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A TRIBUTE TO W. HOWARD MANN

PHILIP SHUCHMAN*

I got to know Howard late in his career when I started in law teaching. He was a small but powerful legend at Indiana, but in person and in private he was gentle and helpful.

There are builders of systems and bibliographies, and there are analysts and critics. Howard Mann did critiques, a high function, for others and especially for younger colleagues. That valuable and important role is seen in the work products of others, sometimes with an asterisked acknowledgment; just as often with nothing except an unpublished thanks.

He was more gentle with students, pushing and prodding those thought capable of what Howard felt was "good work," nearly his highest praise in an undertaking that ordinarily deals in superlatives. Students often would get back papers late, but always with Howard's incisive and helpful, if sometimes frightening, commentary.

Many of the manuscripts he never published, he wrote, as it were, through others, colleagues and students. Once, in response to a request for his comments, Howard gave a young law teacher several pages of one of his typescripts with footnotes and an updated bibliography.

Howard has been exemplary as one model of what a law teacher should be. He let his students and colleagues speak for him and, in his reticent and mock-gruff manner, rarely acknowledged his own often considerable contributions.

Howard was and is a stylist. His conversions from legalese to an English prose of simplicity, directness, and brevity shows through in a range of undertakings from letters—for him not an art lost with the telephone—to editorial revisions of the arcane subjects of student papers and law journals. He remains something of a classicist. In his later years these delightful traits were revealed in a pronounced personal style of garb and demeanor, at once diffident and distinctive.

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The variety and richness of his experience was not something Howard talked about. That remarkable heritage simply showed: in his college years in the thirties; the war years, which included law school with all the earned honors and distinguished service in the Navy; and then his return, distinguished again by his selection as Justice Burton's law clerk.

There followed a full tapestry of a career as an active academic with responsibilities and honors ranging from important governmental service to matters of widespread public impact (nearly two years of legal work from research to trial and enforcement as part of the reapportionment of Indiana's congressional districts) to years here and there as an itinerant scholar and full-time critic. He always returned to Bloomington which he loved in his crotchety way and whose students he watched and encouraged for years. The volume of mail from Howard's former students is, without more, a wonderful tribute to this man as a teacher and mentor. Letting Howard Mann leave is the kind of mistake law deans should not make. But the story ends happily. For Howard performed at Buffalo with fullness and did for his new family of students and colleagues as well as at Indiana.

Howard, you are what you once said of another, a man of parts. We will be less excellent because you won't be at us full-time.