1965

Memorial Citation

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Recommended Citation
Thomas A. Walsh, Memorial Citation, 44 Neb. L. Rev. 5 (1965)
Available at: https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nlr/vol44/iss1/3

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“So venerable, so majestic is this living temple of justice, this
immemorial yet ever freshly growing fabric of our common law,
that the least of us is proud who may point to so much as one stone
thereof and say, the work of my hands is here.”

These words were spoken in 1940 in response to the award of
the American Bar Association Medal for conspicuous service in
the cause of American jurisprudence. The recipient was Roscoe
Pound.

Although popularly familiar for his work while Dean of the
Harvard Law School, Pound laid the foundations for his life’s
achievements in Nebraska.

It was in Nebraska that he was born and practiced law, thus
receiving the working basis for his scholarly publications to im-
prove the legal profession. He began his teaching career at the
University of Nebraska, his formal writing in our Supreme Court
of Nebraska, and his administrative role as Dean of the Nebraska
University College of Law. In 1906, while Dean, he became one of
the first professors of law to address the American Bar Association.
This speech was so basic and is so applicable today that as late as
June of this year a plaque was placed in the Minnesota Supreme
Court chambers, the site of the address.

Upon leaving Nebraska, Dean Pound continued his impressive
work perpetuating the search for legal truth. In the 94 years of
his life, his publications numbered 1,066, of which 303 are books and
major papers.

Dean Pound’s heritage to Nebraskans did not end with his
death in July of 1964. Let us remember his own words, spoken
when he was a “mere” seventy: “There is much more to be done to
make our American administration of justice what it should be in
the twentieth century, and, if for no other reason, I do not feel
ripe for an obituary.”

Neither should we.