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Szladits: A Bibliography on Foreign and Comparative Law: Books and Articles in English

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evidence. Here is his description of what he found to reinforce his conclusion that Schneider was a perjurer:

"The interior of the shop awakens suspicion at first glance. For example, the entire fore part is bare except for an empty counter with empty wall shelves behind it. Upon inquiry of the original owner of the store, it was learned that Schneider had once employed a shoemaker in the front, while he ran his photo studio in the rear. However, as Schneider informed this writer, he has preferred to be alone the past six or eight years—having let the shoemaker go because 'pals' dropping in would 'kid' him with remarks such as 'Hey, Benny,—how's about a shine?'

"On the walls were some stained photos of celebrities and prizefighters as they appeared some 20 years ago; also some fly-specked samples of Schneider's own photography.

"In a small back room which was the studio and was not larger than nine by twelve there was a lighting arrangement of sorts consisting of four or five blackened porcelain sockets fixed to a dust-laden overhead standard, which seemed to contain the first Edison electric lamps. The tiny camera looked like something Brady would have regarded with skepticism back in the 1860s.

"While this writer waited for the photos to be printed (three for one dollar), he asked if he might use the washroom. Whereupon Schneider suggested the tavern at the corner, since he was using his basin for his chemicals. About twenty minutes later, when Schneider emerged from the washroom with the prints, they were still damp and badly scratched. Certainly they did not seem to be the work of a professional. While it is true that this writer entered Schneider's shop with a preconceived opinion of this perjurer, there was precious little about him and his shop that tended to alter it."21

What does all this add to the case? Wexley worries poor Schneider like a dog with a bone but he does not upset the evidence in the trial or discover anything new.

And so it goes throughout the book—half truths are taken as whole truths, innuendo is substituted for argument. That the Rosenberg trial presents doubts—factual, legal and ethical—is not denied. What must be denied is that this book fairly states the problems or honestly tries to answer them.

Oliver Pilat†


A pair of trends in contemporary legal scholarship and librarianship are increasing in their importance and their relevance to current affairs. On the

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one hand there is a very welcome resurgence of general interest in the comparative study of law. A small handful of evidence, chosen at random from a much larger mass, can be vouched to witness: The *American Journal of Comparative Law* is now in its fourth annual volume. Some American law schools are beginning (or extending) programs in the comparative study of law, and at least one casebook has been published in aid of such efforts. The *Institut de Droit Comparé* at the University of Paris has inaugurated a series on “Les Systèmes de Droit Contemporains,” in which seven valuable studies have so far appeared, and the *Instituto de Derecho Comparado* at Barcelona has begun its series of “Cuadernos,” with sub-series devoted to Anglo-American law and French law.

On the other hand there is a fascinating ground swell in bibliography, most impressively manifested by UNESCO in its general plan for improving (or, in some instances, creating) documentation services in the social sciences. Moving first in the field of political science, UNESCO’s International Committee for Social Science Documentation inaugurated the quarterly *International Political Science Abstracts* in 1951. This was followed in 1952 by another quarterly, *Current Sociology*, with an annual international bibliography, and then by annual international bibliographies in the fields of political science and economics. The International Committee of Comparative Law co-operated with UNESCO’s Committee to advance comparative legal studies by the publication of *A Register of Legal Documentation in the World*.

These two trends coalesce in the volume under review, and Mr. Szladits’ book fills an important place in the general scheme. Its excellences are emphasized, and its characteristics are clearly perceived, when it is compared with other components of the total bibliographic picture.

At the outset of any bibliographical enterprise, the bibliographer, individual or collective, must determine the scope and limits of the subject matter of the bibliography. Mr. Szladits has defined foreign and comparative law in a widely comprehensive sense, and, in addition to the modern civil law systems, has included material on Roman, Hindu, Mohammedan, Jewish, Roman-Dutch and Scots law. Increasing the utility of his compilation, Mr. Szladits has included general subjects such as legal history, jurisprudence, and sociology, as well as items on the unification of law, legal education, and the influence of foreign legal systems.

Once the materials have been collected, the bibliographer must decide upon the basic scheme for the arrangement of his entries. The parallelism of arrangement of the various international bibliographies herein mentioned is noteworthy; Mr. Szladits’ volume like the others presents its approximately 13,000

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items  in an arrangement classified by subject (or form), with the alternative avenues of access (a search for particular authors or specific countries) provided by copious indexes.

All of the bibliographies mentioned here have the common characteristic of treating materials from many countries. But there are important differences as well. In the first place, Mr. Szladits has covered a much greater period of time—his bibliography is retrospective to 1790. Moreover, the bibliographies differ sharply in their linguistic aspect, for the UNESCO volumes range over many languages, while Mr. Szladits has restricted his materials to those in English. Finally, UNESCO's efforts are the products of co-operative international committees' work, whereas Mr. Szladits has labored virtually single-handedly in making his compilation.

The dream of a universal bibliography is an ancient one, and one quite impossible of achievement. A much lesser, yet also unattainable goal is that of a universal current bibliography. Still lower in the scale, but considerably higher in the possibility of achievement, is a current bibliography for a single, though perhaps broadly-defined, subject. Such a bibliography for comparative legal studies faces severe difficulties such as those of linguistic barriers, indexers' access to the current stream of publications, the stress on jurisdictions (unique to law among the social sciences), and the present limited market for such a bibliography (which makes a generous grant or subsidy of some kind indispensable). The steps already taken, however, will perhaps support a reasonable optimism. Whatever the future may hold for the bibliographic structure of comparative legal studies, Mr. Szladits' volume is a contribution of the very first order.

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4. The last numbered item is No. 13,742. Three things should be noted about this figure. (1) Some items have been interpolated in the series (e.g., Nos. 230A, 7445a-h, 7446a, 7447a). (2) Each co-author is given an individual number (e.g., Nos. 8, 21, 46, 317). (3) Some papers are entered twice (e.g., Nos. 91 and 660, 92 and 661).

Two technical points: (1) Listing Roscoe Pound's ten-page "Thoughts About Comparative Law," off-printed from the Festschrift für Ernst Rabel, under "Books" (No. 6) seems to me misleading. (2) The author in No. 213 is Frederick Henry Lawson, and this information might properly have been bracketed in the entry. Readers using the index of authors must remember to check for entries under the author's initials as well as under the author's full name.

5. The International Committee for Social Science Documentation is of the opinion that "the diversity of national legal systems has prevented [it] . . . from envisaging an international bibliography." Nevertheless, "the Committee has helped the International Committee of Comparative Law to begin publication of a series of national bibliographies of the law in the various countries." 2 INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE 8 (1955). Such a series would not be unreasonably remote from an "international bibliography," even though issued in discrete parts.

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HUGO LAFAYETTE BLACK

The Editors take pleasure in dedicating this issue of the Journal to Justice Black, on the occasion of his seventieth birthday.