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## NEW FOREIGN LITERATURE OF INTERNATIONAL INTEREST

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## NEW FOREIGN LITERATURE OF INTERNATIONAL INTEREST

*Ernst Rabel* \*

L'UNIFICATION DU DROIT. UNIFICATION OF LAW. By the *International Institute for the Unification of Private Law*. Rome. 1948.

The International Institute of Rome, which after its former affiliation with the League of Nations was supported by a large group of states, will doubtless establish a similar association with the United Nations as soon as Italy is finally admitted to membership. Originally presided over by Vittorio Scialoja, the recognized head of the Italian legal profession, the Institute is now under the direction of another distinguished lawyer and diplomat, Massimo Pilotti, and his able assistant, the Secretary, Mario Matteucci. The present stately volume assembles the recent uniform laws with world-wide force in the field of private law, and adds the drafts prepared for universal enactment by international efforts under the auspices of the Institute. The volume presents a surprisingly comprehensive collection of unifying ideas and the achievements consisting either

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in actual legislation or in careful and reasonable proposals. Bilingually printed in English and French, the book should go a long way in familiarizing lawyers with the large possibilities of a modern world law. At the same time, the Institute introduces itself brilliantly to the postwar world.

BOLETÍN DEL INSTITUTO DE DERECHO COMPARADO DE MEXICO. Año. I, No. 1, Enero-Abril, 1948. Mexico, D.F.

The Institute of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico was founded in 1940 and since 1941 has been under the able direction of Agustín García López. Sr. García López in addition to other achievements has the satisfaction of publishing this new review, the first issue of which is at hand. This enjoyable book, well printed, presents three valuable comparative reports on legislation which are very welcome, a review of books, reviews, and notes, including a report in which Elola Fernández, the Secretary of the Institute, informs us about its program and activities. The review specializes in the law of Central America and the Caribbean states. This has not prevented, however, its first reports from including Argentina, Chile, France, and Switzerland. With such liberalization, the idea of devoting the work of exhaustive collection and illustration to the sources of a regional group, is indeed sound. This is an excellent means for the necessary international division of comparative work. Of course, in the present world there is always a danger that local interest may be emphasized too much in the face of universal conciliation. However, understanding that the Institute is preparing and organizing a Congress of Comparative Mercantile Law for "Centroamérica y el Caribe" on such matters as uniform laws on sales, negotiable instruments, and transportation,<sup>1</sup> we may be sure that the cosmopolitan nature of these topics will remain in clear perspective. A testimony for the broad horizon of the editorship and the collaborators, is afforded through the three leading articles by Alcalá-Zamora, Joaquim Rodríguez, and Jorge Barrera Graf. The Boletín is a highly promising undertaking and a gratifying sign of the times in our southern neighbor country.

<sup>1</sup> P. 208.

INSTITUTO DI STUDI LEGISLATIVI. Roma: Ministero di Grazia e Giustizia (the address for subscription).

Under the indefatigable directorship of Salvatore Galgano, the Italian Institute for Legislative Studies has carried on its complex and important publications all through the war. Despite the manifold serious difficulties of the postwar period, as I have been informed, Galgano's meritorious undertaking goes further ahead. The periodicals edited by the Institute have become so numerous that readers will appreciate a survey of their present status. They embrace the period from 1925 and use all five major languages on a large scale.

1. International Legal Bibliography, vols. 1, 4, 5, and 6.
2. International Legislation, vols. 1, 4-12; and Repertorio della Legislazione Mondiale, vols. 1 and 4.

3. *Annuario di Diritto Comparato e di Studi Legislativi*, 23 vols. containing articles by a host of authors from almost all continents and many countries.
- 4-7. Reports on decisions of various countries, annotated by both national and foreign writers.
4. *Giurisprudenza Comparata di Diritto Civile*, 10 vols.
5. *Giurisprudenza Comparata di Diritto Commerciale, Marittimo, Aeronautico, Industriale, e d'Autore*, 10 vols.
6. *Giurisprudenza Comparata di Diritto Internazionale Privato*, 10 vols., a particularly opportune collection.
7. *Giurisprudenza Comparata di Diritto Corporativo, Sindacale e del Lavoro*, 3 vols.
8. *Biblioteca Internazionale sui Nuovi Codici*, 2 vols.
9. *Giurisprudenza Completa della Corte Suprema della Cassazione d'Italia. 1944-1946*, 9 vols.

Freed from the pressure facism exercised, though it did not reach the depth of Nazism, the Italian efforts will be greeted and supported. American contributions are urgently requested by the editor and will certainly come forth.

NUOVA RIVISTA DE DIRITTO COMMERCIALE, DIRITTO ECONOMICO, DIRITTO SOCIALE. Published by *Lorenzo Mossa*. Vol. 1, fasc. 1-4. 1947.

The editor, an outstanding professor of commercial law, develops a program, if I understand correctly, for combined studies in commercial law and the legal coordination of economic organization as well as social, especially labor, relations. The very different subjects of the first issue demonstrate the vastness of the chosen field. The high quality of the contributors, including foreign writers, promises success of this ambitious undertaking.

INTRODUCTION A L'ÉTUDE DU DROIT PRIVÉ DE L'ANGLETERRE. Par *René David*, avec la collaboration de *H. C. Gutteridge* et de *B. A. Wortley*. Paris: Recueil Sirey. 1948.

This is an admirable scientific introduction to English law for French lawyers and students. To give a true introduction, the author does not pretend to expound a summary of the law, but informs the reader in learned as well as clear teaching about the sources and the nature of common law and equity. Useful lists of abbreviations and a bibliography complete this original work which deserves multiple imitation.