

The **INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE**  
Commemorates the Life and Achievements of  
**Professor Elisabeth Mann Borgese,**  
founder of IOI

**Elisabeth Mann Borgese**  
April 24, 1918 - February 8, 2002.

As we commemorate the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of the IOI Founder, Elisabeth Mann Borgese, the leadership of the International Ocean Institute calls on all the members, partners and friends to join in collective commitments to uphold those ideals and principles that were at the heart of Elisabeth's mission. Today her legacy is being upheld by a majority of dedicated and young ocean practitioners who, though they have never met her, are committed to her cause.

The Ocean presents challenges to the future of our global community that are formidable and demand nothing less than our total commitment in seeking ethical and moral based solutions to humanities' common heritage of this planet.

**The Elisabeth Mann Borgese Bursary.**

The International Ocean Institute announced the award of the IOI's first Elisabeth Mann Borgese Bursary in 2010. The EMB Bursary is financed through the IOI's Women, Youth and the Sea Programme and was established as a means of demonstrating recognition to the host country of the IOI Headquarters – Malta – for hosting the IOI Headquarters and providing facilities for staff and offices at the University of Malta's Tal-Qroqq campus. The Bursary also constitutes a further recognition and acknowledgement of the role of Prof. Elisabeth Mann Borgese, founder of IOI, and of her considerable achievements. The Bursary consists of a financial award to be used by the successful recipient in furthering research in ocean related studies over the period of a year. The Bursary will be announced annually for eligible applicants; further information may be obtained by contacting IOIHQ on [ioihq@ioihq.org.mt](mailto:ioihq@ioihq.org.mt).

**Elisabeth Mann Borgese Centre in Malta**

In 2011, the IOI declares its interest in establishing the Elisabeth Mann Borgese Centre (IOI EMB Centre) as a Centre of Excellence for Ocean Governance with the stated aim of enhancing the knowledge of future generations through capacity building and education under the *aegis* of the IOI. The opening of the IOI EMB Centre and use of facilities is scheduled for 2012, to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Professor Elisabeth Mann Borgese's passing away as well as to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the International Ocean Institute.

*Right: The IOI Headquarters office is located in the premises of the University of Malta, Malta - the IOI EMB Centre will be built on the top floor of the building (in the foreground).*





*"Philosopher and theologian of the ocean, Elisabeth was a passionate campaigner for a world order founded on distributive justice based on a universal democracy of which ocean governance would be the prime and leading mover. For her, therefore, the doctrine of the common heritage, espoused with her good friend Arvid Pardo, encapsulated her belief that a philosophy of nature was humankind's essential credo. Within that 'religion', the sea offered the best example for a set of ethical principles guiding humanity to the equitable use of natural resources. Fighting for the adoption of the UN Convention for the New Law of the Sea became for her a life-long vocation in which she spared herself no penance and no sacrifice.....In the International Ocean Institute, Elisabeth Mann Borgese found and founded the instrument which could best carry out her vision. To it she dedicated her heart, her energy and her funds.*

*Today that Institute remains a living memory to a woman of the ocean who, for all time, will be remembered as the selfless protector of the Garden of Eden and of its surrounding water, believing in the return of primordial harmony. In that dream, the International Ocean Institute is the enduring guarantor of its realisation."*

Excerpted from the article  
 "Elisabeth, Philosopher and Theologian" authored by Prof S Busuttill,  
 published in the IOI Annual Report for 2008



ELISABETH MANN BORGESSE was born in Germany on the 24 April 1918, the fifth of six children of Katja Pringsheim and Thomas Mann. She emigrated to U.S.A. with her parents in 1938, married Giuseppe Antonio Borgese in 1939 and had three children.

She was Professor of political science and adjunct Professor of Law at Dalhousie University and a senior fellow at the Center for Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara, California. It was there that she launched her ocean project which led to the establishment of the Pacem in Maribus Conference and the International Ocean Institute. She was a

member of the Club of Rome and the World Academy of Arts and Sciences, and an associate member of the Third World Academy. She served as a consultant to UNEP, UNESCO, UNIDO, and the World Bank. Among other honours, she was awarded the United Nations Sasakawa Environment Prize, the Francis of Assisi Environment Prize, and the Order of Canada.

A prolific author, she penned several books: To Whom it may Concern, 1962; Ascent of Woman, 1964; The Language Barrier, 1967; The Ocean Regime, 1968; The Drama of the Ocean, 1976 ; Seafarm: the Story of Aquaculture, 1982; The Mines of Neptune, 1986; The Future of the Oceans: A Report to the Club of Rome, 1987; Chairworm and Supershark, 1994 (for children from 8 to 80); Ocean Governance and the United Nations, 1995; Der unsterbliche Fisch (short stories), 1998; The Oceanic Circle: A Report to the Club of Rome, 1998; The International Sea-bed Authority: New Tasks, 1999; Wie Gottlieb Hauptmann die Todesstrafe abschaffte (short stories), 2001.