Preface

In this issue we bring to conclusion our effort, spread over the year, to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We already announced that we will not be attempting a synthetic retrospective of the ‘life and times’ of the Declaration. Instead, in this Finale we invited Jochen von Bernstorff to reflect not on the Declaration as such but on its reception in the literature – A Discourse on Discourse. ‘The Changing Fortunes of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Genesis and Symbolic Dimensions of the Turn to Rights in International Law’ is the illuminating result of this reflection.

From time to time we publish speeches by ‘luminaries’ when we judge their content to be of substantive intellectual weight and interest to our readers (see, e.g., the speech of Pascal Lamy published in 17 EJIL (2006)). We publish in this issue a speech by Mary Ann Glendon, the noted Harvard Law School Professor and currently the American Ambassador to the Vatican, commenting on the address of Pope Benedict XVI to the General Assembly on 18 April, marking the Declaration’s 60th Anniversary. We trust and hope that our readers will agree that this speech amply meets both criteria.

Finally, we publish, as part of the new EJIL : Debate! Rubric, a reply by Paolo Carozza to the article on Human Dignity by Christopher McCrudden in the Human Rights symposium in Issue No. 4 of this year. We also publish a reply by Robert Howse to the Constitutional Justice article by Ernst-Ulrich Petersmann in the same symposium and a spirited rejoinder by the author.

JHHW