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DR. GAULT RETIRES AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE JOURNAL

Dr. Robert H. Gault, for nearly fifty years the Editor-in-Chief of this *Journal*, retired from that post upon the completion of Volume 50. The new Editor-in-Chief, whose duties commence with the publication of this number of the *Journal*, is Claude R. Sowle, Assistant Professor of Law in Northwestern University.

Following the announcement of Dr. Gault's retirement, the Board of Editors of the *Journal* unanimously adopted the following resolution presented by Professor Gerhard O. W. Mueller of the Law School of New York University:

"In the month of May of that peaceful year 1913 the readers of our *Journal* were surprised by an editorial of unusual quality. In it a young man, whose name had hardly ever been heard in professional circles, attacked a decision of the Georgia Supreme Court, upholding the conviction of a thirteen year old boy who had been apprehended stealing one bottle of Coca Cola, then valued at five cents. The punishment for this heinous crime stood at eight years of confinement in an institution of strict discipline. Perhaps the judges, or the populace in general, regarded the sentence as rather humane, for the alternative would have been a long term sentence to penal servitude in chains. We know today that the editorial which so bluntly chastized this judgment and sentence was not just directed at a few Georgian judges. It, as well as an earlier editorial by the same author, in 1911, attacked the entire system and philosophy of then existing criminal law administration in America—and elsewhere. It questioned its very foundation and searched for new goals. The bold and irreverent young man who used such blunt words was Dr. Robert Harvey Gault, who in 1911 had just been entrusted with the editorship of this *Journal*, after having been called to the faculty of Northwestern University. Since that time Dr. Gault has advanced the cause of enlightened criminology in many more editorials, learned articles and scholarly treatises. Year after year, with ceaseless vigor, he has maintained his youthful fighting spirit, and though the pressure of the years may

rest on his shoulders, his pen is still that of the young man who launched the attack against darkness and bigotry in dealing with the crime phenomenon.

"The *Journal* whose editorship Dr. Gault assumed in 1911 had a rather boisterous name. Criminal Law and Criminology were far from being sciences. The general public could not tell palm readers, carnival phrenologists and so-called criminologists apart. American Criminal Law, in theory and practice, had hardly changed since the days the first law book had been opened on this continent. During the half century which saw Dr. Gault on the top of this *Journal's* masthead, greater changes have occurred in our fields of knowledge than during the entire previous history of the human race. Criminology ranks foremost with the social sciences and has wrought incredible changes in the creation and application of stimuli for the prevention of crime, especially of repeated crime, and in detecting its causes. Criminal Law is now a respectable sphere of legal practice which in theory and administration has learned to operate with facts and which has freed itself largely from the domination of vengeant forces. These changes were not only witnessed but also precipitated and guided by Dr. Robert Harvey Gault, as Editor-in-Chief of this *Journal*. In the course of his great work, Dr. Gault has earned the esteem and friendship of criminologists and criminal lawyers all over the world. He has been the tutor and mentor of generations of young scholars in the field. His professional learning and patient teaching, his scholarly integrity, his undying devotion to this *Journal* and his uncompromising loyalty to the cause of modern criminology have justly earned him the repute of the *Nestor of American Criminology*.

"Dr. Gault is now retiring from the chief executive post of this *Journal*. He is not retiring from the fight for enlightenment in criminological theory and practice. On this occasion the Editorial Board of this *Journal* extends to Dr. Robert Harvey Gault their deep gratitude for the almost five decades of superb professional leadership, a

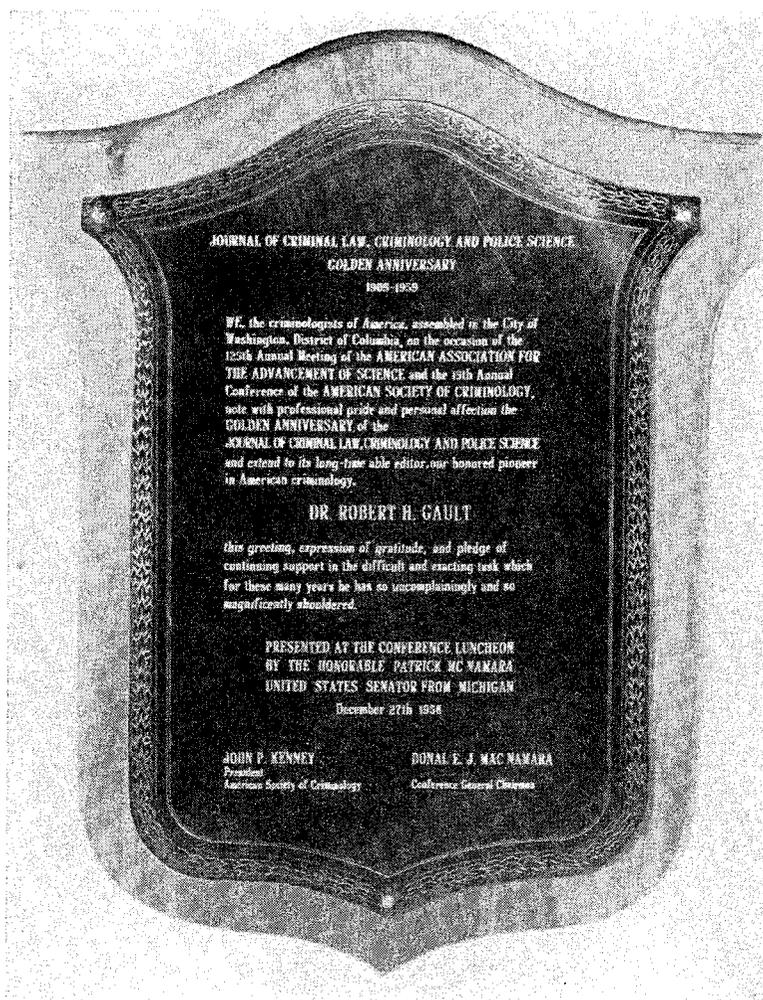
service which is probably unequalled among learned journals anywhere. This editorial board combines their expression of gratitude to Dr. Gault, the editor, with their sentiment of affection to Dr. Gault, the man, and extend to him their cordial wishes for many more years of good health and fruitful service in the cause of this *Journal* and of Criminology."

Dr. Gault's successor, Professor Sowle, specializes in the fields of criminal law and evidence. He is co-editor, with Professor Fred E. Inbau, of *CASES AND MATERIALS ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE*, which is to be published this summer by Foundation Press, and formerly served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Northwestern University Law Review*. Prior to joining Northwestern's faculty, Professor

Sowle was associated with the Chicago law firm of Sidley, Austin, Burgess & Smith.

Gresham M. Sykes, Associate Professor of Sociology in Northwestern University, has been appointed to the newly-created position of Criminology Editor of the *Journal*. Professor Sykes, formerly a member of the faculty of Princeton University, is the author of *THE SOCIETY OF CAPTIVES* (1958) and *CRIME AND SOCIETY* (1956).

Volume 51 of the *Journal*, which has been designated as the "Fiftieth Anniversary Volume," is dedicated to Dr. Gault in recognition of his long service to the *Journal*. This volume will contain a number of outstanding articles solicited by a committee of the Board of Editors headed by Professor Francis A. Allen of the University of Chi-



ago. The general theme of these anniversary contributions will be "Fundamental issues in criminal law and criminology at mid-century." The aim of the *Journal* is to present in this volume a collection of essays that will reveal what highly competent people in the fields concerned today

regard as the basic problems. In the words of Professor Allen, "We strive for a volume that can be picked up fifty years in the future and can then be relied upon as a definitive statement of the best thought in the field at the time of publication."

The plaque appearing in the photograph on the opposite page was presented to Dr. Gault on December 27, 1958. The inscription reads as follows:

JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW, CRIMINOLOGY AND POLICE SCIENCE
GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

1909-1959

WE, the criminologists of America assembled in the City of Washington, District of Columbia, on the occasion of the 125th Annual Meeting of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, and the 15th Annual Conference of the AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY, note with professional pride and personal affection the GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY of the JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW, CRIMINOLOGY AND POLICE SCIENCE and extend to its long-time able editor, our honored pioneer in AMERICAN criminology,

DR. ROBERT H. GAULT

this greeting, expression of gratitude, and pledge of continuing support in the difficult and exacting task which for these many years he has so uncomplainingly and so magnificently shouldered.

PRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE LUNCHEON
BY THE HONORABLE PATRICK MC NAMARA
UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM MICHIGAN

December 27th 1958

JOHN P. KENNEY
President
American Society of Criminology

DONAL E. J. MAC NAMARA
Conference General Chairman