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Jurists of Britain, America Pay Homage To Predecessors At William-Mary Ceremonies

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Busts of Marshall, Wythe, Blackstone Are Unveiled

Warren Cites Duty

Chief Justice Deplores Waves of Passion And Prejudice

By Robert C. Smith Virgian-Pilot Staff Writer

Williamsburg, Sept. 25—Contemporary legal standard-bearers of the English-speaking world met today at the College of William and Mary—where the first chair of law in the United States was established—to commemorate the lives of three great jurists of the past.

Busts of John Marshall, George Wythe and Sir William Blackstone were unveiled in stately ceremonies at the college in the morning. Among the speakers on the program were Chief Justice of the United States Earl Warren and Lord Goddard, Lord Chief Justice of England.

The Marshall-Wythe-Blackstone commemoration ceremonies had the additional purpose of beginning the celebration of the 200th year since Marshall's birth, marking the inauguration of the first chair of taxation in any college, and dedicating the Anglo-American bar to its traditions of representative Constitutional government.

Tax Law Discussed

A round-table discussion of the new tax law, led by Commissioner of Internal Revenue T. Coleman Andrews, highlighted the afternoon session at the college. The ceremonies ended with a night meeting featuring talks by Judge David A. Pine and Prof. Arthur Lehman Goodhart, master of University College, at Oxford.

Speaking prior to the unveiling of the bust of Marshall, Warren asserted that "the most sacred of the duties of a government is to do equal and impartial justice to all its citizens."

Continuing in a vein that could be interpreted as applying to the recent Supreme Court decision ending segregation in the schools, he said, "Waves of passion, prejudice and even hatreds have on occasions swept over us and almost engulfed us, as they have the people of other lands. In our efforts to guard against these things, we have called upon the wisdom of the ages. We have accepted unblushingly the contributions of those minds of other nations and ages who, in accordance with the circumstances under which they lived, have placed foundation stones in the temple of justice."

The morning ceremonies were conducted in the sun-splashed College Yard at the East front of the Wren Building. A platform was provided for the principals and behind the platform, covered in green and gray cloths, were the newly-sculptured busts of Marshall, Wythe and Blackstone.

Solemn Procession

In solemn procession the delegates—legal leaders from universities and colleges all over the country—filed to their seats in chairs distributed on the lawn. Plaques giving the founding dates of many of the early American universities covered the outside of the building itself, and over the arched entranceway, as though symbolic of the spirit, place for the occasion, were plaques reading "Virginia—1607," "U.S.A.—1776," and "William and Mary—1693."

After an introductory speech by College President Alvah Duke Chandler, Dr. Thomas C. Atkeson received his investiture as professor of taxation of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law. Dr. Dudley W. Woodbridge, dean of the law school, gave the oath.

Dr. Goodhart read a letter in Latin to be turned over to the college from Oxford, bearing the English University's seal. Then the guests took their seats. The proceedings were conducted by University College at Oxford.
Dignitaries at Marshall-Wythe-Blackstone Commemoration Ceremonies at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg


M. Robertson, rector of the Board of Visitors. The audience at the ceremonies were swelled by close to 100 direct descendants of John Marshall who later held a reunion in the Wren Building.

Judge Pine, District of Columbia Federal judge, who handed down the famous steel strike decision several years ago, spoke on the state of mind of the men who drafted the Constitution. "It is my view that collectively they were controlled by fear, or, more accurately, two competing, incompatible four of government. Nevertheless, a miracle was performed and they did the impossible the irreconcilable.'" Speaking of the value of the balance of power which the founding fathers incorporated into the Constitution, Judge Pine warned against attacks on the Constitution from the "left." He described what had been three recent dispositions toward enhancement of the power of the Federal government and toward encroachment by the executive branch upon the power of the legislative and judicial branches.

By Goodrich's evening session speech tied in with that made by Judge Pine. He spoke of Constitution's contribution to constitutional law, stressing the separation of the branches.

Tax Experts Heard

The afternoon roundtable discussion featured short talks by a panel described by Andrews as "as distinguished a group of tax experts as could be gathered together in America." Speakers were Kenneth W. Combell, former Commissioner of Internal Revenue; Daniel A. Taylor, chief counsel of the Internal Revenue Service; J. K. Sodeman, New York certified public accountant; J. E. Goudrich, Washington attorney; Joel Barlow, Washington attorney; and C. E. Morehouse, Virginia State Tax Commissioner. Theme of the meeting was "The New Tax Law and the Role of Accountant and Tax Administrator." The list of distinguished guests attending the one-day session was lengthy. Among those who accepted invitations were Supreme Court Associate Justice Tom C. Clark, Felix Frankfurter and Harold H. Burton; Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Associate Justice John W. Eggleston, A. E. S. Stephens, Willis Robertson, of Virginia's Third District; Rep. R. N. Smith and Kenneth C. Whitten; Lt. Gov. A. E. S. Stephens; United States Senator A. Willis Robertson; Judge Harold R. Medina and United States Chief Justice Earl Warren.

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