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Review of A Bibliography on Foreign and Comparative Law

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Recommended Citation

This volume is a most welcome addition to the author's first compilation of English language materials on this subject which covered the period to 1953. The present volume includes books and articles from April 1, 1953 through 1959 and a few articles of special importance after that date. It also includes a few earlier items not included in the first volume.

The book includes all English language materials relating to the legal systems of the non-common-law countries. The author has also included, however, coverage of some countries which might be called common-law countries, e.g. India and Pakistan (because of their close relationship to Hindu and Mohammedan law) and Scots law, the law of Quebec and Louisiana (because of their peculiar nature as mixed systems). Of particular interest is the increased attention which has been paid to coverage of the development of both national and tribal law in Africa.

While the bibliography is designed to give exhaustive coverage only to the technical legal material, ample material has been included covering such topics as foreign constitutions, election laws, public administration and administrative law, local government, and problems of federalism. For example, the local government section contains 142 items, including mimeos from the Cornell South East Asia Program and articles in New Yugoslav Law.

The book is in no way a mere listing of bibliographic materials, but rather, through its most helpful annotations, serves the reader as a time-saving guide into the ever-increasing body of materials in English. For example, the reader is told in the entry for Constitutions of Nations by Peaslee, that the recently emerged African states are not yet included, and that the changes in Cuba, Egypt, France, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey are not considered, so that he can proceed directly to one of the other indicated sources.

The first of a series of annual supplements will be published in 1963, and will include items for 1960–1961. Cumulative volumes are planned for every five or six years. It is contemplated that, in addition to these supplements, a selected list prepared by Mr. Szladits of works of general interest will be published at intervals in the American Journal of Comparative Law.

Mr. Szladits' fine contribution, particularly when coupled with the recently begun Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals, which covers the foreign-language periodical literature in this field, has greatly added to the ease and accuracy of research in the field of comparative law and government.—Whitmore Gray, University of Michigan.