Today marks an event in the history and development of an important institution of learning. The University of Cincinnati is the oldest municipal university in the United States. The College of Law is the fourth oldest law school in the country. In 1833 there was founded the Cincinnati Law School which in 1835 was incorporated with the Cincinnati College and was thereupon conducted under the name of the Law School of The Cincinnati College. In 1896 a number of distinguished members of the Cincinnati bar, among whom was William Howard Taft, the most illustrious alumnus of the Cincinnati College, organized the Law Department of the University of Cincinnati with Taft as its Dean. In 1918 came a union between the Law Department of the University and the Law School of the Cincinnati College by the acquisition of the University of the original College stock.

For 130 years the institution has operated continuously to serve the local community and the nation, giving to it a Chief Justice, a President, a Vice President, a Speaker of the House of Representatives, and other distinguished public officials. It continues in that great tradition.

Last year, the Testamentary Trustees of the Robert S. Marx Estate, in carrying out his known desires, donated the funds to erect a library as a memorial.
The primary aims of the College of Law are to train students in the principles of law, to develop the power of legal reasoning, to teach the fundamentals of practice, and to develop appreciation of the professional responsibilities of the lawyer. In connection with the development of professional skills, Judge Marx fathered the establishment of a course in Facts for the acquisition of techniques for discovering, preserving, appraising and presenting facts, to separate the relevant out of the unorganized mass to apply it to testimony and advocacy. Much of this grew out of his own experience as a lawyer and judge. He was born in Cincinnati January 9, 1889, and was educated in the local public schools prior to his attending U. C. He graduated from the College of Law with a distinguished record in 1909, and taught there in 1952 - 1956. A veteran of World War I, he was wounded in battle on November 10, 1918, and received the D S C, Verdun Medal, and also the Purple Heart. Thereafter he served as a Judge of the Superior Court of Cincinnati.

In his practice, it was evident from the outset that he was qualified for high achievement. In his early years it was recognized that as a trial lawyer he was a formidable adversary. He was at home in the trial of cases where issues were submitted to juries, and he was equally skilled in the presentations before appellate tribunals. He was an advocate and a scholar.

He appreciated the vital need to supplement his logic with scholarly references to the legal books.
It is a feature of Anglo Saxon jurisprudence that courts, in deciding cases make declarations of the law, and when a situation is presented that is similar to that in an earlier case, the declared principles of law therein are applicable to the case at bar. A lawyer must study the reports of prior decisions on the subjects in controversy. But there are some limitations to that doctrine. The law grows and changes to meet changing conditions and the lawyer's work requires constant rechecks of the current adjudications. So in the study and practice of the law there is a continuing need to resort to the books. The law library is at the heart of a law school.

It is particularly fitting that the new building be a memorial to Robert S. Marx, lawyer, judge, teacher and loyal son of the University of Cincinnati.