977 Anthony was appointed a Reader in the Law Faculty, continuing his prime involvement in teaching Comparative Law and Conflict of Laws at the undergraduate level, and Family Law for the LL.M degree. It came as no surprise when Anthony was appointed a Professor in the Faculty in 1986. That appointment carried with it the inevitable responsibility for taking his turn as Dean of the Faculty in 1991. He was also involved in University administration and, because of his Comparative Law interests, he became a member of the Overseas Admissions Committee of the New Zealand Council of Legal Education. He was also a foundation trustee of the New Zealand Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.

Anthony's reputation was such that he was almost "on call", whenever the need arose for legal assistance in the Pacific Islands. He became Acting Parliamentary Counsel in Solomon Islands in 1982, and the following year became Legal Adviser to the Administration of Tokelau. He was called on to act as Commissioner for Enactments Reprinting for Norfolk Island, and was Visiting Professor at the Université Française du Pacifique, and Associate Director for the Centre of Asia/Pacific Law and Business. He has for many years been Constitutional Adviser for Niue.

The range of Anthony's academic writings has been enormous – about 100 academic articles, book chapters, or papers on Comparative Law and Foreign Law topics, as well as being the author or editor of more than 60 books on law, principally concerning Mauritius, Tokelau, Niue, the Cook Islands, the Seychelles, and Japan, as well as New Zealand. He has truly been an encyclopaedic Comparative Law scholar.

For many years Anthony has been involved in research and publication for the International Encyclopaedia of Comparative Law and also in the Kluwer Private International Law Encyclopaedia writing chapters on restitution as well as covering Private International Law developments in Mauritius and the South Pacific. In view of his experience over many decades, his skills and judgment are in high demand. His continuing work on reviewing legislation in Niue and analysing and assessing recent developments in the United Nations with special reference to Tokelau, Pitcairn, Rapanui, and the Chatham Islands displays his continuing commitment to understanding and explaining the aspirations of small Pacific states and territories.

In 2004 Anthony was honoured by the award of the prestigious recognition as *Chevalier, Ordre des Palmes Académiques*.

One of the distinctive features of Anthony's academic career has been his success in arousing interest among students and graduates in Foreign Law materials generally and in Comparative Law topics in particular. Many graduates testify to his encouragement and support, some of whom are now his academic colleagues.

Among Anthony's many pioneering contributions has been his role as the founding member and President of the New Zealand Association for Comparative Law. That Association has hosted public lectures and organised public presentations by scholars on different aspects of Foreign Law and has also provided an opportunity for the publication of articles on Comparative Law especially to a New

Zealand audience. A study of the latest Yearbook 13 of the New Zealand Association shows the breadth of scholarly interest among New Zealand academics in foreign and Comparative Law.

The University owes Anthony a real debt for his commitment to the study of Comparative Law, which has greatly expanded and diversified law teaching, research, and writing. It is highly appropriate that a decision has been made to dedicate this issue of the Law Review in his honour. As a former teacher and continuing friend I am particularly privileged to have the opportunity to join in that tribute.