

UNDERHILL MOORE

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THE test of a great teacher should be the lasting effect of his work upon the careers of his pupils, rather than a more fleeting enthusiasm for inspiring classroom performance. Underhill Moore's handling of classes readily enough inspired many of his students but, to my mind, he had few peers in the lasting imprint he made upon the lives of those who came under his instruction or had the opportunity to work with him. In his classes, many students for the first time found themselves with respect to the quality of their legal thought and analysis and the power to handle problems whether legal or of a more general nature. I speak from the viewpoint of one who went from law school into the practice of law and from there into business. To me, his power seemed concentrated in his ability to break down a problem to more nearly elemental segments, to weigh and evaluate these for their factual value, and then to appraise objectively the force to be given each of them in reaching the overall answer. In doing this the baneful effects upon thinking of fuzzy legal concepts and categories, of bias, predilection and blindly held ideologies, fell away and a more open-minded and soundly based judgment could be reached. Further, Underhill Moore could impart to his students an understanding of his methods and an appreciation of what could be done with them.

His fundamental concern with pertinent factual material and his scientific care and objectivity in searching for it made him, in my belief, one of the few true legal realists. Quite naturally, his concern for basic factual material and his insistence upon scientific validity was not a valuable instrument to those who were intent upon the use of law to effect sweeping so-called social reform in line with preconceived views. To some, his method of carefully and objectively seeking the facts—material, cultural and social—involved in some problem before the house, did not seem helpful to the molding of social behavior in line with what they thought should be brought about. And yet, the more experience one has in the world of affairs, the more one realizes the vast value of Underhill Moore's methods and tenets and his influence. The ardent advocates of change and what *ought* to be in government, the law and in business are numerous. Not so numerous are those who are willing, or know how, to pay the price in work, analysis and research to ascertain what indeed are the present facts bearing on the situation, or what would in fact further the desired changes and bring about the desired effects. I know that members of this smaller group are invaluable and much too few in the business world; I believe they are likewise too few in government and in the legal profession.

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Many of them, knowingly or unknowingly, owe much of their slant of mind and methods to Underhill Moore. He imparted to them directly or indirectly the desire to get at the facts, objectively and scientifically, and in doing so to bring in all disciplines which might be of help—philosophy, the natural sciences, the whole range.

Close association with Underhill Moore engendered respect and affection for the man. With me, this close association is many years in the past. And yet as the years have gone by and I have seen, particularly in the field of business, the great need for those who have his basic conceptions, respect and admiration grow. Underhill Moore's influence will have great and beneficent effect in our national life for years to come.