

## Legal Reference Books Review\*

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*Basic Legal Documents on International Animal Welfare and Wildlife Conservation*. London; Boston: Kluwer Law International, 2000. xi, 696p. \$240.

*Reviewed by Mary Rumsey*

¶1 Most libraries need a good reason to pay \$240 for a book whose contents are available free on the Web. The authors of *Basic Legal Documents on International Animal Welfare and Wildlife Conservation* acknowledge the availability of other sources, but hope that the volume's convenience will make it worthwhile. The intended audience includes students, academics, government officials, and non-governmental organizations working for animal welfare. Unfortunately, the book doesn't add enough value for most of this audience to justify its purchase.

¶2 The potential audience for *Basic Legal Documents* does exist and is growing. Interest in animal rights has risen sharply in the past decade, spurred, if I may use that word, by organizations such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Colleges, universities, and law schools have begun offering classes in animal rights and animal law.<sup>1</sup> Many environmental law courses also address wildlife issues, and at least four of the dominant textbooks in environmental law cover endangered species and biodiversity.<sup>2</sup>

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1. Eric Langborgh, *Higher Ed Going Ape over Animal Rights Courses*, CAMPUS REPORT (Oct. 1999), <http://www.academia.org/CampusReport/October1999/apes.html>.

2. David A. Wirth, *Teaching and Research in International Environmental Law*, 23 HARV. ENVTL. L. REV. 423, 431 (1999).

¶13 Basic Legal Documents' authors, who are Canadian lawyers and animal rights advocates, have selected documents that would support a course on animal welfare law. The book includes nearly eighty instruments, ranging from comprehensive multilateral treaties to European Union directives on the protection of laying hens. International agreements make up part one; regional instruments and European Union documents form parts two and three. Appendix I contains most of the annexes to those instruments, but the authors omit some annexes without telling the reader why. At least once, they leave out three annexes to a protocol without noting the omission.

¶14 Several compilations of basic legal documents on international environmental protection are currently on the market, ranging from one-<sup>3</sup> or two-volume<sup>4</sup> sets to the thirty-six-volume, budget-busting *International Protection of the Environment: Treaties and Related Documents*.<sup>5</sup> While these works all contain some of the instruments in *Basic Legal Documents*, none includes the documents on farm, companion, and laboratory animals found therein.

¶15 However, I quickly retrieved every instrument and annex on the Web. The Multilaterals Web site<sup>6</sup> of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University has most of the treaties; so does the Environmental Treaties and Resource Indicators (ENTRI) Web site,<sup>7</sup> a joint project of several organizations. Harvard University and the United Nations also have large Web collections of environmental treaties. Europa proved a one-stop source for the European Union documents; the Council of Europe documents were easily retrievable from that organization's Web site.

¶16 Granted, a book is more readable than a Web page, and a book is certainly more manageable than a folder full of stapled printouts. However, an expensive hardbound book like this, current as of June 1999, cannot compete with the Web as an up-to-date source of free information and documents. Rather than ask students to buy *Basic Legal Documents*, a professor teaching animal welfare would better serve students by creating a set of links to the documents needed for class. Many treaty Web sites also provide additional useful information that the book lacks.

¶17 Even when a library does not need a book for access to documents, the book's enhancements and finding aids sometimes justify its purchase. *Basic Legal Documents* includes the following enhancements: editors' notes before

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3. BASIC DOCUMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE ENVIRONMENT (P.W. Birnie & A.E. Boyle eds., 1995).

4. DOCUMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (Phillippe Sands et al. eds., 1994).

5. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT: TREATIES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS (Bernd Rüster & Bruno Simma eds., 1975-1982; 1990-1994).

6. Tufts Univ., *Multilaterals Project*, at <http://fletcher.tufts.edu/multilaterals.html> (last visited Sept. 19, 2000).

7. *Environmental Treaties and Resource Indicators*, at <http://infoserver.ciesin.org/entri/> (last visited Sept. 19, 2000).

each document, a list of contacts (“Secretariats and Information Sources for Conventions”), a foldout “Table of Instruments and Member States,” and an index.

¶18 The editorial notes provide cursory summaries. For treaties, the editorial notes contain dates of adoption and entry into force and list the parties/signatories. The notes do not include proper document citations or references to treaty histories, working documents, or commentaries.

¶19 The “Table of Instruments and Member States” shows the reader treaty information organized by country, rather than by instrument. This table provides a convenient way to check what treaties a country has signed. The ENTRI Web site also lets researchers check by country through its “Basic Questions” feature.

¶10 If an index makes or breaks a reference book, this book is broken. The index, which barely exceeds three pages, is just a glorified table of contents. With few exceptions, the index entries are keywords from document titles. Thus, the entry for “fish” omits any reference to the conventions on tuna, salmon, or drift-nets. The entry for whales fails to note the conventions on cetaceans (whales and their relatives). The lack of geographic index entries is also notable. Moreover, the index is not at all conceptual. It would aid researchers enormously to pull out various concepts from the documents, such as hunting rights of aborigines, takings for scientific research, and animal killings in religious rites.

¶11 In short, while animal welfare researchers might find *Basic Legal Documents* useful, most libraries can do without this book.

Barnes, Patricia G. *Congressional Quarterly's Desk Reference on American Courts*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2000. 301p. \$49.95.

*Reviewed by Barbara L. Fritschel*

¶12 *CQ's Desk Reference on American Courts* attempts to provide a guide to the American court system. The book is divided into six chapters covering an introduction, the law, U.S. and state constitutions, and the federal and state court systems. Within these six chapters there are 595 questions and answers describing the American court system. Several of these questions provide basic information, such as what is a state constitution and how does a United States Court of Appeals decide a case. Many questions are statistical, providing information on case loads, plea bargaining, and court expenditures, while others try to explain current trends and policies. This book is also a great source for legal trivia, ranging from the largest tort award to what drink is traditionally served at U.S. Supreme Court conferences. Reference materials such as the U.S. Constitution, the Judiciary Act of 1789, and a glossary of common legal terms are included as well.

¶13 The preface suggests the book can be used in two ways. The first is to read it from cover to cover for an overview of the American court system. The book does this well. Concepts are explained without legal jargon and the topics are comprehensive. As a fairly basic overview, this book might be useful to public libraries.

¶14 The other suggested use is as a reference work. The idea is to present information from government reports that most people would not have access to. These include *State Court Caseload Statistics*<sup>8</sup> and the *Judicial Business of the United States Courts*.<sup>9</sup> The book could be useful as a compilation of these sources were it not for several flaws. A majority of answers to the questions do not attribute the source of the information, so one has to guess from the general bibliography which work is the source. More importantly, in the initial reading, a half dozen blatant mistakes were discovered. One included calling Learned Hand a chief justice (as opposed to chief judge) and having J. Paul Getty writing codicils to his will eleven years after his death (actually his date of death was incorrect). These easy-to-find errors call into question the accuracy of the statistics and other information. Because of these proofreading problems, I would be hesitant to rely on information presented in this book without double-checking the original source. This limits the book's usefulness for most law libraries.

Batten, Donna, ed. *Encyclopedia of Governmental Advisory Organizations*, 14th ed. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Gale Group, 1999. 1573p. \$605.

*Reviewed by Kristin Ford*

¶15 The most important thing in deciding whether to acquire this book is to have a good understanding of exactly what it is and what it is not. It is good at what it covers, but readers must be aware of what it does not cover. Before receiving a copy of the *Encyclopedia of Governmental Advisory Organizations*, I thought the book might cover all types of organizations that advised or even lobbied governmental entities on federal and state levels. In fact, the *Encyclopedia* covers a much narrower definition of governmental advisory organizations. The *Encyclopedia* devotes nearly two pages to the definition of the organizations it covers, but to oversimplify in the interests of brevity, the committees and commissions listed are only those *advisory* organizations created by and reporting to the president, Congress, or various federal government agencies. This resource does not include United States Senate or House of Representatives committees, although it does provide cross-references to congressional committees, as well as to federal offices. Examples of included organizations are: World Agricultural Outlook Board, Committee on Military Nutrition Research, Aviation Security Advisory Committee, and (my favorite) the Joint Commission to Investigate Purchase of Pneumatic-Tube Service [for the Postal Service in 1912].

¶16 The *Encyclopedia* includes committees dating back to at least 1836. The single volume is organized in a similar manner to Gale Group's well-known *Encyclopedia of Associations*.<sup>10</sup> Each organization is assigned an entry number;

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8. NATIONAL CTR. FOR STATE COURTS, *STATE COURT CASELOAD STATISTICS* (1997).

9. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE U.S. COURTS, *JUDICIAL BUSINESS OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS: 1999 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR* (1999).

there are 7,142 entries. At best, each entry includes the name and contact information for the organization (including e-mail and Web page, if applicable), the establishing authority and subsequent history of the organization, its purpose or activities, meeting information, its findings, recommendations, publications or reports, and information regarding the number and selection criteria for its members. Individual members are not identified, but the committee chair often is. The amount of information given for each organization varies a great deal, from a brief two-sentence description to information taking up one-third of a page. Overall, the information provided is fairly succinct, offering more of a starting point than a comprehensive history of the organization. For example, the entry for the President's Advisory Committee for Women simply lists Lynda Johnson Robb as the chair, without mentioning that the colorful Bella Abzug was a cochair who was later fired by the president, prompting the resignation of many committee members. For more detailed information on a particular committee, the *Encyclopedia* recommends contacting either the committee directly or the appropriate committee management officer listed in appendix I.

¶17 The entries are divided into ten subject headings, such as "Defense & Military Science" and "History & Culture." Within the subject headings, entries are organized alphabetically according to keywords which are highlighted or inserted parenthetically in the committee name. For example, under the subject heading of "Education & Welfare" there are entries under affirmative action, civil rights, community development, and emergency preparedness. In addition, appendixes provide the text of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, contact information for committee management officers of federal government agencies, and a list of regional government depository libraries.

¶18 Access to the organization entries is a delight with the help of no less than five indexes. If you already know the name or at least the main subject of the organization you are interested in, you can simply use the Alphabetical and Keyword Index. If you don't, but you know what year or which president authorized the committee, you can locate it with the help of the chronological Organizations by Presidential Administration Index. Alternatively, if you want to see what committees have been established under a particular government agency, you can consult the Organizations by Federal Department or Agency Index. There is a Personnel Index, which allows you to look up a committee by the name of its chair or designated federal employee. The publications and reports of the committees also have their own index, allowing you to find a committee if you know the name of a report or publication it produced.

¶19 The *Encyclopedia of Governmental Advisory Organizations* is probably most appropriate for an academic library, law or otherwise. It would probably be used more by political science and American history scholars than by lawyers or

law students. First published in 1973, the *Encyclopedia* is now in its fourteenth edition.<sup>11</sup> Many of the organizations listed are defunct and therefore their entries will not have changed since a previous edition. For \$605, the *Encyclopedia* claims to have added fifty new entries since the last edition, as well as to have updated information for current committees. Most of the contact information checked did seem to be current, although, not surprisingly, one Web address no longer appeared to be valid. All in all, the *Encyclopedia of Governmental Advisory Organizations* provides highly specialized information in a very organized and easy-to-use manner. If this unique subject falls within a library's collection development policy, then this encyclopedia should be on its shelves.

Cordes, Joseph J., Robert D. Ebel, and Jane G. Gravelle, eds. *The Encyclopedia of Taxation and Tax Policy*. Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute Press, 1999. 452p. \$75.

*Reviewed by John D. Moore*

¶120 *The Encyclopedia of Taxation and Tax Policy* was created by the National Tax Association when it discovered that there was no single reference work on tax policy and public finance. The resultant *Encyclopedia* helps to fill that need, with clearly written, substantial peer-reviewed articles on taxation and tax policy. The editors and publishers have designed a work that is a model of good reference book design and layout. However, because it is weighted more toward policy than law, the book may prove more useful in some kinds of libraries than in others.

¶121 The editors are Joseph Cordes, a visiting fellow at the Urban Institute, Robert D. Ebel, executive director of the National Tax Association and economist at the World Bank, and Jane C. Gravelle, a senior analyst at the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. In addition to writing several articles themselves, they have brought together over 150 authors, mostly members of the National Tax Association, to contribute 200 articles for this work. Authors come from academia, government, accounting firms, and think tanks. The varied backgrounds of the authors means that the subject of taxation is analyzed from diverse perspectives, with the emphasis divided between economics, public policy, accounting, and law, along with a little political and economic history.

¶122 Some articles focus on general principles of public finance, such as sumptuary taxes, with most examples drawn from the United States experience. Others are on very specific economic principles of taxation, such as the Tiebout model. Various United States federal or state taxes, such as the severance tax, are

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11. As this review was going to press, I was advised by the *Encyclopedia's* editor that the 15th edition would be published in September 2000, after the submission of this review, but prior to its publication in *Law Library Journal*. I have not had an opportunity to see it, but apparently the new edition will feature a slight change in format, organizing the keywords as subheadings under the main subject headings. Customers may also choose to obtain the book electronically, with a license agreement with the publisher.

also discussed, and specific accounting or legal terms used in tax practice or administration, such as dividends-received deduction, are defined.

¶123 Most articles include lists of cross-references that allow the reader to find related articles in the *Encyclopedia*. I wish more reference works were similarly equipped. Many articles are followed by lists of additional readings, making the *Encyclopedia* a good jumping off place for further research. For some articles, the readings listed form a basic bibliography on the subject. The thorough index has a large number of entries for a work of its size, with index terms for both general and specific topics. It also serves as an author index.

¶124 Library patrons wanting shorter legal definitions rooted in statutes, regulations, or cases may prefer *Shepard's 1995-96 Tax Dictionary*,<sup>12</sup> now out of print, or *West's Tax Law Dictionary*.<sup>13</sup> The *Encyclopedia* will be used more to get an expert overview of the "why" of certain tax issues in a way that may be understood by the generalist while still being useful to the specialist. Sometimes legal tax treatises do not explain the financial or administrative rationale for a taxing regime, and one may begin that kind of research here.

¶125 With its concentration on tax policy, this book would be a good selection for a law firm with a tax lobbying practice, or for a legislative library. The *Encyclopedia* would also be a good choice for law school or general academic libraries that answer reference questions on the economic or theoretical basis of taxation. A law firm without a deep interest in tax matters will find this book less useful, unless the firm library is interested in acquiring a comprehensive reference collection. Libraries in courts with a tax case load will find it beneficial, as long as the reference librarian remembers that users may want more strictly "legal" answers as well.

¶126 The publishers declare a commitment to keep the book revised and updated to reflect changes and maintain the currentness of its information. Hopefully they will make good on this promise, as taxation is an area where legislative enactment, political changes, and new scholarship can have significant consequences.

Deloria, Vine, Jr. and Raymond J. DeMallie. *Documents of American Indian Diplomacy: Treaties, Agreements, and Conventions, 1775-1979*. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1999. 2 v., 1540p. \$95.

*Reviewed by Catherine Fitzpatrick Halvorsen*

¶127 Fully expecting this compilation to include little more than reprints of treaties, agreements, and conventions entered into by the Indian Nations and ratified by the government of the United States, one can imagine my delight at discovering *Documents of American Indian Diplomacy: Treaties, Agreements, and Conventions, 1775-1979* contains much more. Naturally, the bulk of the two-

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12. RICHARD A. WESTIN, *SHEPARD'S 1995-96 TAX DICTIONARY* (1996).

13. ROBERT SELLERS SMITH, *WEST'S TAX LAW DICTIONARY* (1999).

volume set does consist of reprints of treaties and other documents, but several enhancements add tremendous value to the work. This is a highly recommended and reasonably priced addition to any academic or public library collection. Its appeal is in no way limited to a law library patron population. *Documents of American Indian Diplomacy* is suitable for use by historians; politicians; students of American Indian studies, history, anthropology, political science, and a plethora of other disciplines; and interested members of the general public.

¶128 The work is the result of twenty-four years of collaborative and painstaking identification, collection, translation, and eventual compilation of documents relating to American Indian affairs. The authors, Vine Deloria Jr., professor of history, law, and political science at the University of Colorado, and Raymond J. DeMallie, professor of anthropology and director of the American Indian Studies Research Institute at Indiana University, have successfully undertaken the ambitious task of presenting a comprehensive and representative sampling of the many types of documents significant to American Indian affairs from 1775 to 1979, not just treaties and other agreements ratified by the United States government. The authors hope to provide the reader with “the most complete accounting of the diplomatic documents of Indian political activities” possible. (p.4) In order to do so, they have scoured numerous resources including national, state, and foreign archives; congressional and executive records; published and unpublished books, reports, and papers; and historical newspapers. Although both *U.S. Statutes at Large* and *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*,<sup>14</sup> a seminal work produced in 1904 by Charles Kappler, then clerk to the Committee on Indian Affairs, are cited regularly throughout the material, it is not unusual to find lesser-known sources cited as well, such as Dunbar Rowland, ed. *Mississippi Provincial Archives: Spanish Dominion*, vol. 2; Archivo General de Indias, Sevilla, *Papeles procedentes de la Isla de Cuba*, leg. 142B; or *Laws of the Cherokee Nation, Passed during the Years 1839–1867*, Compiled by Authority of the National Council.

¶129 At the outset, the authors express frustration with the Kappler text and assure the reader that it has been in dire need of supplementation for some time. Certainly, experts in the field of American Indian affairs and students of American Indian studies will confirm that Kappler’s work contains numerous errors and omissions, and is otherwise seriously deficient in terms of its scope, coverage, and currentness. The authors expect *Documents of American Indian Diplomacy* to serve as a necessary and appropriate supplement to the Kappler collection, rather than a replacement or substitute work. In an effort to provide the reader with “a sketch of the real diplomatic history of American Indians and their political documents” (p.4), the authors have included in the set many more products of American Indian diplomacy than Kappler’s text contains. Equally important, Deloria and DeMallie provide the reader with a cultural, historical, political, and

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14. INDIAN AFFAIRS: LAWS AND TREATIES (Charles J. Kappler ed., 1904).

diplomatic context within which to review the treaties and other documents included in the text through the inclusion of insightful, compassionate, and politically balanced textual introductions to each chapter.

¶130 The set includes eighteen substantive chapters, organized into distinct period or topical categories, such as “Pre-Revolutionary War Treaty Making” (chapter 1), “How Federal Treaties Were Negotiated” (chapter 4), and “Land Grants to Private Parties” (chapter 16). Three of the eighteen chapters (chapters 1, 4, and 6) are merely descriptive and do not contain any diplomacy documents. Chapter 5 is essentially a mirror image of the Kappler list of ratified treaties and agreements, and chapter 9 is comprised solely of a list of settlement acts and their respective citations. The remaining thirteen substantive chapters house the document collection.

¶131 Volume one contains chapters 1–12 as well as the following sections: Lists of Treaties; a persuasive Foreword by Senator Daniel K. Inouye, vice chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; Acknowledgments; List of Abbreviations; and an Introduction. Chapters 13–18 are included in volume two, which also contains sections entitled Lists of Treaties, List of Abbreviations, Bibliography, and Index. Volume two is by far the more interesting of the two volumes, for it is comprised primarily of the less conventional diplomacy materials, such as treaties rejected by either the United States or an Indian Nation or Nations. For example, chapter 18 contains a curious collection of miscellaneous documents such as “Indenture Between the Pagan and Christian Parties of the Oneida” (p.1483) and “Treaty of the Blackfeet, Assiniboine, and the American Fur Company” (p.1489).

¶132 In addition to the editorial enhancements noted above, the set is exceptionally well indexed. Alternative and archaic spellings of Indian tribal and Indian Nation names, extracted from the diplomacy documents in which they appear, are included in parentheses next to the contemporary spelling. For example, the modern spelling of the index heading “Hainai” includes historical spellings such as “Ai-o-nai” “Ionai” and “Ioni” in parentheses (p.1514). The index headings for Indian tribes or Nations include subheadings for each treaty or other document. These treaty subheadings are arranged in chronological order and generally indicate the party names, date and location of treaty execution, and the “official” status of the document (e.g., ratified, unratified, rejected by Congress, etc.). The single notable weakness of the set is its failure to include a full-text reprint of every diplomacy document listed in the text, which, of course, is hardly a reasonable expectation. Sufficient citation information is provided by the authors, however, to enable the reader to locate and retrieve any document listed in the text from another credible source.

¶133 Deloria and DeMallie have accomplished their stated goal of bringing “a sense of history and order into the subject of treaties and to provide the background materials” (p.4) that have been neglectfully excluded from similar studies

and compilations. As a result, the authors have contributed significantly to the study and field of American Indian affairs with *Documents of American Indian Diplomacy: Treaties, Agreements, and Conventions, 1775–1979*.

Eis, Arlene, compiler and ed. *The Legal Researcher's Desk Reference 2000–01*. Teaneck, N.J.: Infosources Publishing, 1999. 411p. Paper \$65.

*Reviewed by Jill Duffy*

¶134 *The Legal Researcher's Desk Reference* is a biennial publication that covers a wide range of ready reference topics. The book covers the federal government, legislative information, state information, international information, law library supplies directory, associations and organizations, law librarianship, law schools in the United States and Canada, bar admissions, legal periodicals, and financial and economic information. All of these topics manage to fit in one softcover 411-page volume, roughly the size of the typical *AALL Directory and Handbook*.

¶135 *The Legal Researcher's Desk Reference* packs an immense amount of ready reference material into one handy resource. The book is easy to use, with a table of contents, helpful tabbed sections, and a good index. The book contains both unique and reprinted material. Among the unique compilations, a couple of examples that I found particularly interesting were the hotline numbers for bill status and legislative information, and the compilation of general and state legal research bibliographies. In the case of reprinted material, a citation to the original source is given, such as in the case of the state court structure charts from the National Center for State Courts. Another useful aspect is that the book really offers a great deal for the law librarian beyond ready reference legal information. There is contact information for law library suppliers, library association and school information, a Library of Congress K and KF classification schedule, and directory information for state librarians and legislative reference librarians.

¶136 With this edition, *The Legal Researcher's Desk Reference* has gone online, offering a link available through the Infosources Web site. This link, called the Legal Researcher's Zone, contains the section on state codes, reporters, regulations, and registers which can also be found in the print edition. One would hope that this is a feature that will be further developed, perhaps at some point turning the full contents of the book into an online reference tool. Several of the sections contain directory listings with URLs and these would be even handier as a Web product.

¶137 My only reservation with *The Legal Researcher's Desk Reference* concerns the depth of coverage for some of what I assume to be newer sections of the book. One area that could use further development is the international section, which currently consists of only ten pages. Although the capital, currency, and official languages of the foreign countries are listed, the only directory information given is for international organizations, EU institutions, and the Canadian court system. The inclusion of directory information for other foreign courts and governmental agencies would be most helpful.

¶138 Another area ripe for development is the general reference section. Although this material is useful, I am not sure that I would remember to consult this source to find this type of information. These materials comprise a relatively small part of the book—fifteen pages—in comparison to the sections on federal and state legal information which are nearly 300 pages. For general reference questions, I would tend to refer to a more standard reference tool first. Perhaps this material will be expanded in future editions, making *The Legal Researcher's Desk Reference* a better tool for answering both legal and nonlegal reference questions.

¶139 Although *The Legal Researcher's Desk Reference* won't answer every question, it is a good source to consult first before moving on to other more detailed sources. I find myself looking here to get URLs or telephone numbers that I can then use to answer the question at hand. The book could fit well in both large and small law libraries. In larger libraries, it offers a good starting point; in small libraries, its wealth of information could prove invaluable. Similarly, the book may function very well in a public library that may not have the resources to invest in a great deal of specialized legal resources. For a relatively small price, *The Legal Researcher's Desk Reference* is a great tool that would find a welcome home in any library, legal or nonlegal.

*The Europa Directory of International Organizations*. London: Europa Publications Limited, 1999. 568p. \$250.

*Reviewed by Gail A. Partin*

¶140 As a reference librarian at heart, it is hard to find a reference book or directory that I don't find useful—at least for a few nuggets of information. The *Europa Directory of International Organizations* is no exception, and, in fact, there is a treasure chest full of valuable information nuggets tucked neatly inside.

¶141 Speaking of neatness, this directory is very well organized and extremely easy to navigate, a refreshing change from publications with complex, unmanageable arrangements. There are no directions on how to use this book—they aren't necessary. In fact, the easiest way to navigate is via the table of contents. There are five parts to this single volume. Part one consists of background information in the form of an essay on the challenges facing the international system in the twenty-first century and a chronology of the development of international organizations from 1863 to 1999. Parts two and three comprise the bulk of the volume. Part two provides in-depth coverage of the United Nations with separate sections detailing each of its commissions and related bodies. Part three provides the same level of detail for approximately sixty-five other major non-UN organizations. Part four supplies brief coverage for other international organizations in an easy-to-use subject arrangement. The brief "Who's Who" section appearing in part five adds a useful biographical listing of key international personalities. The volume concludes with an alphabetical index of all organizations described throughout the book.

¶142 At first glance, it might seem convenient to compare *The Europa Directory of International Organizations* to Gale Group's popular *Encyclopedia of Associations: International Organizations*.<sup>15</sup> The differences overwhelmingly outweigh the similarities. The *Encyclopedia of Associations* lists over 20,000 organizations, most consisting of a single, concise paragraph of basic facts. By contrast, the *Europa Directory* covers only slightly more than 1,700 international organizations. However, its main strength is the thorough treatment given to the major organizations found in parts two and three.

¶143 Every entry in the book provides at least a basic fact statement, including postal, e-mail, and Web addresses; telephone and fax numbers; founding date; definition of activities; details of membership; research institutes; publications; and contact information. However, the in-depth descriptions of the United Nations bodies and the major non-UN organizations in parts two and three include considerably more information. Where appropriate, member countries are listed by name along with membership data. Information on diplomatic missions or major offices is included, along with discussions of the financial, structural, and organizational development of the institution and its bodies. In many sections the full text or excerpts of founding documents, charters, or significant conventions and international documents are provided to add depth of knowledge. In the case of the United Nations, chronological lists of key resolutions from the General Assembly and the Security Council are found with their respective sections in an effort to give a broader contextual understanding of the programs and activities described for each organ. In fact, the nearly 175 pages devoted to the UN packs in more useful information than many books published exclusively for quick reference on the United Nations. Coverage of the major non-UN organizations in part three comprises a gathering of historical and current organizational data and chronologies not easily found elsewhere.

¶144 The *Directory* is published annually and its second edition has just recently become available. Both the first edition, reviewed here, and the second edition have 568 pages. The initial first edition cost of \$250 seems reasonable enough for any library that fields a fair number of international reference queries. Even if this book doesn't provide the complete answer to a question, it will most certainly provide a good starting place.

¶145 *The Europa Directory of International Organizations* is definitely more than the run-of-the-mill directory, however. It is clear that the publisher had an educational objective in mind when this directory was conceived, which adds a unique dimension to this work. Wherever possible, the book has been designed to convey a broader understanding of the purpose and activities of these international organizations and an awareness of how their development has shaped today's global community.

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15. ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ASSOCIATIONS: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (35th ed. 1999).

Feldman, Stephen M., *American Legal Thought from Premodernism to Postmodernism: An Intellectual Voyage*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000. 272p. \$49.95 (cloth), \$22 (paper).

*Reviewed by John P. Joergensen*

¶146 As its title suggests, *American Legal Thought from Premodernism to Postmodernism* is a survey of the history of American jurisprudence covering the period from the Founding Fathers to contemporary scholarship. This book is written for academics and scholars in the field of jurisprudence. As an historical survey, it could be used as an introduction to the field or as a classroom text. The author is a professor of law at the University of Tulsa and has written extensively on the subjects of jurisprudence and constitutional law.

¶147 At the beginning of the book, Feldman gives a quick tour of the history of Western philosophy, breaking it into three periods: premodern (ancient Greeks to the Renaissance), modern (Renaissance to late twentieth century), and postmodern (1980s to present). Each period is described and the two earlier periods are broken down into discrete substages. Feldman then turns to a consideration of the history of American jurisprudence. He finds that American legal thinkers also fall into three basic periods, and that they correspond to the three periods of philosophy.

¶148 Feldman calls the first period, from the Revolution to the Civil War, the “premodern” period of American jurisprudence. Feldman justifies the equation of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century American jurisprudence with pre-Renaissance philosophy by the tendency of the American legal scholars to espouse “natural law” as a foundation for legal knowledge and the progression from a cyclic and pessimistic view of human progress to a more optimistic, religiously inspired idea of progress. He does mention the influences of several modern philosophers, such as John Locke and his social contract theory of natural law, on the thinking of the Founding Fathers. Feldman argues, however, that the particular use of natural law in American jurisprudence justifies the categorization with the previous intellectual era.

¶149 The “modern” period of American jurisprudence is described as beginning with the end of the Civil War and the installation of Christopher Langdell as dean of the Harvard Law School. It is marked by a shift to a view of law as a science and an increasing tendency to concentrate on methods of finding legal truth. The period also saw many scholars adopting historical and sociological approaches to legal problems. However, there was also an adherence to the belief that there must be a single foundation for legal knowledge. Feldman discusses how this approach evolved into the post-World War II Legal Process school and its critics. The chapter ends with a discussion of some of the more recent schools of thought that remain adherents of the foundationalist approach to legal knowledge, up to and including some of the early scholars of the Critical Legal Studies movement.

¶150 The “postmodern” period is defined as having roots in the 1960s and 1970s, but only coming to the fore in the 1980s. It is defined by a final abandon-

ment of the idea of foundational knowledge and a renewed pessimism concerning the modern idea of progress. Feldman refers to such writers as Stanley Fish, Richard Delgado, and Dennis Patterson<sup>16</sup> as examples of this new movement. It is also a main ingredient in critical race theory, feminist and gay/lesbian studies, and other scholarship that concentrates on the viewpoints of minority or traditionally under-represented groups.

¶151 The book ends with some thoughts by the author about the future of American jurisprudence. Here Professor Feldman discusses the critical bent of current postmodern jurisprudence and speculates about the direction of the movement in its next generation.

¶152 As a threshold consideration, this is a book written by a recognized scholar in the field and published by a respected academic press. For this reason alone, it should be purchased by academic libraries that wish to keep current in the area of jurisprudence. As an historical survey, it does not attempt to advance the field so much as to lend perspective to the course of jurisprudence in America. For this reason, *American Legal Thought from Premodernism to Postmodernism: An Intellectual Voyage* may be seen as a useful addition to an academic collection.

Fishman, Stephen. *The Copyright Handbook: How to Protect and Use Written Works*. 5th ed. Berkeley, Calif.: Nolo.com, 2000. 432p. Paper \$29.95.

*Reviewed by Alan Schroeder*

¶153 Another excellent product from Nolo.com, the fifth edition of *The Copyright Handbook* refines previous editions and keeps copyright law understandable for the layperson. This edition includes a Windows- and Macintosh-compatible CD-ROM containing word processing and Adobe Acrobat forms. The disk should be used in conjunction with appendix II ("How to Use the Forms Disk") and appendix III ("Blank Forms"), which is the print version of the CD-ROM. In addition, the fifth edition covers new developments such as the twenty-year extension to the term of copyright, information on new Copyright Office registration fees, relevant new case law, and new rules for library photocopying. I found the explanation of library photocopying in chapter 11 the most coherent and understandable I've read. Fishman and the editors at Nolo.com do a commendable job in clarifying complex copyright requirements and laws, avoiding the use of footnotes and endnotes and the interjection of endless case citations.

¶154 *The Copyright Handbook* has fifteen chapters, three appendixes, and an index. Beginning with the standard introductory Nolo chapter, "How to Use This

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16. It should be noted, however, that as a Wittgensteinian, Dennis Patterson would (and in fact does) object to being classed as "antifoundational" or postmodern. At least not in the sense that Fish, Delgado, and others are postmodern. Indeed, the idea of accepting or rejecting an intellectual foundation for knowledge is itself rejected by Wittgenstein. See DENNIS PATTERSON, *LAW AND TRUTH* (1996).

Book,” *The Copyright Handbook* can be read from start to finish for those looking to gain a better understanding of copyright law in general (e.g., attorneys, those preparing for a copyright law class, business owners, or the curious). Others, such as authors, publishers, or software developers, can go directly to chapters 3 and 4 for information about specific copyright rights. *The Copyright Handbook* is a self-help legal book that offers no insight into litigation or engaging a copyright attorney. Its focus is on explaining the copyright laws and how to obtain copyright rights using the prescribed forms. Thus the layman and laywoman can pursue their copyright rights with a certain degree of confidence using *The Copyright Handbook*. As copyright is essentially a property right, and of interest to many, *The Copyright Handbook* is recommended for all law and public libraries.

Hitchcock, David. *Patent Searching Made Easy: How to Do Patent Searches on the Internet and in the Library*, 2d ed. Berkeley, Calif.: Nolo.com, 2000. 208p. Paper \$29.95.

*Reviewed by Alyson Danowski*

¶155 A new offering from those legal do-it-yourselfers, Nolo.com, is aimed at the amateur inventor or business professional involved in research and development. *Patent Searching Made Easy: How to Do Patent Searches on the Internet and in the Library* takes a complex process and breaks it down into manageable, albeit lengthy and tedious, parts.

¶156 As anyone who has done patent searching is aware, it is indeed an art form to successfully locate prior art in the “free” databases available for searching (or the fee-based ones, for that matter). These include the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) Web site, the IBM Web site, and resources found at the PTO and the eighty-four Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries (PTDLs) located across the country.

¶157 As only Nolo.com does so well, this book gives the bare basics and builds from there. Divided into three parts, the book attempts to lead readers into more sophisticated territory as they move through the book. The analogy used throughout the book is that of driving a car. In a nutshell (no trademark infringement intended!), the analogy runs that first you have to learn about the rules of the road and how a car operates, then you practice what you’ve learned by short trips down the street, and after you’ve practiced for a while you are ready to drive anywhere with confidence and skill. Part one (“The Basics”) starts out with a discussion of patents and their role in American commerce, and segues into an overview of databases and searching in general. Part two (“Getting Started”) offers guidance on putting the basics into practice using the PTO Web site, other Internet resources, and search systems available at a PTDL. Part three (“Maximum Performance”) provides further instruction on constructing fruitful searches in the sources mentioned previously, but also introduces readers to other fee-based sources and the international patent arena.

¶158 Lots of screen illustrations and simple language make *Patent Searching Made Easy* a good resource for amateur patent searchers. Even those who have some experience will pick up tidbits here and there for better utilizing search engines at patent sites. I particularly enjoyed some of the “Summary of Searcher’s Secrets” found in appendix C, such as “#12: If you haven’t found any prior art for your invention idea, you haven’t looked hard enough.”

¶159 Like a lot of hard copy resources for Internet tools, *Patent Searching Made Easy* contains some pieces of information that are already out-of-date. For instance, the book offers information on a Web site called Source Translation and Optimization (STO). The URL provided is <http://metalab.unc.edu/patents/intropat.html>. Going to this Internet address, however, the searcher receives notice that as of January 2000, the Web site no longer exists. Other links are provided, and, if no choice is made, the searcher is taken to the new STO Web site at <http://www.bustpatents.com>. Unfortunately, the reason for providing a reference to the original STO Web site was to give readers a place to go to view a version of the PTO’s *Manual of Classification*.<sup>17</sup> A quick search of the site index of the new STO site found no version of the *Manual of Classification*. (It could be in the fee-based “Members Only” section. The original STO site touted in *Patent Searching Made Easy* was completely free.)

¶160 Helpful appendixes provide the locations of the PTDLs across the country, an index, and a “classification search sheet.” The glossary found in appendix C seems fairly useless, because it is a strange mixture of computer terms and patent terms. For example, why would you define “copyright” and “trademark” but not “patent,” and why is “click” defined? Also, nowhere in the text are the words boldfaced or somehow marked to show that a definition can be found in the glossary.

¶161 Patent searching is not for the faint of heart nor for those under a tight deadline. There are professional searchers who do patent searching for a living—but they don’t come cheap! If you have people who come to your library looking for information on how to determine if they can patent their widget, the information provided in *Patent Searching Made Easy* is a great starting point to give them. The instructions are easily understood and the multitude of screen illustrations provide real-life examples that are easy to follow. The caveat that some of the Internet information is out-of-date, however, needs to be conveyed.

Kennedy, Sheila Sues. *Free Expression in America: A Documentary History*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1999. 339p. \$49.95.

*Reviewed by Elizabeth Lambert*

¶162 *Free Expression in America: A Documentary History* is what it appears to be—a one-volume treatise containing primary documents that chronicle the

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17. U. S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE, MANUAL OF CLASSIFICATION (1994).

development of free expression in America. While the stated purpose of Greenwood Press's Primary Documents in American History and Contemporary Issues Series, of which this title is a part, is to meet the needs of high school and college students, the documents in *Free Expression in America* make this volume appropriate for law school students and educators as well as other advanced patrons. The primary documents selected for this volume include excerpts of political writing such as the Magna Carta and John Milton's *Areopagitica*, as well as Supreme Court and lower court decisions, letters, interviews, biographical accounts, position papers, statutes, and news stories. Like other volumes in this series, subject specialists selected the documents for *Free Expression in America* with the advice of an advisory board. In this case, the advisory board consisted of a law school professor, two secondary school educators, an attorney, and an education consultant.

¶163 Several features make *Free Expression in America* a valuable book for its price. The treatise provides over 100 primary documents in one compact volume and arranges the materials in a useful way. Chapters are organized either chronologically or topically. The book contains a select bibliography, a simple legal glossary, and a detailed index. An explanatory introduction accompanies each document in the volume and further reading suggestions follow each chapter. Documents appear in full text unless they are unusually long, in which case the volume editor provides excerpts. The volume editor, Sheila Suess Kennedy, is currently an assistant professor of law and public policy at Indiana University, and has written one other book and several articles on law and public policy.

¶164 Perhaps the book's best feature is that it contains a unique mix of historic news and mainstream articles pertaining to First Amendment issues in the United States. While the book does contain abridged versions of many readily available Supreme Court First Amendment cases, these are a necessary inclusion. As noted in the introduction, it would be impossible to chronicle the development of free expression in America without frequent reference to court opinions. (p. xviii) What makes *Free Expression* valuable, however, is its inclusion of material from other contemporaneous sources, such as treatises, magazine, and news articles, that "reflect popular opinion and provide a context for the legal battles." (p. xviii)

¶165 Unlike other popular treatises on First Amendment issues in the United States, such as *Freedom of Expression: A Collection of Best Writings*,<sup>18</sup> *First Amendment Law Handbook*,<sup>19</sup> and *The First Amendment 1791–1991: Two Hundred Years of Freedom*,<sup>20</sup> *Free Expression in America* provides an original mix of scholarly and "mainstream" articles. While it is not the best source for current

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18. KENT MIDDLETON & ROY M. MERSKY, *FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION: A COLLECTION OF BEST WRITINGS* (1981).

19. JAMES L. SWANSON & CHRISTIAN L. CASTLE, *FIRST AMENDMENT LAW HANDBOOK* (1990).

20. JAMES E. LEAHY, *THE FIRST AMENDMENT 1791–1991: TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF FREEDOM* (1991).

First Amendment issues (the most current document included is a 1998 essay from *West's Encyclopedia of American Law*<sup>21</sup>), *Free Expression in America* is ideally suited for a law school student, educator, or other patron seeking to gain an in-depth understanding of historic First Amendment debates in America.

Krasilovsky, William M., and Sidney Shemel. *This Business of Music: The Definitive Guide to the Music Industry*, 8th ed. New York: Watson-Guptill Publications, 2000. 576p. \$29.95.

*Reviewed by William W. Geeslin*

¶166 The eighth edition of *This Business of Music* has been released at a time of great uncertainty for the viability of the music industry's status quo. Artists now have access to the same worldwide audience through Internet distribution that was previously available only to capital-rich record companies. The Napster haven of copyright infringement is viewed by many as justifiable civil disobedience against the corporate monolith that has never lived up to its pledge to lower CD prices. The record companies have continued a trend of merging together to create ever larger corporations that make entrance into the market by a new artist even more unlikely than in years past. A new edition of this classic reference title for those interested in the music business could not have come at a better moment.

¶167 *This Business of Music* largely succeeds in meeting its mission to provide a "simplified guide to common legal concepts underlying [music] business determinations." (p. xvii) Its chapters appropriately touch on almost every conceivable concept that a music business participant might encounter, from the basics of performance rights collection organizations to the minutiae of foreign territory sub-publishing agreements. Like any good reference text, it is noncumulative, so that one can read any chapter as the need arises without necessarily reviewing the rest of the book. Another strength new to this edition is the inclusion of a CD-ROM that includes a comprehensive set of forms, including sample recording contracts, demo shopping agreements, and a grant of a mechanical license, in Portable Document Format.

¶168 However, *This Business of Music* occasionally becomes confused as to who its audience is supposed to be. Although ostensibly written for the nonexpert, nonattorney, it assumes knowledge of complex concepts or terms of art in the industry. The lack of a glossary forces the reader to glean meaning from context. For example, while the authors declare that "although there can be no legal objection to the well-established practice of buying and selling used CDs" (p. 112), they fail to discuss the first sale doctrine to explain why this practice is "well-established." Additionally, chapter six introduces the concept of a session "leader" being covered by the American Federation of Musicians without describing what

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21. WEST'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN LAW (1998).

that person does. It also gives short shrift to the confusing relationships between mechanical and artist royalties, publishing income, and the concept of the controlled composition clause in artist contracts. In this vexing area, *This Business of Music* stands in stark contrast to Donald Passman's *All You Need to Know About the Music Business*<sup>22</sup> which explains it with clarity.

¶169 These complaints aside, William Krasilovsky and new contributor John M. Gross<sup>23</sup> have produced a work that is undoubtedly a valuable reference tool. Favoring breadth over depth, it provides threshold information on a constellation of issues that may arise for the independent label president, booking agent, or aspiring session musician. Law libraries that are open to the general public should consider adding this title to their collection (as well as the aforementioned *All You Need to Know About the Music Business* and *Music Law: How to Run Your Band's Business*<sup>24</sup> as the three would complement each other well) as a reference for the musicians in their area. Whether your library is in Los Angeles, California, Boise, Idaho, or Lexington, Kentucky, self-release of product via the Internet is ubiquitous in the original music landscape today and will only continue to proliferate.

Sankey, Michael L., and James R. Flowers Jr., eds. *The Librarian's Guide to Public Records: The Complete State, County, & Courthouse Locator*, 2000 ed. Tempe, Ariz.: BRB Publications, 2000. 589p. Paper. \$39.50.

*Reviewed by Susannah Crego*

¶170 This treasure trove of information on all types of public records is a handy resource that needs the attention of an expert indexer and book designer. The state-by-state sections, which are self-explanatory, are easily used, but some of the most helpful information for law librarians is difficult to locate. There is no index and the table of contents is brief. Despite these accessibility problems, this resource, once mastered, will be a valuable addition to any reference collection.

¶171 The one-volume paperback is divided into three sections: (1) an introduction, including a primer on public records; (2) individual state chapters providing an overview of each state, including state agencies, county courts and recording offices, and federal courts located within the state; and (3) additional information, including information on free Internet access to public records and on private vendors of public record information.

¶172 Although many busy librarians will be tempted to skip the introduction, I recommend that they do not. Even the veteran law librarian will learn something new. The editors' folksy, to-the-point prose explains such things as which state agencies usually have which records and what each type of public record is (par-

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22. DONALD PASSMAN, *ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE MUSIC BUSINESS* (1997).

23. The jacket notes that co-author Sidney Shemel died in 1992 and did not participate in this edition, but that his contributions are still prominent in the current text.

24. RICHARD STIM, *MUSIC LAW: HOW TO RUN YOUR BAND'S BUSINESS* (1998).

ticularly helpful when you have no idea what a UCC filing is or why it is used). Two state-by-state charts provide added value: the State Agency Public Record Restrictions Table provides details on what types of records are open to the public, and the UCC Locator Chart contains information on the offices in which UCC and real estate records are filed.

¶173 The individual state chapters provide all the information needed to locate public records. Helpful information such as hours of operation, costs to copy documents, and Web site URLs are included. General information is provided about the courts in each state and what type of records are kept by the various departments.

¶174 Despite the overall usefulness of *The Librarian's Guide to Public Records*, the advent of electronic access to public records demands a more integrated approach to the presentation of the information. The third section of the book, which includes lists of free Internet access to public records, a list of private online public records vendors, and information concerning the types of private online public record vendors, may be of most interest to most law librarians today. Yet how this material relates to the state chapters is difficult to determine. For example, if you are seeking information on public records in Connecticut, you might turn to the "Connecticut" chapter. You will find URLs for state agencies in that chapter, but the "Free Internet Access to Public Records" section lists four URLs for Connecticut records. Does this mean that there are only four sources of "free" information in Connecticut for public records? It would seem that there are more than four, since the "Connecticut" chapter lists additional URLs.

¶175 Consistency and comprehensiveness are also of concern. There seems to be a lack of consistency between the "Free Internet Access to Public Records" section and the state chapters. Again, the Connecticut chapter states that UCC information can be obtained at <http://www.state.ct.us/sots>, while the "Free Internet Access to Public Records" section indicates that Connecticut UCC information is available at <http://www.concord.state.ct.us>. County and city Web sites are listed separately from state sites so that researchers seeking state information must consult at least two lists in order to comprehensively determine the extent of the records available. Federal Web site information is provided in yet another list.

¶176 What if you are seeking information about private online sources of state public records? Which of the many vendors have your state's records? For some of the vendors, the details of which state records they provide are included, but for others, they are not. A more helpful approach would be either to provide the details for all of the vendors in the vendor section or to provide the information concerning the private vendors within the state chapters.

¶177 More problematic is the fact that the vendor section is organized alphabetically by vendor name. There is no index by product name. If you are looking for information on "AutoTrack," you must know that the vendor of that service is Database Technologies. Since most librarians refer to products, not vendors, the lack of a product index is a flaw in this publication that should be corrected.

¶178 *The Librarian's Guide* is designed to be a yearbook. In today's demanding information marketplace, it could be made even more timely. My two suggestions to the publisher: develop a CD-ROM version of *The Librarian's Guide* and update it periodically, and provide purchasers of *The Librarian's Guide* with a limited time ID and password for a Web site on which changes and corrections to the print publication are posted. These two changes will assure librarians that their purchase of the publication is not rendered worthless within a very short period of time.

¶179 *The Librarian's Guide* is a reference work that will be most useful to public librarians faced with questions about locating public records, including court records. This resource, once mastered, would be used frequently by law firm librarians whose firms handle real estate, bankruptcy, and commercial law, as well as estate planning and personal injury law. Judicial law librarians and state law librarians will find the book helpful when attempting to locate colleagues in other states.

¶180 Librarians are not the only legal professionals who will be able to turn to the book for assistance. Paralegals and legal assistants, including those handling real estate, bankruptcy, and commercial cases, will find the information invaluable, particularly the information concerning the costs associated with copying records and the office hours of operation.

¶181 Despite its design flaws, at a cost of \$39.50, no law library should be without *The Librarian's Guide to Public Records*. It is a rich storehouse of vital information.

Sunkin, Maurice, and Sebastian Payne, eds. *The Nature of the Crown: A Legal and Political Analysis*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999. 368p. \$85.

*Reviewed by Beatrice A. Tice*

¶182 In 1791 Thomas Paine posed a seemingly simple question: "What is this metaphor called a Crown. . . Is it a thing, or is it a name, or is it a fraud?"<sup>25</sup> Over two hundred years later, the British are still debating the issue. At the heart of the controversy is the lack of any seminal definition, either historical or modern, of the nature of the Crown and its constitutional powers. This uncertainty is compounded by the fact that although the Crown (or its representatives) wields broad executive powers that are crucial to the operation of Great Britain's government and political system, it nevertheless operates in the so-called "deadground" of the constitution. In other words, the executive branch of Britain's government functions beyond the scope of either parliamentary or judicial scrutiny. As a result, while there is general agreement that the Crown lies at the constitutional core of the British system of government, the precise scope and prerogative of that core remain both unclear and controversial.

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25. THOMAS PAINE, *THE RIGHTS OF MAN* (1791).

¶183 *The Nature of the Crown* explores these difficult issues concerning the Crown in its legal and political contexts. This erudite work is a collection of essays by fifteen of Great Britain's top constitutional lawyers and scholars. Each essay explores a different aspect of the Crown and its powers, from both theoretical and practical points of view. Topics include the State and the Crown, the Crown and the changing nature of British government, Crown privileges, and the royal prerogative. Also discussed are the legal status of Crown representatives, Crown employees, Crown legal officers, Crown accountability for armed forces, judicial review of Crown actions, and legal remedies against the Crown. The final two essays discuss the European Community and the Crown, and the Crown as an object of constitutional reform.

¶184 This excellent work provides a fascinating review of the many critical issues relating to the Crown as the central power of the British State. The essays are uniformly well written and thoroughly documented, and each provides an historical and modern analysis of the topic under consideration. The work is not, however, the stuff of light reading; most of the essays are couched in cerebral language that requires at least a second read for complete understanding. It is also not for the beginning student of British law, as the essays assume a high level of knowledge and understanding of the governmental and legal system of Great Britain. However, a detailed table of contents, thorough index, and table of cases help the reader navigate through the volume and locate specific points of interest.

¶185 Of the dozen or so books published in 1999 on the subject of British constitutional law, *The Nature of the Crown* is the only work to offer a detailed and scholarly consideration of the Crown as the constitutional heart of Great Britain. This first-class volume deserves a place in every library with a well-considered collection of British legal materials.