Book Review (reviewing Henry W. Humble, Cases on Conflict of Laws, 2nd ed. (1929))

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Foreign Judgments", belong in a casebook on the conflict of laws. Still others, like the chapter on "International Regulation of Commerce and Industry", strictly speaking, hardly involve questions of International Law. On the other hand, Chapters I, II, IV, V, VII, VIII, XI, and XII, are very well treated, and include the latest cases under their respective heads.

To sum up: The institutional element in the compilation is too pronounced, and this circumstance, we believe, detracts from its value for the practical purposes of the law school; it is better suited to the course on International Law as given in Political Science. Although it is richly documented, and the cases are generally well chosen, it does not have that fundamental symmetry which hitherto has been thought requisite for the proper understanding of the science of International Law.

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As Professor Humble says in his preface, the form in which the material is presented in this new edition does not differ substantially from that of the first edition. A chapter of 34 pages on Taxation has been added to the work, largely, it would seem, as a concession to a demand for a brief treatment of this subject. Whether a subject as extensive as the conflict of laws of Taxation and so closely involved with questions of Constitutional Law can be satisfactorily dealt with in so brief a compass is perhaps open to question. The cases for this Chapter are modern and, as they should be in a topic with so many correlations with rules of constitutional law, are chosen largely from the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Footnotes are a factor of constantly increasing importance in case book construction whether they appear at the bottom of the page or in the middle of it. Professor Humble uses them largely for informative purposes. He has made a very careful effort to give extensive references to magazine articles or notes that contain discussions either of the particular case under which the note appears or of some question of law suggested by or involved in the case. In a subject in which adequate text material is still so lacking this seems a desirable plan. Whether the foot notes might advantageously have been expanded to include problems and analogies is a question of policy upon which there may fairly be a difference of opinion. The answer depends to a considerable degree upon the teaching technic of the individual instructor.

How "teachable" a book is can be told only by experience with it. The collection of cases has been made with discrimination, although, of course, each instructor has his pet cases that he looks for in every case book dealing with his subject. That the second edition of Professor Humble's book should have been brought out only six years after the first and along much the same lines would indicate that it has been found a useful collection.

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