FIFTH ANNUAL INSTITUTE ON MINERAL LAW, Edited by Harriet S. Daggett, Professor of Law, Louisiana State University; Published, by the Louisiana State University Press; Baton Rouge, 1957. $300:

Frank S. Craig Jr.
training is usually limited to the rudiments of the common law, one can hardly recommend a more stimulating account of the greatest advocate for that system of law which forms a part of the American heritage.

Frank J. Peragine*

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For the past five years, the Law School and the General Extension Division of Louisiana State University have cooperated in sponsoring and arranging a full two-day program of papers dealing with carefully selected and timely areas of oil and gas law. The large number of registrants at each of these annual Institutes has included not only attorneys having particular interests in oil and gas matters, but also a sizeable number of company land men, lease brokers, and other non-attorneys from various branches of the oil industry. The continuing interest in the program is a tribute to the vision and skillful planning of Professor Daggett, as the Institute's Director, and the others who have worked with her through the five initial years. Each year the topics selected for presentation have been of important and immediate interest to anyone who devotes any time to the varied and complex problems in Louisiana's most colorful and dynamic industry. The repeated attendance of these annual meetings by most of the oil and gas legal specialists in Louisiana and, also, by a great many attorneys whose oil and gas practice is something less than full time has proved the value of the Institute, not only in providing an exchange of information in depth as to the developments and problems of this field of law, but also in presenting a current summary of mineral law sufficient to keep the general practitioner on speaking terms with recent decisions and new ideas.

The report of the proceedings of the Fifth Annual Institute printed by the Louisiana State University Press is supplied to all registrants and is available generally through order. The volume is bound in hard back covers.

The three papers dealing with the year's decisions in the, *Member, New Orleans Bar.
federal and state courts of Louisiana probably have the most
general interest for members of the Bar. These papers were
prepared and presented by Mr. Horace M. Holder of the Shreve-
port Bar, Mr. Alvin B. Rubin of the Baton Rouge Bar, and Mr.
Walter B. Suthon, Jr., of the New Orleans Bar. Of equal interest
is the discussion by the Honorable John B. Hussey, Commis-
sioner of Conservation, of conservation developments during the
year. The discussion of Louisiana's title in the Gulf of Mexico
by Mr. W. Scott Wilkinson, Special Assistant Attorney General
and member of the Shreveport Bar, contains excellent yet suc-
cinct, for the material covered, information concerning this
subject, which is as timely now as when delivered. The active
title lawyer could ask for no more valuable a tool for his trade
than the paper by Mr. James L. Helm on the application of cura-
tive statutes in land title examinations. For those who have a
need for detailed briefing in the financing and tax aspects of oil
and gas interests, the paper by Mr. A. E. Alexander, Vice Presi-
dent and Manager of the Oil and Gas Department, Hibernia
National Bank, New Orleans, Louisiana, on the financing of oil
and gas interests, and the paper by Mr. Abner E. Hughes, CPA,
of the firm of Barton, Pilie, Hughes and Jones, New Orleans,
on the income tax consequences of lease and sale of mineral
interests, will be found to be thorough and excellent. Many law-
yers who have heard of the now much used “A B C” plan of
financing the purchase of oil and gas interests, but have not
thoroughly understood the meaning and importance of that
alphabetical procedure, will find a clear explanation in each
paper. Those in the technical end of the industry, as well as
many attorneys, will read with interest the paper on well spacing
by Messrs. R. C. Craze and James W. Glanville, from the Pro-
duction Research Division of the Petroleum Engineering Divi-
sion, Humble Oil and Refining Company, Houston. This paper
obviously represents a great deal of thorough research on the
part of the authors. The conclusions of the authors as to the
desirability of the continuation of the trend toward wider well
spacing in the development of new pools should be carefully
studied by all those who have any professional contact with the
ever-present underlying tension between company and landowner
as to whose economic plans the tempo of development should be
most closely geared.

This reviewer has, on several occasions, found in the
printed reports of the Mineral Law Institute excellent points
of entry to particular problems involving mineral rights. As either reference material or current reading, these reports of the Mineral Law Institute, of which the Fifth is the latest, represent the most important printed treatment now available of current developments in the oil and gas laws of Louisiana.

Frank S. Craig, Jr.*

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