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TRAITÉ THÉORIQUE ET PRATIQUE DE LA RESPONSABILITÉ CIVILE DÉLICTUELLE ET CONTRACTUELLE, by Henri et Léon Mazeaud and André Tunc. 5th ed. Paris: Editions Monchrestien; Vol. I, pp. 1064, 1957; Vol. II, pp. 988, 1958; Vol. III, pp. 1244, 1960.

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Book Note

TRAITÉ THÉORIQUE ET PRATIQUE DE LA RESPONSABILITÉ CIVILE DÉLICTUELLE ET CONTRACTUELLE, by Henri et Léon Mazeaud and André Tunc. 5th ed. Paris: Editions Monchrestien; Vol. I, pp. 1064, 1957; Vol. II, pp. 988, 1958; Vol. III, pp. 1244, 1960.

Since the first edition of this work in 1932, it has been the foremost authority on the subject of civil liability in French law. The demand for the successive new editions of 1934, 1938, 1947, and 1957-60, has always been more pressing than the ability to produce them. This is not surprising, for two reasons: firstly, the superlative standing of the Mazeaud brothers among present day jurists and writers; and secondly, because the subject of civil liability, especially delictual (tort) liability, has been one of the principal areas of judicial development in French law. The changes in social, economic and technical conditions have been more extensive and rapid than ever before, and have required more numerous and varied adjustments of legal control than could normally be squeezed out of the relatively few text provisions in the French Civil Code.

The latest, fifth, edition is a tremendous job in itself and was prepared by Professor André Tunc of the Paris Law Faculty. The great amount of new court decisions, as well as doctrinal and other new materials made it necessary to revise the whole work in addition to bringing it up to date. In the expansion, reference is also made to cases and developments in the laws of Belgium, Quebec, Louisiana, and the common law. With all this, the section numbers have been kept the same as in the prior editions. There is an extensive bibliography (pp. 1021-1092), and a comprehensive alphabetical index covering all three volumes of the fifth edition (pp. 1093-1217). Professor Tunc has made a notable contribution not only to the legal literature on French law but also for the comparative study of modern legal problems.

J.D.