



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW

Daniel J. Meador

James Monroe Professor of Law Emeritus

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Dear Ron,

Your comments about Unforgotten are much appreciated. As I have always regarded you as a discriminating literary critic, I am especially pleased to have your favorable reaction to the novel. As you appreciate, dialogue is particularly difficult.

Last week I returned from Columbia, South Carolina, from my 36th booksigning event. Often these occasions are interesting, as they bring out old friends and former students I have not seen for years and would not otherwise see for a long while, if ever. However, many of them are also tedious, and I would be content to let this be my last.

My student tapers are away in the summer, so it was only recently that I was able to get your article about the Mitterand affair taped. It is a fascinating, indeed startling, story. It occurs to me that there are two questions in the case that the French courts did not clearly separate. One is whether a publication of this sort can be prohibited under any circumstances. The other is whether a court should undertake to enjoin publication after forty-thousand copies have been distributed to the public. I have always thought that Humpty-Dumpty probably could not be put back together again, and it is difficult to imagine an American court enjoining something that has already occurred. The whole episode, as you point out, seems bizarre from an American standpoint. The piece is very readable, and I think it is a useful contribution to the literature.

Mary Lee Stapp telephoned me the other day to report that she had been at the annual meeting of the American Society for Legal History in Toronto, where Neville was also. She brought him back with her to Montgomery, where he stayed a few days. She says that he has been involved in other matters for some time but that he is now in a position to focus on The Golden Mean. I believe we have been there before, but we shall see.

Last July Jan and I went on a University of Virginia alumni outing to Ireland. I had never been to Ireland before and had sensed no great desire to go. This trip was interesting and informative, but now, having experienced the place, I have no great desire to return. We spent the entire time in a hotel in Ennis but roamed up and down the western side of the country. Much attention was paid to W.B. Yeats. Our university president, John Casteen, was along for part of the time and gave a lecture on Yeats.

There is a third-year student here in the University named Bert Steindorf. His grandfather was a year ahead of me in high school in Greenville, Alabama. He later became probate judge there. Under the Alabama governmental structure, the probate judge is the top official in the county. (When a contemporary of mine has a grandson in college, I realize that the clock is running--indeed, has run!) Bert was born and reared in Montgomery and entered the University as an Echols Scholar in the College of Arts and Sciences. As you may know, the Echols Scholars are considered the cream of the academic crop. He has a double major in English and French. He is going to Aix-en-Provence during the upcoming spring semester from mid-January to early June, to study French in a program run by Vanderbilt University. Recently I had a conversation with him about this, and he would be quite interested in meeting you. He seems to be a bright and interesting fellow, and I think you would enjoy talking with him. This past summer he taught for six weeks in a creative writing program here for high school students. He is debating whether to pursue an academic career, teaching English and French, or whether to go to law school. I have taken the liberty of giving him your name, address, and telephone number, and I suspect you will probably hear from him. If you do, I would appreciate your seeing him.

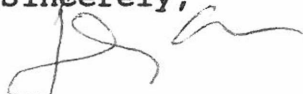
I am in the process of completing a manuscript that I will describe as history/memoir. It is the intertwined story of my mother's family and the first capital of Alabama. One publisher has already turned it down on the predictable and understandable grounds that the market is too limited. It is now in the hands of two other publishers, and I think the same response is likely. I may resort to self-publication, as I would like to get it into print.

West publishing company has asked me to do a second edition of my little book entitled American Courts, and I have this under consideration.

At the end of this week, Jan and I are off to French Polynesia for about ten days on a trip sponsored by the American Bar Association. We will board a ship in Tahiti and spend most of the time sailing to several of the other islands.

I hope all is going well with you and family. Keep me posted.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Meador