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## EDWIN DEWITT DICKINSON

Edwin DeWitt Dickinson, 73, professor of law at the University of Pennsylvania from 1948 to 1956, died at his home in St. Helena, California, on March 26, 1961. Thus ended a long and distinguished career in the teaching and writing of both public and private law.

The teaching career touched many institutions. Upon his graduation from Carleton College in 1909, Dickinson went to Dartmouth where he was an assistant in history and did graduate work for which he received a master's degree in 1911. A Ph.D. in government and international law came from Harvard in 1918 and a law degree from Michigan in 1919. After fourteen years of teaching at Michigan, he became professor of international law at the University of California in 1933; then professor of law and dean of California's School of Jurisprudence from 1936 to 1948. The professorship at Pennsylvania ended the teaching career except for two years at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco.

Along with the teaching career was a constant series of well-written legal essays beginning in 1917. One finds papers in the *Yale Law Journal* for that year, and again in 1921, with a paper in the *Michigan Law Review* in between. From then on the output shows a man who was thinking about his legal problems and writing about what he thought. From 1923 to 1932 fourteen papers from the Dickinson pen appeared in various law journals. Many of these are in the *American Journal of International Law* but more than one appears in the law reviews of Harvard and Michigan. The later writing, as would be expected, spreads the publication even more widely.

California lists several papers from its dean; so does Pennsylvania after he had come to its law school. International law in its various phases continues to be the main theme, although one rather full paper talked admiralty, a subject in which Dickinson had an academic as well as practical interest for many years.

With the teaching and the writing came leaves of absence for public service. Dickinson was a special assistant to the United States Attorney General from 1941 to 1943, general counsel to the American-Mexican Claims Commission in 1943 and 1944, secretary to the Committee on Legal Problems of the United Nations Conference on Legal Organization in 1945, and chairman of the Alien Enemy Repatriation Hearing Board in 1945 and 1946. Add to this a membership of the Permanent Court of Arbitration from 1951 to 1960 and the presidency of the American Society of International Law in 1952-53, and add honorary doctorates from Carleton and the University of Southern California. This is not the whole list but it is enough to show the capacity of the man. He was for a time a member of the Council of the American Law Institute, was engaged on that body's *Restatement of Foreign Relations Law*, and was about to resume activity in that work at the time of his death.

The paper record proves on its face the accomplished and diligent scholar, as well as the man of affairs. In addition to learning, Dickinson had a fine sound judgment. He would listen to facts with an open mind and form reasoned conclusions thereon. This applied not only to law but to every subject to which his active mind addressed itself. Dickinson was a good dean; his faculty thought highly of him. But his greater interest was on the scholarly side, not in the approval of lecture schedules or the assignment of class rooms. Much committee work, he contended soundly, was an unnecessary evil.

Carleton College students, in his day and mine, engaged in a fever of forensic activity. Literary society debates, intersociety debates, intercollegiate debates, and oratorical contests were all grist for our mill. Dickinson had his share of fun in all of this: he was college orator in his senior year and he even picked up a letter in football, something some of his fellow debaters could not do.

Life was not all books, even when diluted with forensics. Not a musician, Dickinson was fond of music; not a poet, he loved poetry and added color to his words, in talk or in print, with a line or two of appropriate quotation. He loved out-of-doors. An ardent fisherman, for many years the Dickinsons and Dartmouth friends took long canoe trips in Canadian woods where there were more fish than fishermen.

In 1913 Dickinson married May Hall, also a member of the Carleton class of 1909. They had no children. But they had the joys of parenthood in the children of their friends, and in many cases, in the children's children. For how many, I wonder, was he "Uncle Dick"?

"He was my friend, faithful and just to me."

*Herbert F. Goodrich †*

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