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THE POCKET CONSTITUTIONALIST. By Paul R. Baier & Co. Silver Anniversary Fifth Edition. Baton Rouge: - - Claitor's Publishing Division. 2003. 8vo, pp. xiii, 320. Soft cover, \$30.00.

O. W. Wollensak

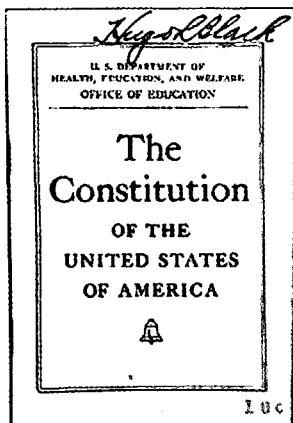
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BOOK REVIEW

THE POCKET CONSTITUTIONALIST. By Paul R. Baier & Co. Silver Anniversary Fifth Edition. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division. 2003. 8vo, pp. lxiii, 320. Soft cover, \$30.00.



Here is a painstaking production that puts at your fingertips the individual rights opinions of the Supreme Court of the United States all neatly formatted to fit one page apiece. Named after Justice Black's practice of carrying a copy of the Constitution in his pocket, Baier's *vade mecum* reduces 13,249 pages of *United States Reports* to 320 tightly drawn digests of leading opinions of the Court from *Marbury v. Madison* to last Term's *Watchtower Bible and Tract Society*. The *frontispiece* is a glossy photograph of the Constitution of the United States signed by

Justice Hugo L. Black. The table of contents notably includes "The First Amendment in the String of G," which means the book covers nude dancing. Justice John L. Weimer of the Louisiana Supreme Court writes the book's foreword. "*The Pocket Constitutional* is a valuable tool in any attorney's arsenal of knowledge," says Justice Weimer, one of Baier's former students and a contributing author—"My troops, so to speak,"—now published authors listed by name in the table of authors. The book is microscopic and telescopic. It focuses your eye on the "leading sentences" of constitutional law. Thus, side by side with the fine print of Holmes's majority opinion in *Penna Coal Co. v. Mahon* (Holmes's exact words, mind you) and Justice Louis Brandeis's dissent (again, L. D. B.'s exact words), the reader gets the big picture up through the latest Takings Clause jurisprudence, *Tahoe-Sierra*.

Paul R. Baier is the George M. Armstrong, Jr., Professor of Law at LSU Law Center. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School, first Scholar in Residence of the Louisiana Bar Foundation, and editor of *Mr. Justice and Mrs. Black: The Memoirs of Hugo L. Black and Elizabeth Black* (Random House, 1986). At less than ten cents a digest, Baier's Silver Anniversary Fifth Edition of *The Pocket Constitutional* is a bargain well worth having in your pocket.

O. W. WOLLENSAK*

* Professor Baier is following Karl Llewellyn in using a pseudonym. Llewellyn's was "Teufelsdröckh," which means "devil's print" in German. See *The Karl Llewellyn Papers: A Guide to the Collection 93* (R. M. Ellinwood & W. L. Twining eds. 1970). Llewellyn wrote as Teufelsdröckh whenever he wanted to toss out a quasi-heretical piece. Professor Baier's *nom de plume* derives from O. W. Holmes, Jr., one of Baier's intellectual props, and from "Wollensak," the machine on which he plays the recordings of the oral argument in Supreme Court cases in his constitutional law classes. At the 1980 meeting of the Association of American Law Schools in Phoenix, Professor Baier presented a demonstration of the use of these recordings in teaching, and in speaking of the equipment necessary to play the tapes in class, Mr. Baier picked up his trusty Wollensak 2520 and introduced it to the crowd, saying: "This is my associate, Professor Wollensak, whose circle of constitutional acquaintances is wide indeed."

