Nicholas H.D. Foster

The Journal of Comparative Law
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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." 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:


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-

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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.

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