

**REMARKS ON THE OCCASION
OF THE MEMORIAL SERVICE
FOR WILLIAM WARNER BISHOP, JR.
HELD AT THE LAWYERS' CLUB
ON JANUARY 22, 1988**

*Elizabeth Gaspar Brown**

Elizabeth Bishop, Dean Bollinger, Members of this Assemblage:

Each of us has come here today to remember William Warner Bishop, Jr. and to recognize the importance of his life to each of us. Because he was, and each of us is, a unique human being, his impact on our lives — and our impacts on his — were incredibly diverse.

Some here knew him as the leader of their boy scout troop. Others knew him as the father of Betty Bishop, one of their classmates at the University School. But the majority of those present are here because of his service to the Law School of The University of Michigan.

Like many in this room, I first came to know him when I was a student in his International Law course. As a law professor, he was all that Dean Bollinger has said of him: erudite and patient, intellectually rigorous and compassionate. His classes were a demanding joy.

Then I knew him as the husband of Mary Bishop, one of my dearest friends.

About that same time, he and I recognized our common interest in the history of this University and in particular of this law school. His family had moved to Ann Arbor in 1915 when his father was appointed the University Librarian. Shortly thereafter, he and his father had lunch with President-Emeritus James Angell. Thus it was possible for our Mr. Bishop to say that, except for the first two, he had known every president of the University.

With a father in the top echelons of the university faculty and a close associate of successive presidents, there was much that he himself knew about the historical events concerning this institution about which I have been asked to write. This knowledge was invaluable. I picked his brains unmercifully and continuously — including the last

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time I saw him when, just before Christmas, he and Betty brought cookies to me as was their annual custom.

His memory was infallible, whether I was seeking information concerning President Little's resignation, the Judge Advocate General's School in the Law Quadrangle during World War II, or the details of the Ford Foundation grants to the Law School. Frequently, I urged him to record his memories — unfortunately, he refused.

Within a day or so after his funeral, Betty Bishop, whom I have known from infancy, and I were talking. Discussing the service, conducted by the Congregational minister, I expressed my regret that a particular extract from the Apocrypha had not been included. At her request, I showed it to her. Within a day or two, she asked me to be one of the speakers at this memorial in her father's honor and to read the following passage from the Book of Ecclesiasticus:

Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers who begat us.

The Lord hath brought great glory by them through his great power from the beginning.

Such as did bear rule in their kingdoms, men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding and declaring prophecies; leaders of the people by their counsels, and by their knowledge of learning meet for the people, wise and eloquent in their instruction; such as found out musical tunes, and recited verses in writing; rich men furnished with ability, living peaceably in their habitations: all these were honored in their generations and were the glory of their times. There be of them, that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported.

And some there be, which have left no memorial; who are perished as though they had never been; and are become as though they had never been born; and their children after them. But these were merciful men whose righteousness hath not been forgotten. With their seed shall continually remain a good inheritance, and their children are within the covenant. Their seed shall stand fast, and their children for their sake.

Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name liveth for ever more. The people will tell of their wisdom, and the congregation shall show forth their praise.