

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

### ARTHUR MARTIN CATHCART (1873 – 1949)

The death of Arthur Martin Cathcart, Emeritus Professor of Law, on November 1st 1949, marked the passing of an able, inspiring, and beloved teacher who had served with distinction, not only as a teacher in the Law School, but in the larger life of the University and the community in which he lived.

Professor Cathcart was born in Attica, Iowa, February 2, 1873. After two years of undergraduate study at Northwestern University he entered Stanford University and received his A. B. degree in 1896. The following year was spent in study at the Harvard Law School. Among his academic honors were election to Phi Beta Kappa and the Order of the Coif.

He practiced law in Colorado Springs with the firm of Stimson, Harris, and Benton from 1901 to 1903, and was a member of the firm of Harris and Cathcart from 1903 to 1904. In 1904 at the invitation of David Starr Jordan, he joined the Stanford Law faculty and served successively through the ranks of instructor to Professor of Law continuously until his retirement in 1938, at which time he became Emeritus Professor of Law. Then followed a year as visiting Professor of Law at Duke University, and afterwards an association with the Hastings Law College which continued until the year of his death.

In addition to his regular academic duties at Stanford, Professor Cathcart took a prominent part in the internal government and administration of the University. He was a member of the University Advisory Board from 1917 to 1934 and its Chairman from 1931 to 1934. He also served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Academic Council from 1912 to 1934. His participation in the civic life of the community was an active one. In 1918 he was appointed to the Palo Alto City Council, and thereafter, by election, served that body for three consecutive 6-year terms until he moved to the campus in 1936. During this period he was mayor of the city four annual terms. His service to the community in these capacities was accurately characterized in the press announcement of his death in these words: "In his Council deliberations, Professor Cathcart was respected for his incisiveness, forthrightness and clarity of thought, as well as for a high-minded attitude toward public service." In addition to his work on the Council and as Mayor, he later served on the Palo Alto Board of Public Safety, and the Governor's special committee to study State Insurance Legislation.

But of all accomplishments and services, it is as a teacher of men that Professor Cathcart shall best be remembered. Although he taught many subjects, his primary interest lay in the field of Constitutional Law and Torts, and students who were privileged to sit in his class can never forget the stimulating and effective influence of a personality they respected and loved. His conduct of a class was characterized by the same directness, practicality and dramatic simplicity that so characterized Arthur Cathcart the man.

His influence on the lives and careers of students was not, however, limited to the classroom. Many of his "boys", before and after graduation, knew that they could come to him for wise and friendly counsel—and receive it.

Professor Cathcart was a "pioneer" in the sense that John Buchan has used that term and characterized it, "the most steadfast human being now alive". He believed thoroughly in the democratic process but insisted upon the basic importance of the individual and the sanctity of the personality - which to him was the meaning of liberty. Rugged, honest, independent, and forthright, he lived as he taught. His example and influence will continue in the lives of his students, colleagues, and friends who respected and loved him.

He is survived by his wife, Edna Wallace Cathcart, whom he married in 1905; three sons Wallace, Robert, and Arthur, all graduates of the Stanford Law School; and seven grandchildren.

By this Resolution the Academic Council expresses its deep appreciation of his life and long service to the University, and extends its sympathy to the members of his family. This Resolution shall be entered in the records of the Council and a copy shall be sent to the family of Professor Cathcart and to the Board of Trustees of the University.

James E. Brenner  
James E. Wells  
Harold Shepherd