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THE DEDICATION OF MANNING HALL

Manning Hall, the new law building at the University of North Carolina, is named in honor of Dr. John Manning, who was Dean of the Law School from its revival in 1881 until his death in 1899.¹ During Dr. Manning's administration, the Law School was quartered in a small, frame building, now used as the local telephone exchange. At Dr. Manning's death, the Law School was formally absorbed into the University and occupied rooms in the Old South building, from there moving into the old Library building in 1907. Judge MacRae was Dean of the Law School during this period and was succeeded by Lucius Polk McGehee in 1910. Mr. McGehee was tireless in his efforts to obtain a new building for the Law School, but died in 1923 before the building was ready for occupancy. In 1924, Merton L. Ferson was elected to the Deanship of the Law School.

Manning Hall is an impressive and graceful building in the colonial style with a portico rising the entire height of the building, supported by six Ionic columns. The outside material of the building is brick, finished with Indiana limestone. The interior finish is oak and marble. The building may be divided into three parts, a central section and two wings. The entrance on the main floor is into a lobby from which doors lead to the reading room of the Law Library, which occupies one wing of the first floor. Faculty offices, facing a hallway, occupy the other wing. The book stacks occupy the central portion of the building on the first floor and have a capacity of 30,000 volumes. On the second floor, there is a large classroom in each wing and a hallway and three small classrooms in the central portion. The combined seating capacity of the classrooms is about 300.

¹ An address by Justice W. J. Adams on the "Life and Influence of John Manning" has been published in the *North Carolina Law Review*, December issue, 1924.

The classrooms are fitted with rows of writing benches and loose chairs, thus providing comfort and convenience for class work and note taking. In the basement, there is a locker room, where students may keep books and other personal property. There is also a special room for women students on the first floor. Thus the Law Building is the exclusive workshop and home of the law students from the time that lectures begin in the morning until the building is closed at night. This provides the professional atmosphere for first class professional study and discussion, upon which the success of legal training so largely depends.

Manning Hall was formally dedicated on January 23, 1925 in the presence of a distinguished assemblage, including the members of the legislature, judges of the Supreme and Superior Courts, State officials, University trustees and other prominent citizens. President Chase of the University presided, and the principal speaker was Professor William Reynolds Vance of Yale.

The principal address and the other excellent addresses, delivered on the occasion of the dedication of Manning Hall, are printed in the following pages.