

The Journal of Comparative Law

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new publication, the Journal of Comparative Law. The journal will be published twice a year and will be refereed; the first issue is due to appear in Autumn 2005.

Trends since 1989 have led to a need for comparative legal knowledge unparalleled in history. It has become an 'essential instrument for legal understanding'.¹ Such a situation requires scholarly analysis. However, despite a marked increase in academic interest and activity, significant problems and gaps remain.

It is clear therefore that a new journal, providing a forum for comparative law analysis, the exchange of ideas and other scholarly resources, will be of considerable utility. The number of outlets for comparative legal studies has not even kept pace with the increase of scholarly output to date. It is certainly insufficient to encourage the amount of activity which is necessary in view of the importance of the field. The journal was set up by Professor Michael Palmer (School of Law, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London), Professor William Butler (Dickinson School of Law, Pennsylvania State University; Professor Emeritus, University College, London) and the author. It is an organ of The Association for Comparative Legal Studies Limited, a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales.

Content

The journal will aim to cover the entire range and depth of comparative law and has therefore adopted an inclusive understanding of

'comparative legal studies', unlimited in its geographical focus and range of legal topics, a viewpoint which stresses the importance of analytical, contextual and, where possible, multi-disciplinary work.

The journal will usually contain the following sections: Articles; Notes; Reviews; Noted Publications; Sources and Commentaries (occasional); Bibliography (occasional); Other Voices (occasional); and Classics of Comparative Law (occasional). Articles of unusual length (whether long or short) are very welcome.

Of particular interest is the innovative 'Noted Publications' section, edited by Professor Pierre Legrand, which provides short summaries and assessments of notable books and articles.

The First and Second Issues

The contents of the first issue Autumn 2005 include:

Nicholas Foster, 'The Journal of Comparative Law: A New Scholarly Resource', the 'mission statement' of the Journal.

Pierre Legrand, 'Antivonbar', on Professor Christian von Bar's European Civil Code project.

Bernard Jackson, 'Internal and External Comparisons of Religious Law: Reflections from Jewish Law'.

Andrew Harding, 'Thailand's Reforms: Human Rights and the National Commission'.

Robin Munro, 'The Ankang: China's Special Psychiatric Hospitals'.

William Twining et al. (Nicholas Foster, ed.), 'A New Direction for Comparative Legal Stud-

¹ See ÖRÜCÜ, E. (2002), *Unde Venit, Quo Tendit Comparative Law*, in: ÖRÜCÜ, E. and HARDING, A. (eds.), *Comparative Law in the 21st Century*, London 2002, esp. 15-16.

ies? A Symposium Review of Patrick Glenn's *Legal Traditions of the World*, 2nd edition. This is a very in-depth review, with the following contributions: William Twining, 'Glenn on Tradition: An Overview'; Andrew Halpin, 'Glenn's *Legal Traditions of the World*: Some Broader Philosophical Issues'; Gordon Woodman, 'The Chthonic Legal Tradition – or Everything That is not Something Else'; Bernard Jackson's article above, containing an assessment of the chapter dealing with Jewish law; John Bell, 'Chapter Five: Civil Law Tradition'; Camilla Baasch Andersen, 'Scandinavian Law in *Legal Traditions of the World*'; William Butler, 'Russia, *Legal Traditions of The World*, and Legal Change'; Nicholas Foster, 'Islamic Law as Tradition: Chapter Six of *Legal Traditions of the World*'; Martin Shapiro, 'Common Law Traditions'; Werner Menski, 'Glenn's Vision of the Hindu Legal Tradition'; Andrew Huxley, 'Buddhist Law, Asian Law, Eurasian Law'; Michael Palmer, 'On Galloping Horses and Picking Flowers: China, Chinese Law and the *Asian Legal Tradition*'; Sian Stickings, 'Where Does Japan Belong?'; Nicholas Foster, 'Kindling the Debate on Diversity: Chapter Ten of *Legal Traditions of the World*'.

Alan Watson, 'Jesus and the Samaritan Woman: a Coda', on the pitfalls of translation in comparative law.

Pierre Legrand, 'Noted Publications'.

Andrew Huxley, 'Case-note: Comparative Law Aspects of the *Doe v. Unocal* Choice of Law Hearing', a note on one of the very rare occasions in which comparative law classification was discussed in court, written by a colleague with direct experience of the proceedings.

A substantial part of the second issue will be devoted to 'Reception and Legal Transplants', a topic discussed at a symposium held in June 2005 by, inter alia, Mads Andenas, Wade Channell, Janet Dine, Patrick Glenn, Pierre Legrand, Geoffrey Samuel, Ann and Bob Seidman, William Twining and Alan Watson.

Further Details

We look forward to receiving submissions for inclusion in all sections of the Journal. In particular, we welcome submissions from colleagues who may not necessarily think of themselves as comparatists, for example legal historians, socio-legal scholars (including legal anthropologists) and legal theorists. For submission and subscription details, either go to www.wildy.com or e-mail jcl@soas.ac.uk.

Nicholas H. D. Foster*

* School of Law, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

