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PROFESSOR BISHOP: A STUDENT'S TRIBUTE

IN 1933, Professor Bishop, then a graduate teaching assistant, led his first international law class at The University of Michigan Law School. There were only four students in that first section (two of whom were auditors) and Professor Bishop wondered if Dean Bates (who had hired him) would be concerned that he was not earning his keep. Last semester, as part of the return on Dean Bates' far-sighted investment, Professor Bishop taught over 120 students in his introductory international law class and conducted a seminar for 20 more. To be sure, the Law School has grown over the last four decades, but the increased student interest in international law has been largely the result of Professor Bishop's presence and abilities as a scholar and teacher.

Students have designated his casebook the encyclopedia of international law, or the "real" source of international law, in response to that perennial question: "What is the source of international law?" It is certain that many students and practitioners turn first to Professor Bishop's casebook when they begin to investigate an international law problem.

While his casebook illustrates the scholar's perspective that Professor Bishop has brought to the classroom, his students have also benefited from the practitioner's point of view that Professor Bishop acquired early in his career as a lawyer in the State Department. For example, a major part of his international law seminar has focused on drafting provisions for a treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation. The exercise was designed, in part, to give students a thorough understanding of the significant terms of basic international law instruments. However, by suggesting the different meanings that might flow from particular words or phrases that the students had chosen for their draft articles, Professor Bishop also encouraged students to focus upon the practical problems of treaty interpretation. "Does the language in your draft," he would ask, "cover this particular situation?" "What policy are you promoting in using this phrase?" Professor Bishop's questions were not purely academic. As he would tell the seminar, one of his first assignments at the State Department was to draft a provision for a proposed treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation, and one of his first on-the-job experiences was answering similar questions posed by a superior. In his Hague Academy lectures, Professor Bishop stated, "I believe

that the most useful standpoint from which to approach international law is that of the man who must *use it*,¹ and such has been his approach: to show how international law can be practiced and to illustrate the function and role of the lawyer in the international law process.

Any account, however brief, of Professor Bishop's tenure at Michigan would be incomplete without some mention of the eighth floor of the Legal Research Building (the law library's international collection) and Professor Bishop's office. If Professor Bishop is not in his office or in the classroom, he will most likely be found on the eighth floor, his unofficial office, where he holds unofficial office hours with international law neophytes. When students have wandered among the stacks, searching without success for some treatise or article to get them started on their research, Professor Bishop has often rescued them with an offer of assistance. After a brief conversation in which the student explains his or her inability to locate any source for a particularly narrow international law topic, Professor Bishop begins to lead the student around the stacks, pulling down a treatise, a digest, citing a reference to a specific journal article, or suggesting an index to be checked. Having covered the eighth floor, the student, arms full of sources, will likely be asked to follow Professor Bishop to his office. Unquestionably, some additional material covering the student's topic is informally filed among one of the many piles of books, papers, reprints, and manuscripts that decorate and distinguish Professor Bishop's office. Although his office is not indexed in the official university catalogue system, Professor Bishop operates the second largest lending library in the Law School.

Professor Bishop is that rare person for whom students inately, without any extrinsic pressure, attempt to do their best. His warm and quiet encouragement has helped to create a small legion of lawyers practicing international law. Their work is proof, indeed, that great teachers offer a bit of themselves as well as their subject to each of their students. Although this winter semester was Professor Bishop's last term as a full-time teaching member of the Law School faculty, his classroom presence has been only one means by which he has kindled the student's interest in international law. His presence at the Law School is still an invitation to discuss, to inquire, and to continue the process that only begins in the classroom.

1. Bishop, *General Course on Public International Law, 1965*, 115 RECUEIL DES COURS 147, 151 (1965).

Students at the Law School can only be pleased that Professor Bishop will continue in residence at Michigan and, thus, will continue to serve as a source of inspiration and knowledge. We can expect to see him here for quite some time. With another casebook planned, articles to edit, and students to advise, Professor Bishop will hardly spend his retirement packing. Instead, we shall look for him more frequently on the eighth floor.

George Lehner
President, International
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