

should provide the substantive law as well as the technical registration law.

On registration, not unnaturally, he takes as his centre-piece the Kenyan Act which has been in operation for more than a dozen years. He subjects it to a penetrating commentary, although, like *Oliver Twist*, I could have asked for more. The second last chapter deals with adjudication of land which usually involves transition from some kind of customary tenure to individual tenure—a process which often accompanies the transformation of the use of land from that in a subsistence to that in a commercial society. In the final chapter, he deals with the vexed problem of the control of land transfer where there is development going on in a society; what level of protection should be built into the system for unsophisticated peoples dealing with their lands. For both of these chapters the Malawi statutes are the prototypes used for discussion.

I have often said that we lawyers can supply a goldplated (but not yet solid gold) system of registration of title to land, but such a system is no use unless the community to which we supply it asks for, and needs, such a system. Rowton Simpson's Book 2 shows at least one set of legislation which can be used as a guide.

I enjoyed reading this book. But it is not everyone who can get a good read from a book on land law and registration of title! It is more than a worthy successor to *Dowson and Sheppard*. It is not only a work of scholarship, but it can be used in a very practical way. One of the sadnesses is that, although it will be a most useful handbook for land administrators in developing countries, it has had to be priced at £30 per copy. Incidentally, others share my view of the scholarliness of the book; it has earned for Rowton Simpson a Ph.D. degree from the University of Cambridge. It is not unusual for good books to earn their authors doctoral degrees, but what is delightful in this case is that Dr Simpson takes his Ph.D. 51 years after taking his B.A.

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Conflict of Laws in Australia by P. E. NYGH, LL.M. (Syd.), S.J.D. (Mich.); Professor of Law, Macquarie University. (Butterworths, 1976, 3rd Edition), pp. i-xlvi, 1-530. Cloth, recommended retail price \$25.00 (ISBN: 0 409 43752 2); Paperback, recommended retail price \$20.00 (ISBN: 0 409 43753 0).

The previous editions of this work have been reviewed in (1969) 3 F.L. Rev. 307 and (1973) 5 F.L. Rev. 316 and it might be thought to be otiose to review the third edition. Professor Nygh has made a

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number of changes since the last edition, however, which together have substantially altered the format of the work.

The change which first strikes the reader is the considerable reduction in the size of the book. The second edition ran to 788 pages of text, whereas the current edition has been reduced to 504 pages. In part, this reduction has been achieved by the virtual elimination of discussion on the effect of federation on the conflict of laws rules, with the exception of the service and execution of process within Australia. The chapters in the second edition entitled "Conflict of Laws in a Federation", "Full Faith and Credit" and "Problems of Jurisdiction and Choice of Law in Federal Jurisdiction" have been replaced by $3\frac{1}{2}$ pages in Chapter 1, and 3 pages in Chapter 4, of the third edition. While one regrets no longer having the benefit of Professor Nygh's views on these matters, one can accept that if cuts have to be made these topics are the ones least worthy of inclusion; since the publication of the second edition, there has appeared the work by Pryles and Hanks on *Federal Conflict of Laws* (reviewed in (1974) 6 F.L. Rev. 215) which covers in some detail these very matters. Another means by which the author has attained the reduction in the size of this edition is by drastically pruning the footnotes and including most case references in the text. While this has led to the disappearance of a number of erudite comments, and of some supporting authority, this reviewer applauds the change. It has kept the price of this edition within reasonable limits, and it has, by and large, enhanced the legibility and clarity of the text.

The other major change which Professor Nygh has made in this edition is to include the New Zealand rules on the conflict of laws. It is considered that it has been done excellently and, as one who has taught this subject in New Zealand, this reviewer could find nothing about which to quibble on the statement of New Zealand law. Indeed, the only critical comment that could be made with regard to this change is that it has rendered the title of the book misleading. It is to be hoped that in the fourth edition, it will be acknowledged to be a statement of the conflict of laws in Australia and New Zealand.

The final matter in which there have been substantial alterations since the second edition is in the re-casting of a number of chapters. The material on the service and execution of process within Australia is no longer tucked away at the end of the book, but is included in the early chapters dealing with the jurisdiction of courts and the enforcement of foreign judgments. There are also new chapters on corporations and on arbitration, the latter of which contains some of the material formerly found in the chapter on contracts.

In keeping abreast of changes in the law, Professor Nygh has been as meticulous as ever, and there does not appear to be any recent case or statute which has been overlooked. All in all, one can commend this third edition as an excellent successor to the previous editions.

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