

MEMORIAL TO WILLIAM W. BISHOP, JR.

*Richard B. Lillich**

Time, that everrolling stream, has taken Bill Bishop away, but his legacy will remain with us — as individuals and as a Society — forever. Many of his contemporaries and colleagues also have recorded their memories of the man. This memorialist, his collaborator on various joint ventures within and without the Society over the past decade and a half, saw Bill not so closely nor over so long a period, but from a different perspective perhaps no less worth recording.

Bill Bishop came from the heartland of America, and Bill was a man of the heart. No one who ever saw him in the corridors of the Mayflower or the Statler at Annual Meetings of the American Society of International Law, or in the panelled rooms of Tillar House for *American Journal of International Law* or other meetings, ever will forget his warmth, his interest, and his concern — in individuals, in international law, in the Society. In his blue suit, with the white shirt, red plaid tie, and high black boots, for four decades he seemed one of the few constants in a Society and a world in flux. Acknowledged as a master teacher, he reached far beyond his students at Michigan to teach us all — and in many ways. Truly can it be said that he was mentor to our profession.

A recent Editorial Comment in the *American Journal of International Law* bemoaned the demise of the international law treatise, and implicitly that of the type of man with the experience, insight, knowledge, and stamina to write one. Bill Bishop was that type of man — one of international law's last great generalists. His General Course lectures at the Hague Academy of International Law — comprehensive but discriminating, thematic but detailed, stylistic but clear and concise — remain today a model for all scholarly writing. So do his other books, articles, and panel presentations. Following in the footsteps of Moore, Hackworth, and his sometime colleague Whiteman, he was also a great compiler. His casebook, over three decades and three editions, introduced hundreds of thousands of students here and abroad to the basic principles of international law.

Bill Bishop was no jurisprude, like several of his prominent contemporaries, nor was he actively involved in private practice or inter-

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national consulting. He was, however, the international law scholar-teacher *par excellence*. He needed no foundation grant to spur his research interests. He required no reimbursement of travel expenses to attend international law conferences. Always ready to assist his government when called upon, he revered the Office of the Legal Adviser and considered its holder to be the international legal conscience of the United States. He had nothing but sadness to express for government lawyers who regarded their country as just another client to be defended at all costs — whether to it or the world community. Near the end of a long and meaningful life, he viewed with distress the United States walking away from the International Court of Justice. Yet, he remained ever-optimistic about the future. That future will be better for his having been in our midst.