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Bibliography of William F. Fratcher's Writings

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It is not easy to compile a list of all of Professor William F. Fratcher's writings. He was a prolific and meticulous author who published on a variety of topics. In view of his life and career it is not surprising that his two favorite subjects were trusts and estates and military law.

He was the son of a vice president of the Detroit Trust Company and perhaps it was this circumstance that determined his future interest in the subject. His first legal job as attorney with the Detroit firm of Lewis and Watkins required him to deal with trust and estate problems, as can be seen by the text of a number of appellate briefs that he wrote or co-authored during this period. His lifelong preoccupation with the field culminated in 1986 with his authorship of the fourth edition of Scott on Trusts. But more on this later.

His commitment to the study of the principles of bequests and life estates took second seat only during his military service. During World War II William F. Fratcher joined the Judge Advocate Staff, U.S. Army, as captain, and later became major, lieutenant colonel, and colonel. During his active military career he served as chief of branch with the European Theater of Operations, Paris, and as chief of War Crimes Branch, Legal Division, Office of Military Government for Germany (U.S.). As staff judge advocate he was assigned to the Berlin District, Headquarters Command of U.S. Forces, European Theater. His military career explains his interest and publications concerning the history of the JAG Corps and his writings and speeches on the Nuremberg trials.

Professor Fratcher also produced books and articles on such diverse topics as religion and government, and wrote numerous book reviews. Some of his writings in this regard can be documented only tangentially. He was a productive member and occasional chair of several subcommittees in charge of reviewing the significant literature dealing with real property (1954 - 1982), with wills, estates and trusts (1973 - 1980), and with probate and trusts (1978 - 1982). The reviews, although anonymous, were published as part of the Report of the Committee on Real Property Law, Literature and Research, Section of Real Property, Probate and Trust Law of the American Bar Association, in various issues of the Proceedings of the Section of Real Property, Probate and Trust Law (1955 - 1965) and volumes 1-18 of Real Property, Probate and Trust Journal (1966 - 1983). Professor Fratcher always listed these volumes in his personal bibliography; consequently one has to assume that he wrote most of the annotations and was the main force behind the compiled surveys.
There is another type of publication which cannot be listed readily in a bibliography. As professor of law, Fratcher compiled and edited his class notes. Most of these remained in manuscript form and were distributed only to his students. For instance, under the title *Perpetuities and Restraints on Alienation*, he wrote an eight page mimeographed memorandum "for students in courses in trusts and succession (wills) to provide elementary knowledge of the common law Rule Against Perpetuities." Class notes that were published in print or mimeographed form are listed in the bibliography below. Some of his course notes and exams can be reviewed at the University of Missouri Archives. They relate to his teaching of Property I (1963 - 1982), Trusts (1945 - 1973), Trusts and Succession I (1948 - 1982) and Trusts and Succession II (1958 -1981), Veterinary Jurisprudence (1951 - 1968), Insurance (1947), and Legal Profession (1948 - 1977). He also maintained extensive files of his exam questions covering Decedent's Estates and Trusts (1980 - 1983), Estate & Trust Administration (1982), Future Interests (1976, 1982), Law of Fiduciary Administration (1976), Legal History (1965 - 1982), Agency (1948 - 1951), Insurance (1947 - 1957), Future Interests (1970 - 1982), etc. He taught most of these courses at UMC but some of the class notes and exams refer to courses taught at University of California, Hastings College of Law, New York University School of Law, Western New England College of Law, and the University of Puget Sound School of Law.

Many of Professor Fratcher's lectures and speeches remain in unpublished manuscript form. They can be accessed through the University Archives but are not listed by title or subject. Some of them have interesting titles: *Legal Terms Women Should Know*, a talk given to the University Dames on April 9, 1959 on the Columbia campus. Others, like his paper *Property Curricula—Then and Now*, delivered at the December 1973 meeting of the Association of American Law Schools, lives only in the memory of the attendees of the AALS Property Section. A draft of the paper is in box no. 18 of the Fratcher archives. Other similar publications are *Legal Regulation of the Use of Land in the United States*, presented at a 1965 colloquium conducted by the United Kingdom National Committee of Comparative Law at the University of Manchester; *New Directions in the Employment of Equitable Doctrines: Home Purchase Developments*, delivered in 1988 at the International Symposium on Trusts, Equity and Fiduciary Relationship, held at the University of Victoria; and his paper *Trusts in the USA*, delivered at the 1975 Colloquium on Trusts organized also by the United Kingdom National Committee of Comparative Law. As the bibliography below indicates, these presentations and other similar talks were eventually published in revised form.

In reviewing Professor Fratcher's productivity some recurrent characteristics can be observed. He appears to have been rarely content with his own work as the "final word" on any given topic. He had to revise,
BIBLIOGRAPHY


text content

Another typical trait of most of William F. Fratcher's writings is his reference to legal history. Apparent already in his first student publication and becoming more prevalent in his later writings, he regularly refers to famous British treatises and early English cases and statutes. Of course, the topic of wills and trusts begs for an explanation of the legal roots of these doctrines, which reach to the thirteenth century. It is less known, however, that one of Professor Fratcher's last class compendium covers English legal history beginning with the Roman conquest of the island in 43 A.D. and ending with the reign of Queen Victoria (1837 - 1901). One should also mention his numerous book reviews of the Seldon Society publications, a British organization dedicated to the republication of many remnants of early English legal history. Besides writing reviews of these historical gems, Fratcher was also the Missouri correspondent for the Society.

Professor Fratcher was also the in-house legal historian of the University of Missouri School of Law. The two editions of *The Law Barn*, in 1978 and 1988, became the cherished gift of many recent law graduates of our School.

Looking over the list of close to 175 writings it would be hard to single out Professor Fratcher's most important publication. His contribution to the Uniform Probate Code, his biennial revision of the pocket parts to the second edition of Simes and Smith, *The Law of Future Interests*, which grew from a total of 326 pages in 1961 to 869 pages by 1989, and many of his elegant articles vie for the honor. Yet it was the supplementation (1982 - 1992) and eventual total rewriting of *Scott, The Law of Trusts* (4th edition, 1987 - 1990) that brought him the most recognition. The 6-volume set grew into 12 volumes under his authorship. By early 1993 Fratcher's name has been cited in six United States Supreme Court cases, fifty-two federal cases, and fifty-nine state court cases, most of which single out his editorship of *Scott on Trusts*. Within a five year span, from 1988 to 1993, 98 law review articles have cited Professor Fratcher's writings, a number which would more than double should one cover the entire 58 years of his productivity. Fratcher was justly proud of his work on *Scott on Trusts*. As he himself explained in the preface to the 1985 supplement of this work, Professor Austin Wakeman Scott asked him in person in 1979 to continue the updating of his publication because failing health prevented him from doing so. After Scott's death in April 1981, William Fratcher became the sole author of this monumental work.

It is impossible to list all of Professor Fratcher's intellectual accomplishments, many of which took the form of editorial or unpublished research contribution. He was student editor of the *Michigan Law Review* (1935-36), editor of the *Bulletin of the Judge Advocate General of the Army* (1942-43), and research assistant, later research associate, of the University of Michigan, research director of the American Bar Association Special
Committee on Revision of Model Probate Code (1962-63), research counsel of the New York Temporary State Commission on Estates (1963), Ford Foundation fellow in International Legal Studies at the Faculty of Laws of King's College, University of London (1963-64), and research grantee of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws at the University of Michigan (1966), of the American Bar Foundation at the University of Colorado (1967), and of the International Association of Legal Science at the University of Oxford, England (1969). He was the coordinator of civilian publications on military justice program, Office of the Judge Advocate General, U.S. Army (1959 - 1963), and member of the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Secretary of State on the UNIDROIT Draft Convention to Establish an International Form of Will (1967). He was chairman and member of numerous committees of the American Bar Association, the Missouri Bar Association and the Boone County Bar Association. In addition to many of his published contributions to the work of the various organizations it should be noted that he was the reporter for the Uniform Probate Code (1963 - 1970) and prepared the initial drafts of Articles I, II and V. He was the general reporter on trusts for the *International Encyclopedia of Comparative Law* (1966 - 1974) and reporter for the Missouri Bar projects for Revision of Missouri Probate, Guardianship and Trust Laws (1973 - 1983). Among his last unpublished contributions was his work as consultant (1988 - 1989), thereafter adviser for the American Law Institute Restatement (Third) of Trusts (Prudent Investor Rule).

Finally a word on the bibliography below. Only those works have been listed which were printed or mimeographed in more than one copy. Attached to each listing are some of the reviews of that particular work and, in case of polemics, the reply article. The works are grouped in three broad categories: (1) real property, trusts and estates; (2) military law and history; and (3) miscellanea. Within each topic the material is listed in chronological order and subdivided into books or chapter(s) in books, articles, case notes and comments, appellate briefs, drafts of state legislation, book reviews, and mimeographed materials. Some of his posthumous publications are so noted.

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12 MISSOURI LAW REVIEW [Vol. 59
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