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# DEAN LEON JULLIOT DE LA MORANDIERE — A FOREWORD

*Paul M. Hebert\**

The pages of the Review immediately following contain the reprint of a paper contributed by John H. Tucker, jr., longtime President and now Chairman of the Louisiana State Law Institute. His essay entitled "Tradition and Technique of Codification in the Modern World: The Louisiana Experience," first appeared in a volume of juridical studies presented to Léon Julliot de La Morandière, Dean Emeritus of the Faculty of Law and Economic Sciences of the University of Paris.<sup>1</sup> Because of its significance for the Louisiana reader, the English version is here reproduced with the permission of the publishers of the French version and of the author. The *Etudes Juridiques* cover a rich variety of subjects of current importance and are commended to the reader in their entirety.

It seems appropriate, by way of foreword, to take notice of the remarkable professional work of Dean de La Morandière, the honoree whose career prompted the appearance of the *Etudes Juridiques*. When one surveys that career as recounted by Georges Vedel now Dean of the Faculty of Law at Paris<sup>2</sup> and as further described in a prefatory listing setting forth the wide scope and variety of Dean de La Morandière's activities in law, in political science, and in positions of high trust and responsibility, one can appreciate the numerous professional and personal associations which combined to result in the volume in his honor. The forty-eight contributors included not only a number of Dean de La Morandière's colleagues of the Paris Faculty, but also included representatives from the law faculties of Strasbourg, Nice, Rennes, Poitiers, Toulouse, Lille, and Lyon. Papers contributed by university scholars beyond the borders of France came from Prague, Belgrade, Dakar, Osaka, Glasgow, Manches-

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1. ETUDES JURIDIQUES OFFERTES À LÉON JULLIOT DE LA MORANDIERE DOYEN HONORAIRE DE LA FACULTÉ DE DROIT ET DES SCIENCES ECONOMIQUES DE PARIS MEMBRE DE L'INSTITUT PAR SES ÉLÈVES ET SES AMIS (Paris, 1964) (Published in cooperation with the National Center for Scientific Research) [hereinafter cited as ETUDES JURIDIQUES].

2. Vedel, *Le décanat de Léon Julliot de La Morandière*, in ETUDES JURIDIQUE 1-8.

ter, Stockholm, and Harvard illustrating quite vividly the international recognition accorded Dean de La Morandière's work and influence.<sup>3</sup>

Dean de La Morandière was born at Granville (Manche) France, September 9, 1885. After receiving his doctorate at the University of Paris in 1910 he lectured and taught at Algiers, Rennes, Strasbourg, and Caen before accepting appointment at the University of Paris in 1928 as full professor and holder of the chair in civil law. Following the liberation he served as Dean of the Faculty of Law and Economics from December 1, 1944, until his retirement to the honorary deanship in 1955. This, as Dean Georges Vedel has pointed out, constituted one of the longest tenures in the deanship at Paris. Dean Vedel has described this period as eleven years "marked with re-election without any other problem than that of convincing the Dean to retain his functions."<sup>4</sup>

When he was selected for the Paris deanship, Léon Julliot de La Morandière brought to that position a distinguished national and international reputation for scholarship and accomplishment. He had served as Director of the Comparative Law Institute, as member of numerous advisory commissions charged with responsibility for preparing important legislation for the Ministry of Justice and other governmental bodies, and he had represented France as a delegate at international conferences of far-reaching significance in commercial law, private international law, comparative law, and civil law. A crowded calendar of activities of a similar nature have been pursued by him at unrelenting pace throughout his deanship and have continued even since his relinquishment of that office. Thus, from 1945 to 1964 he acted as President of the Commission appointed by the Minister of Justice to prepare a revision of the French Civil Code. Its reports have attracted the attention of scholars throughout those portions of the world adhering to the civil law system. He was also active as President of the Advisory Committee to the legal department of the Ministry of Finance and Interior, in scores of similarly important legal appointments, and as a member of a variety of councils and boards charged with responsibilities in education, research, and cultural affairs. From 1945

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3. See *Table Des Matières*, in ETUDES JURIDIQUES 665-68 listing the topics and names of the contributors.

4. Vedel, *Le décanat de Léon Julliot de La Morandière*, in ETUDES JURIDIQUE 1.

to 1955 he was a member of the National Commission for UNESCO. For some seven years he served as President of the International Committee for Comparative Law which later became the International Association of Legal Science. The breadth of Dean de La Morandière's activities and the versatility of his attainments brought him into active contact with leaders in law in more than twenty-five separate nations. At least ten universities in Europe have recognized his achievements with the degree of Doctor *honoris causa*. A full listing of the honors awarded him for his scholarly attainments in law, in letters, and in the public service including his distinguished military career in World War II and service for the Resistance would extend unduly this brief foreword. A mere bibliography covering his books, his principal articles, and the reports of which he is the author occupy several pages.

Louisiana's claim to association with Dean de La Morandière is through the Louisiana State Law Institute. In its work he has manifested a keen interest. A special presentation of the Institute's major publications was made to him for the library at the University of Paris. A number of years ago, he accepted honorary membership in the Institute. These links, added to a sharing of the civil law heritage which came to Louisiana directly from France, made it fitting that the editors of the *Etudes Juridiques* published in his honor should invite the President of the Louisiana State Law Institute to be one of the two American contributors to the commemorative volume. John H. Tucker, jr., is widely known for his leadership in the work of the Louisiana State Law Institute and for his continued scholarly interest in the civil law and its antecedents in the Roman law system. His paper, honoring Dean de La Morandière, should serve to remind the legal profession of Louisiana of its unperformed tasks in civil law studies and the importance of accomplishing such studies as a prelude to serious recodification. In the performance of these tasks, inspiration is to be found in the work for codification to which Dean de La Morandière has contributed such distinguished leadership.