

# Miles Oscar Price: A Bibliographical Sketch

By ARTHUR J. RUFFIER\*

Long known to members of AALL as the dean of American law librarians, Miles O. Price, professor emeritus of law and, for more than 30 years, law librarian at Columbia University School of Law, ended a distinguished career as librarian, lawyer, teacher, and author.

Miles Price was born in Plymouth, Indiana, on July 31, 1890. He took a position with the University of Chicago Libraries at the age of 20, and within four years became division chief and earned his undergraduate degree. In 1914 he became division chief at the University of Illinois Libraries and remained there for eight years, leaving in 1922 with a Bachelor of Library Science degree. Mr. Price then moved to Washington, D.C., to assume his duties at the U.S. Patent Office as librarian of the scientific library. He developed his interest in law while at the Patent Office from 1922 to 1929.

Miles Price's long and distinguished association with Columbia University began in 1929 when he was named law librarian. In 1938 he received an LL.B. at the School of Law with one of the highest scholastic records ever achieved there. He was admitted to practice in the State of New York in 1940.

In following years, Mr. Price edited *Introduction to Legal Bibliography*, *Syllabus for the Study of Law Library Administration*, *Subject Headings in American and English Law*, *Order Work in a Law Library*, and *Manual of Standard Legal Citations*, 1950, and a second edition in 1958. With Harry Bitner, he was the author of *Effective Legal Research*, 1953, and its revision in 1962. While teaching his law library administration course at Columbia, he contributed to numerous library periodicals and law reviews, to the *American Political Science Review*, and to the *Journal of Legal Education*.

Temple University granted Mr. Price an honorary LL.D. in 1954, and Columbia University honored him with the title of professor of law in 1956. Upon his retirement in 1959, he received emeritus titles in both professor of law and law librarian.

After an already eminent and successful

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career, he decided, in 1961, to make himself available for special library problems as a consultant. He worked with Duke University for a year and, in 1962, began work at the Library of Congress as a principal consultant on the development of the Class K project. Following his service with L.C. in 1964, he was named director of the Library Studies Project for the Association of American Law Schools, which involved the compilation of a bibliography of basic literature for law school libraries.

Active in professional associations, Miles Price was a member of the American Library Association Council in 1924-25, and from 1933 to 1937. He was president of the District of Columbia Library Association in 1924-25, a member of the executive board of the Special Library Association of New York in 1930-31, and president of AALL in 1945-46.

A bibliography of his written works shows his deep concern and sustained interest in legal research and bibliography, the development of collections, classification, photocopying and copyright, and professional education.

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