

MODERN DIPLOMATIC LAW. By Michael Hardy. [Manchester University Press. 1968. 150pp. £1.10s.].

The Melland Schill Lectures delivered at the University of Manchester are now well-established as "a series of public lectures of the highest possible standard dealing with International Law". This slim volume consists of the Melland Schill Lectures delivered by the author in 1968 and is the eighth to be published in the series.

The book is of particular interest because it deals with modern diplomatic law primarily in the context of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations which entered into force on 24th April, 1964. The Convention, though not exhaustive, has gone far to codify international diplomatic practice and has been adopted by a large number of countries including the United Kingdom and Malaysia. Mr. Hardy's lectures will therefore have considerable practical value in these countries.

The author makes clear that he is not concerned with 'diplomacy' in the widest sense of the word, where it becomes synonymous with the execution of foreign policy, but rather with the narrower and more technical use of the word as referring to the means by which a country's foreign relations are maintained. The book is divided into five chapters. The first chapter deals briefly with the institutional forms which modern diplomacy may take, the sources of diplomatic law, how diplomatic missions are established and the scope of their functions. In the second chapter the author considers the appointment of mission staff, the termination of their functions, and the facilities which are necessary for the performance of a mission's functions, e.g. freedom of movement and communication. The third and

fourth chapters contain an interesting and thorough analysis of the law relating to the inviolability of diplomatic agents and property, jurisdictional and fiscal immunity, the duration of privileges and immunities, non-discrimination and reciprocity, transit through third states and special missions. In the final chapter the author discusses state representation at international organisations such as the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

The author elucidates the various topics with considerable knowledge, skill and experience. He has made use of a wide range of materials and refers extensively to the preparatory Work of the International Law Commission and to the Official Records of the United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities. Even the footnotes contain interesting information. For instance in discussing the problem of the immunity of a diplomatic agent in respect of road accident claims the author points out for the benefit of "anxious English readers" that insurance companies operating in United Kingdom have undertaken to refrain from relying on the privileged status of a diplomatic agent in such claims. (p. 60, footnote 2). Another interesting example occurs at page 36 where the author in dealing with freedom of communication notes: "The waylaying of couriers, the use of bribes and the deciphering of codes was a standard sixteenth — and seventeenth — century practice. In a *tour de force* of such endeavours Gondomar, the Spanish Ambassador to James I, regularly obtained information of discussions in the royal council, only to have his own dispatches reported back to the King by the English Ambassador to Madrid."

This scholarly book will doubtless be of great value to international lawyers, diplomats and others who wish to seek a clear, concise and up-to-date account of modern diplomatic law in the context of the Vienna Convention. The text of the Convention is set out in an appendix and serves to enhance the usefulness of the book.

KOH ENG TIAN.