

FRENCH BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DIGEST-LAW BOOKS AND PERIODICALS, prepared by Rena David.* *The Cultural Division of the French Embassy, 972 Fifth Avenue, New York, 1952. Pp. 103.*

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Book Reviews

FRENCH BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DIGEST—LAW BOOKS AND PERIODICALS, prepared by René David.* The Cultural Division of the French Embassy, 972 Fifth Avenue, New York, 1952. Pp. 103.

The *French Bibliographical Digest* consists of a series of booklets, appearing during the past three years, containing an analytical bibliography of significant French scientific and technical publications since 1940. Some of the fields already covered include biology, botany, physics, chemistry, psychology, and mathematics-astronomy; a series devoted to the specialized branches of medicine is in preparation.

The booklet here reviewed is devoted to law and was prepared by Professor René David, whose work in comparative law and whose experiences in many countries make him ideally suited to describe these French legal publications and to explain their usefulness to people in other countries. Professor David has tried to take the point of view of the American lawyer, and to indicate whether each work is used primarily for academic, educational, or practical purposes.

The scope and analysis of the coverage can only be appreciated from a list of the principal headings: general bibliographies; official publications; private reports; law reviews; legal encyclopedias, digests and legal dictionaries; Roman law, legal history and canon law; jurisprudence, books of general interest and introductions to the study of law; *droit civil*; commercial law; organization of the courts, procedure, evidence; private international law; criminal law and criminology; general public law; constitutional law; *droit administratif*; taxation, direct and indirect and stamp laws; labor law; law of the French Union; public international law; comparative and foreign law; and teaching of law. There is also a very useful directory of publishers with their addresses.¹

In the organization of the booklet, the full bibliographical data is arranged in the second part under the same headings and subdivisions as a narrative commentary which comprises the

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1. Of fifty publishers, all but one are located in Paris.

first part. The explanations in the commentary make this bibliography so much more useful than ordinary foreign book lists because the reader and researcher are given not only descriptive information about the different kinds of works but also some background of institutional operations and a perspective of the publication patterns in connection with the administration of justice as well as the practice and the study of law.

Since this review appears in a typical American legal periodical, published by a law school, it might be interesting to note that the law reviews of France are classified into thirteen groups of special fields plus one non-specialized group, corresponding to the principal divisions of the whole bibliography (see above), and make up a total of one hundred and seventeen legal journals. Only one of these is a law school publication—inaugurated at the Faculty of Law of Bordeaux in 1950. All the others are in the nature of scholarly and practical journals prepared and published on a professional or commercial basis.

Of the more important modern writers, like Ripert and Savatier, Professor David outlines the content of each work and at the same time includes some condensed but significant information about the author, his basic attitudes, and the nature of the general reception of the particular work in France.

Among the works on "*droit civil*," it is interesting to note that current editions of the three volume treatises known as *Planiol*² and *Colin et Capitant*³ are still the most used by students and lawyers alike. "They are the first books that a practitioner will examine when he is faced with a question of *droit civil*."⁴ It appears that the nineteenth century treatises of Demolombe, Laurent, Troplong, Toullier, and Baudry-Lacantinerie are no longer used in France, although they continue to be of special use in other countries where they were consulted in the preparation of local civil codes drawn on the Code Napoleon model. This latter situation is particularly true for Louisiana, as well as for many Latin-American countries.

It is not possible here to give much detailed description of

2. Ripert (G.) et Boulanger (J.)—*Traité élémentaire de droit civil de Planiol*, 3 vol. [L.G.D.J.], In-8°, Tome I: 5th edition, 1950, 1324 p.—Tome II: 4th edition, 1952, 1360 p.—Tome III: 4th edition, 1951, 1300 p.

3. Colin (Ambroise), Capitant (Henri) et Julliot de la Morandière (Léon).—*Cours élémentaire de droit civil français*, 3 vol. [Dalloz], In-8°, Tome I: 12th edition, 1950, 1144 p.—Tome II: 10th edition, 1948, 1252 p.—Tome III: 10th edition, 1950, 1091 p.

4. Pp. 13-14.

all the content on French legal bibliography. On the other hand, the descriptive and analytical commentary of Professor David, together with his evaluations, cannot be praised too highly for its clarity and usefulness.

Obviously, it is recommended that this little book should be kept close at hand by every person who has, or who may have, occasion to consult or to purchase any modern French legal publications.⁵ Selections for acquisition can be made intelligently, and along with the directory of French publishers, there are listed a few American book-dealers who would be prepared to facilitate the purchase.

In addition to all the merits of this booklet, already described, it may be obtained without cost from the publisher.

Joseph Dainow†

THE NEW SCIENCE OF POLITICS: AN INTRODUCTORY ESSAY, by Eric Voegelin. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1952. Pp. xiii, 193. \$3.00.

Based upon a series of lectures which Professor Voegelin recently delivered at the University of Chicago under the auspices of the Charles R. Walgreen Foundation, *The New Science of Politics* is the kind of book that may well constitute a landmark in political theory. It is a book that reflects vast erudition and a brilliant, critical mind at work. Since the reasoning is closely compressed by virtue of the form in which the author had, of necessity, to present his thesis, it is not an easy book to read, but it is a richly rewarding one. It is the kind of a book that can be read many times with fresh insights. The reader stumbles over words like "retheoretization" and strains to understand the distinction between the "de-divinization of society" and its "re-divinization," often he wishes the author could express himself in simpler language and with less pedantry, but once the author's vocabulary is mastered the reader is rewarded for his efforts.

The author is concerned to restore political science "to the consciousness of principles" and by the "new" science of politics

5. For bibliographical data about earlier French legal publications, see George W. Stumberg's "Guide to the Law and Legal Literature of France" (Library of Congress 1931).

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