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

Busts of Marshall, Wythe, Blackstone Are Unveiled

Warren Cites Duty
Chief Justice Deplores Waves of Passion And Prejudice

By Robert C. Smith
Virginia-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 in other lands. In our efforts to guard against these things, we have called upon the wisdom of the ages. We have accepted unhesitatingly the contributions of those intellects 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, and atop arched entrances as though symbolic of the steps. The platform, as though a symbol of the final place for the occasion, was always reading "Virginia—1607," "U.S.A.—1776," and "William and Mary—1693."

After an introductory speech by College President Alvin Duke Chandler, Dr. Thomas C. Atkinson 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 ceremonies of the day were opened with an address by Dean Atkinson.

At the Marshall-Wythe-Blackstone commemoration ceremonies in Williamsburg yesterday, honorary degrees were conferred upon (left to right) Lord Goddard, the Lord Chief Justice of England; Chief Justice Warren and Mrs. Alfred I. du Pont. At right is William and Mary President Alvin Duke Chandler. The bust of John Marshall was unveiled by Chief Justice Warren at the ceremonies. Busts of Sir William Blackstone, who filled the first chair of law in England, and of George Wythe, who occupied the first chair of law in America, were also unveiled.

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"Road to National Ruin" said, "insures a needed college of William and Mary." He, action being taken today by the money.

"It fell to (his) lot to translate our constitution from liberty and self-government upon anyone has a title to a bust at this college, it is Wythe for it was here that he conceived and taught the principles of liberty and self-government upon which our Republic is founded." The Wythe bust, on the left and done in semi-profile, was duly unveiled.

"If anyone has a title to be here, he did it for this country, " appeared at the eve of reform and saw the great need of reform." At the conclusion of Lord Goddard's speech the bust of Blackstone -- central of the three figures mounted on pedestals at the entrance to the building -- was unveiled.

"Preceptor of Jefferson" Judge C. Vernon Spencer, associate justice of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, presided at the unveiling of Wythe, who occupied in 1779 the first chair of law to be established in the United States at the college where the ceremonies took place.

Referring to Wythe as the "preceptor of Jefferson," and mentioning among his students John Marshall, James Monroe, Edmund Randolph and Henry Clay, Spence said, "If anyone has a title to be here, it is Wythe for it was here that he conceived and taught the principles of liberty and self-government upon which our Republic is founded." The Wythe bust, on the left and done in semi-profile, was duly unveiled.

Warren had this to say about Marshall: "It fell to (his) lot to translate our constitution from paper into real life ... to say that it took wisdom, foresight, patience and courage to do this task, is true. But he did it for 34 years during the most formative and politically turbulent period of our national history." After his speech the Marshall bust was unveiled, completing the ceremony.

Andrews had spoken earlier on the significance of the new chair of taxation at the college. "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. Caton, associate justice of the Virginia State Supreme Court of Appeals; J. Goodrich, Washington attorney; Andrew F. Lurie, Washington attorney; and C. R. Morey, Virginia State Tax Commissioner. Thema of the meeting was "The New Tax Law and the Role of the Tax Administrator and Tax Administration."