



1963

Arthur Clement Pulling 1887-1963

Harold Gill Reuschlein

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In Memoriam

ARTHUR CLEMENT PULLING

1887 - 1963

At the conclusion of the academic year in June, 1962, Dr. Arthur Clement Pulling, upon reaching the age of seventy-five, was retired. At that time I wrote with feeling about his tremendous contribution to the School of Law.

Dr. Pulling died September 28, 1963.

With his passing, legal education, the law schools he served, and all of us who knew him lost a warm and devoted friend.

There are no more like Arthur Pulling. He raised the craft of law librarianship to a standard of excellence it had not known before his time. And this he did without benefit of formal college training or formal professional training. Arthur Pulling learned to be the truly great librarian that he was by simply being a librarian.

Dr. Pulling learned his craft as a young apprentice librarian in the Harvard Law Library. His spark of genius attracted attention from the very beginning. In 1912, Dean William Reynolds Vance called the young librarian to the University of Minnesota where he spent three decades in building the great law library at Minnesota which even today is so often referred to as "Pulling's library."

Thirty years later, in 1942, Arthur Pulling returned to Harvard as Director of the law library. It was an era of great expansion and when, at the age of sixty-six, he retired at Harvard, he could point with pride to his own great role in the building of Harvard's superb collection.

To our fledgling School of Law, Arthur Pulling came in 1953, with all the enthusiasm of a young man tackling his first important

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assignment. Starting from scratch, he built a magnificent collection of more than one hundred thousand volumes, beautifully housed in Garey Hall. He lived but a year or so following his departure from Villanova and he spent that year in inaugurating and building another fine law library at the University of Maine.

Arthur Pulling was more than a collector and keeper of law books. His expertise was sought by law schools and law libraries throughout the United States and beyond. But he was even more than a librarian's librarian. Dr. Pulling was a dedicated man. He was dedicated to Villanova. He learned its traditions quickly, and he gloried in being a loyal member of the Villanova family. He and his gracious lady made themselves loved wherever they went. In every professional act that Arthur undertook, in every manifestation of his friendship, his lovely lady, Carol, shared.

There was no selfishness in Arthur Pulling. He gave himself to the University he served. He gave himself as well to his colleagues and to all the students. They loved him in life and revere him now that he has gone.

Yes, we at Villanova were blessed in the service and friendship of Arthur Pulling. Take him all in all, we shall not look upon his like again. I think of the lines of Fitz Green Halleck,

"None knew thee but to love thee,
Nor names thee but to praise."

*Harold Gill Reuschlein**

* Dean, Villanova University School of Law.