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### Bibliography on Foreign Comparative Law

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investigation of the phenomena that lie within his field of study. This does not make him the enemy of human freedom. On the contrary, the real obstacle to the cause of freedom has always been ignorance and prejudice; the more we know about the past and the more we understand the standards and motives and institutions of other societies, the less we are in danger of becoming the slaves of the blind nonmoral forces which find expression in the conflicts of classes and nations. For the more ignorant men are, the more inevitable is their fate.

CHRISTOPHER DAWSON \*

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A BIBLIOGRAPHY ON FOREIGN AND COMPARATIVE LAW. Books and Articles in English. Compiled and Annotated by Charles Szladits.<sup>1</sup> New York: Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law, Columbia University. 1955. Pp. xx, 508. \$15.00.

"Can you please tell me where I can find the English text of the Civil Code of Denmark," or "a book in English on trust law in Italy," or "the best article in English on the protection of a person accused of crime in Spanish Morocco?" Inquiries of this kind are constantly received by professors of comparative law, and the questioner is regularly astonished when he is told that there is no such book or article, that for the answer he has to go to sources in the foreign language, and that the material is not always available in the locality. However, a large amount of material on foreign law is actually available in English; in many cases a questioner could be accommodated if it were only known where the material could be found. The *Index to Legal Periodicals* is, of course, a great help, but it does not cover the entire field of foreign and comparative law, its arrangement is based upon a pattern which renders it at times difficult to find an entry on foreign law, it does not cover books, and its numerous volumes have not been consolidated into a single index. The urgent need of a comprehensive bibliography of all writings on foreign and comparative law available in English has now been filled. Dr. Szladits not only has compiled and lucidly and ingeniously indexed a vast amount of material, but also has helped the user by adding brief annotations to numerous entries of books, and by indicating with asterisks those articles which he regards as particularly important.

The total number of entries is 13,742. Because quite a few titles are, properly, listed in several places, the number of titles contained in the *Bibliography* is somewhat smaller. But it is large enough to impress the user with the surprisingly vast scope of the material available in English as well as with the prodigious effort of the author. On every one of the

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numerous occasions on which the *Bibliography* has been consulted by this reviewer, he has found the listings accurate and of great help. In an indirect way Dr. Szladits' work indicates the haphazard way in which problems of foreign law have so far been covered in English writings. While some topics have been treated by a superabundance of writings, others of perhaps greater importance have hardly been touched upon. No lack, for instance, exists of writings comparing consideration and *causa*, but surprisingly little can be found on a topic of such outstanding practical importance as the administration of decedents' estates. It is one of the major values of Dr. Szladits' book that it can serve as an indicator of needs for future research and writing.

The *Bibliography* covers writings on both foreign and comparative law. Foreign law has been defined broadly — the *Bibliography* includes works discussing not only the legal systems of those countries in which the Anglo-American common law is not in effect, but also the laws of regions in which common law and civil law, or common law and some religious laws, have come to interpenetrate each other. The book thus covers the rich legal literature of India and Pakistan, of Scotland, South Africa, Ceylon, Quebec, and Louisiana. Perhaps in a future supplement the author will find it possible also to include the literature dealing with Puerto Rico and the Philippine Republic. Under foreign law one also finds the English-language writings on Mohammedan, Hindu, Jewish, and Roman Catholic canon law. Roman law has been properly excluded.<sup>2</sup>

On the subject of comparative law the book includes those writings in which the legal institutions of two or more systems are compared with each other as well as those in which problems of methodology are discussed. In this connection there have been included several titles on primitive law, but purely descriptive works on this subject have been omitted. In the field of jurisprudence the author has selected those books and articles which have appeared to him to be of significance in comparative law. In the vast field of public law he has tried to select those of a specifically legal character, and has excluded those which he has regarded as more properly belonging to the fields of government or public finance. Completeness as to all English-language writings published between 1790 and April 1, 1953, has been aimed at and, it appears, achieved to a remarkable degree in the fields of the lawyers' law: private law, commercial law, labor law, criminal law, and both civil and criminal procedure.

For this remarkable work both Dr. Szladits and the Parker School deserve the thanks of international practitioners and of students of comparative law. Let us hope that the work will be kept up to date by periodic supplements.

MAX RHEINSTEIN \*

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<sup>2</sup> The science of Roman law is cultivated by a group of scholars different from those who devote themselves primarily to comparative law. The literature of Roman law is immense.

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