

Louis Prashker (1891-1959): A Memorial Tribute

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Louis Prashker, Professor of Law at St. John's University since the foundation of the School of Law, died at his home, 505 Argyle Road, Brooklyn, on January 21, 1959.

Professor Prashker died, as he had lived, immersed in the work which he loved. The Fall 1959 Semester had recently been concluded and he had spent the intervening days grading examination papers and drafting proposed legislation for the New York Joint Legislative Committee for the Review of the Corporation Laws. His death was sudden and unexpected. The heart attack which killed him was mercifully brief.

Nearly sixty-four years have passed since Professor Prashker, one of six children, came with his parents to the United States at the age of four. After completing his high school education at Townsend Harris he entered the College of the City of New York and received the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1913. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence from New York University in 1917 and was admitted to the New York Bar the following year.

During World War I he was a member of the Intelligence Department and served with the Commission to Negotiate Peace in 1918. While in France with the armed forces in 1919 he taught at the Law School of A.E.F. University, Beaune, France. For about ten years he was engaged in the private practice of law and in 1925 joined the faculty of St. John's University School of Law.

Shortly thereafter he gave up the practice of law and devoted the remainder of his life to scholarship, teaching and writing. For nearly twenty years he served as Research Consultant for the New York Law Revision Commission, the New York Judicial Council, the New York State Judicial Conference, the New York State Temporary Commission on the Courts, and the New York State Temporary Commission on the Constitutional Convention. At the time of his death he was the Consultant to the Joint Legislative Committee for the Revision of the Corporation Laws.

Professor Prashker wrote extensively for legal periodi-

cals and was the author of *Prashker on New York Practice, Cases and Materials on New York Practice, Cases and Materials on Partnership, and Cases and Materials on Corporations*. In the latter editions Professor Prashker enjoyed the active collaboration of his wife, the former Sarah Solomon, who was admitted to the bar in 1949, and the encouragement of their lawyer-children Herbert and Carmel (Mrs. Lawrence Ebb).

Former students will always recall Professor Prashker's classes and the careful, meticulously accurate preparation which they manifested. His contribution to legal education at St. John's in the classroom, in his office, in meetings of the faculty and of the Committee on Curriculum of which he served as chairman for several years, through his voluminous writings and as adviser to the *Law Review*, is well nigh incalculable.

Louis Prashker is mourned not only by his family but by all who knew him as friend, teacher, colleague or counsellor. May he rest in peace.

REV. JOSEPH T. TINNELLY, C.M.*

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It was a great shock to me to hear, on the morning of January 22, 1959, of the sudden death on the previous evening of my good friend and colleague Louis Prashker. Only two days earlier I had spoken with him on the telephone regarding a school matter and he had told me that, although he was not feeling quite well, there was nothing to be concerned about.

Professor Prashker and I worked together since the first years of the Law School and were for the past year or two the only remaining active members of the faculty who had taught the first graduating class in 1928. And it was from the first edition of his casebook on *New York Practice* that I taught one of the evening sections of this course. If my memory serves me right there were four of us then teaching this subject. Louis Prashker and William Tapley, who died

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