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# Book Note\Books Received

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## BOOK NOTE

**Nine Famous Trials.** By John Evarts Tracy. New York: Vantage Press. 1960. Pp. 176. \$3.50.

Here in a collection of nine stories the author has re-fold for us the drama of several notable cases in our legal history. They are not necessarily those cases which have established great precedent but rather they are cases illustrating with the lives of the participants how judicial decision becomes part of our social and political history. In the first chapter, for example, the involved sequence of events which led to the trial of Aaron Burr is retraced with clarity. While Mr. Tracy employed the historian's objectivity, there is retained a sympathetic response to the tragedy of Burr's life. There emerges an image of a successful New York lawyer whose ambition led him ultimately into an open conflict with the Jefferson administration, a conflict which was to be resolved only by a political trial. The indictment for treason could not be proved, however, for lack of any overt act on the defendant's part. And Chief Justice Marshall, who heard the case with the federal circuit court judge, could not be persuaded to adopt the Government's contention for "constructive treason." Thus, the man who is perhaps best known for having killed Alexander Hamilton went free. This was also the man who in 1800 had come very close to becoming President by tying Jefferson's 73 votes in the electoral college.

The other chapters include "The Annesley Case," one of the most remarkable estate settlements ever made by a court; "The Sailing Ship William Brown," wherein students of criminal law will recognize some first principles; and six other cases—all of which the author first described in a series of papers to a faculty group in his university. Perhaps it is this fact of having been first prepared for a listening audience that accounts for the very easy style of this little book.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

**Taxation and Operations Abroad.** Symposium. Princeton: Tax Institute, Inc. 1960. Pp. x, 308. \$6.00.

**Scott's Abridgment of the Law of Trusts.** By Austin Wakeman Scott. Boston: Little, Brown and Company. 1960. Pp. xxxvii, 796. \$11.00.

**Rights and Writers, A Handbook of Literary and Entertainment Law.** By Harriet Pilpel and Theodora Zavin. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc. 1960. Pp. 384. \$7.50.

**Selected Problems in the Law of Corporate Practice.** Edited by Thomas G. Roady, Jr., and William R. Anderson. Nashville, Tenn.: Vanderbilt University Press. 1960. Pp. viii, 424. \$10.00.

**Mergers and Markets, An Economic Analysis of Case Law.** By Betty Bock. New York: National Industrial Conference Board. 1960. Pp. 143. \$12.50 (to non-associates), \$2.50 (to associates of the National Industrial Conference Board).

**Taxation of Foreign Income, Cases and Materials.** By Boris I. Bittker and Lawrence F. Ebb. Stanford, California: International Legal Studies Program of Stanford University Law School. 1960. Pp. xii, 580. \$5.00.

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