

Chancellor The Rev. E. Garth Moore, D.C.L.

Evelyn Garth Moore, known to almost everyone in legal and ecclesiastical circles as Garth, was without doubt the foremost canonist of his generation in the Church of England. At a time when ecclesiastical judges are on the whole drawn from the common law bar and unlikely to be steeped in canon law, it is appropriate to recall the debt owed by many to the few such as Garth Moore and our late Chairman Graham Routledge, not to mention our President Bishop Kemp, who have introduced an additional dimension into their study and practice of ecclesiastical law. We must hope that others will emulate their example.

In his 84 years Garth Moore became learned and respected in many branches of law and legal practice. The son of a county court judge, he practised before the Second World War at the common law bar, mainly in criminal cases. After serving on the staff of the Judge Advocate General during the war, he became a fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge where he excelled in teaching law for more than twenty-five years. I first made his acquaintance in 1951 when I appeared in a moot over which he presided. Even then he was an impressive, though always courteous tribunal.

In 1948 Moore was appointed to the first of his chancellorships in Southwark, and those of Durham (where he had been brought up) and Gloucester soon followed. He was convinced that the law he administered derived its authority from the doctrine of God as creator and this sometimes showed in his concern for detail and a strict application of ecclesiastical law. However he was also anxious to see the Church of England freed from the shackles of many nineteenth century judgments concerned with ritual and ceremonial, and to allow churches to be opened up to be used to the best advantage of the parishes.

In addition to his academic and ecclesiastical legal appointments, Moore became a member of the General Council of the Bar and also Deputy Chairman of Huntingdonshire and later Cambridgeshire Quarter Sessions. He was also a member of the Church Assembly.

Garth Moore had always been a devout man in the Anglo-Catholic tradition and it was not therefore surprising when he became ordained as deacon and then as priest in 1962. It was at this point that I met him again, this time as counsel in the Southwark Consistory Court when I was the first to be able to address him as "Reverend and Worshipful Sir". Soon after this Moore became a Church Commissioner and then, when his teaching at Corpus came to an end, he became Vicar of St. Mary Abchurch in the City of London and President of the Fellowship for Psychical and Spiritual Studies.

In addition to all this he was also a distinguished Chairman of the Legal Advisory Commission of the Church of England where his great knowledge and experience of canon law, ecclesiastical law and, indeed, law generally, enabled him to guide the Commission in its consideration of many difficult questions arising during the 1970s and 1980s.

It was with much pleasure that this many friends and admirers learned in 1986 that the Archbishop of Canterbury had conferred on him the degree of doctor of civil law.

Garth Moore, like Bishop Kemp, held classes in canon law, Kemp at Oxford and Moore at Cambridge. Moore had for long encouraged the formation of a society for the study of canon and ecclesiastical law and many will recall the very real pleasure it gave him to welcome us to Corpus in April 1987 when our Society came into being.

A man of vast experience and immense knowledge, he was held in great affection by those of us who knew him well and will be sorely missed.

MICHAEL GOODMAN

A POSTSCRIPT

Garth was – well, Garth was Garth. He called me over at the first E.L.S. conference to tell me "Rupert, the clergy don't wear brown shoes". He was wearing a white tie ("entirely acceptable instead of a dog collar"). Garth was like that, but he never expected people to give into his foibles. He once boasted – and I am still inclined to believe it – that he was the only person in England unaffected by advertising.

He had a great gift for friendship and, once a protégé (and there were many), he never forgot to give you a helping hand or a word of encouragement.

His passion was the Church and its canon law. His memorial is his *Introduction to English Canon Law* but his stature as a canon lawyer really comes out in his judgments – in *Bishopwearmouth v Adey* (1958) 3AER 441 and *Re St. Peter, St. Helier, Morden* (1951) P303, for example.

Garth was a great man. I will miss him.

R.D.H.B.