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A TRIBUTE FROM A PRIVATE PRACTITIONER

*Rotraud M. Perry**

William W. Bishop, Jr. was a great scholar in the field of international law, with a unique mind, an intensive understanding in his field, an industrious application to all problems which came before him, and an abiding affection for his students — which affection was reciprocated by a countless number. Year after year his voluntary international law classes had to be split in two because so many enrolled.

Professor Bishop was also loved by his colleagues. At one of his last meetings of the *American Society of International Law*, Professor Bishop and a fellow professor reminisced about a suggestion the latter had made which had been happily appreciated and incorporated in Professor Bishop's universally used casebook on International Law, with appropriate thanks to the professor by name. Both stood there smiling in an aura of well-being and neither could remember what the suggestion was! That forgetfulness was a rare, if not a one time experience.

With the characteristic kindness of giving us several dates to choose from, he invited my husband and me to the Cosmos Club in the District of Columbia for dinner the October before Professor Bishop died, and at that time he could still remember where we had lived when we attended the University of Michigan Law School in the years 1949 to 1952! This among the thousands of students he had and for whom he wrote voluminous and numerous job recommendations when they went job hunting!

Among those thousands, my distinction is that I took more courses from him than any other student he ever taught, which he explained to anyone to whom he introduced me in later years. Due to an early start, and sheer luck, I was able to take International Law, International Organizations, the International Law Seminar, Admiralty and Conflicts of Laws from Professor Bishop.

Immediate practical use was made of Professor Bishop's teaching in the practice of admiralty law for the Military Sea Transportation Service of the United States Department of the Navy. There we han-

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dled many safe berth and general average cases and we were concerned with the loss or destruction of Liberty ships.

A general practice of law from August, 1957 to the present in the District of Columbia and from February, 1974 to the present in the State of Maryland led me to constant, specific use of the law Professor Bishop taught. Conflicts of Law problems are especially rife in an area as geographically limited as the District of Columbia, many of whose inhabitants come from foreign countries or go overseas on government business.

It is also a source of interest to see how long the government takes to determine the status of international law on unexpected events. Such law would be known instantly by any student prepared by Professor Bishop.

But Professor Bishop's influence was much wider than the specific body of law he taught. He had a humbleness of personality which was a virtue illuminated by his great achievements. The way he lived his life gave inspiration and pleasure to those who knew him, and we are diminished by his death.

Thank you for letting me take part in this Memorial to a great scholar, a great teacher and a great lawyer who taught us the law is to solve problems and not just an intellectual exercise.