

decisions. Such problems arising from over simplification of material are further exacerbated by the awkward analogies and convoluted sentence structure employed by Hahlo. A statement such as "the institution of the putative marriage tempered the chill wind of nullity to the innocent lamb"<sup>2</sup> does little, if anything to increase comprehensibility.

However while Hahlo's analysis is premised upon a certain degree of understanding on the part of his audience, making it an inadequate introductory tool for the student, it is also unsatisfactory as a text for the reader who wishes to explore the area of nullity of marriage more deeply. The simplistic tone adopted by Hahlo, the relatively superficial and shallow analysis, and the refusal to examine problematic features in other than a summary fashion prohibit the study from having much value for the academic or practitioner.

Hahlo's book does fulfill a limited purpose: it canvasses most of the leading cases and indicates the impact of provincial and federal legislation upon the grounds of nullity and the type of relief available in a straightforward and concise manner. Such a restatement serves to outline the basic structure and content of nullity law in a way which is informative and to a limited degree, enlightening. However, the absence of a more developed and substantial argument which would contribute to greater coherence in analysis, when coupled with certain problems in the articulation and explanation of basic concepts, prevents Hahlo's work from attaining any status beyond that of an annotated digest.

MARY ELIZABETH HATHERLY\*

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\*Hahlo, at 3.

\*A.B. (Kenyon College), LL.B. (Dalhousie), LL.M. candidate (Osgoode Hall). Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of New Brunswick.

***A Current Bibliography of International Law*, J. G. Merrills, London: Butterworths, 1978. Pp. xx, 277. \$50.50 (cloth).**

In compiling *A Current Bibliography of International Law*, J. G. Merrills has provided students of that subject with a valuable tool for study and research. As work on the text was completed in early 1978 and as it is composed of references to publications that were produced between 1960 and the end of 1977, the Merrills book is not only the most recent general bibliography of international law to appear, but it is also one which cannot but reflect the most current views and attitudes.

A few years ago, Ingrid Delupis invested a considerable amount of time and effort in writing a *Bibliography of International Law* (London and New York: Bowker, 1975, 670 pp.) and, as both her book and the Merrills effort are recent attempts at a general bibliography of the subject, the two texts will inevitably be compared. The basic difference between them is that Professor Delupis' work contains references to articles in many different languages and appears to have been an attempt to compile a definitive list of the best writings in the entire field of international legal studies. However, as he has pointed out in the preface to his own book, Professor Merrills' goal was a much more modest one:

The emphasis is on the periodical literature, though references to important primary sources and significant monographs have also been included. . . . I have tried to include references to a wide range of views on each topic. However, to keep the work to a manageable length and with a view to the needs of undergraduates and those beginning legal research I have included only works published in English and the more substantial contributions to legal scholarship.

After examining and experimenting with both texts, I think it would be safe to conclude that Professor Merrills achieved his goal with flying colours, whereas Professor Delupis was less successful in the more herculean task she set for herself.

The strengths and weaknesses of the Delupis *Bibliography* have been capably outlined by other reviewers<sup>1</sup> and need not be mentioned again. As the Merrills text is a more recent addition to the scene, there is considerable value in examining a number of the key factors in its success.

One of the primary reasons for which the Merrills text will be much appreciated is that every reference listed in it is accompanied by an annotation describing either the contents of, or the point of view advanced by, the work cited. Thus, anyone beginning research in an area of international law can quickly choose what primary sources and general works would most likely suit his needs. Under the sub-heading of "Judicial Decisions", for example, the difference between the following two general collections is immediately evident:

LAUTERPACHT E. *International Law Reports*. London, Butterworths, 1932- This series formerly known as the *Annual Digest of Public International Law Cases* (1919-1939) and the *Annual Digest and Reports* . . . (1940-1949) is an annual series of abridged reports of national and international judicial decisions on questions of international law.

HUDSON M.O. *World Court Reports*. Dobbs Ferry, Oceana, 1969, 4 Vols. This is a reprint of a series which includes the major decisions of the Permanent Court, information and documents related to the Court and the editor's annotations.

<sup>1</sup>For example, see Peter Alan Thomas' review in (1976), 70 *Am. J. Int. L.* at 897-898. One of the most comprehensive examinations of the Delupis *Bibliography* was written by I. I. Kavass in (1976), 69 *Law Library J.* at 382-385.

Similarly, when examining references of a more specific nature the reader of the *Bibliography* can obtain valuable insights into the contents of various works and the viewpoints adopted by different authors. Two citations listed under the sub-section on "Self-Determination" exemplify this:

SINHA S.P. "Has Self-Determination Become a Principle of International Law Today?" 1974 14 Ind J Int L 332-361. Analysis of United Nations practice and the practice of states indicates that self-determination, in the sense of the obligation to decolonise, though an increasingly important political principle, has not yet become a principle of international law.

CHOWDHURY S.R. "The Status and Norms of Self-Determination in Contemporary International Law." 1977 24 Neth Int L Rev 72-84. The author argues that recent United Nations declarations have conferred an indisputable legal status on the principle of self-determination and considers the scope and implications of the principle.

The first section of the text (entitled Primary Sources and General Works) will be most useful to those who are not already familiar with the major collections of international legal materials in the English language. The section is divided into four subsections (Treaties and Agreements, State Practice, Judicial Decisions, International Organizations and Conferences, and General Works), each of which is sub-divided, according to the particular need of the individual subsection, into an assortment of Collections, Bibliographies and Commentaries. This common sense organization of the forest of basic reference works, added to the annotations which accompany each entry, permit the researcher to determine what material is available and what part of it is likely to be of most use to his immediate needs.

The remainder of the Merrills *Bibliography*, with the exception of the final section, The Law of War, "broadly follows that of D. W. Greig's *International Law*".<sup>2</sup> This format was chosen, not only because Greig's book is a recent, widely used and well-respected basic introductory text but, more importantly, because it reflects the standard divisions one normally encounters in the study of public international law.<sup>3</sup> The benefit of using such a format is obvious: the Merrills *Bibliography* is based upon a classification of the subject with which almost every student or researcher will be familiar. As a result, the person seeking to

<sup>2</sup>2nd ed., (London: Butterworths, 1976). 944 Pp. The quotation, again, is taken from the Preface to the Merrills text.

<sup>3</sup>A cursory examination of the following texts which happened to be at hand (they are not, therefore, necessarily the latest editions) reveal that their authors' study of the subject was based upon essentially the same general organizational format as that employed by both Greig and Merrills: J. G. Starke, *Introduction to International Law*, 6th ed., London: Butterworths, 1967; W. Friedmann, O. J. Lissitzyn & R. C. Pugh, *International Law: Cases and Materials*, (St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co., 1969); M. Akehurst, *A Modern Introduction to International Law*, 2nd ed., (London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd., 1970); D. J. Harris, *Cases and Materials on International Law*, (London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1973); I. Brownlie, *Principles of Public International Law*, 2nd ed., (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1973); J.-G. Castel, *International Law Chiefly as Interpreted and Applied in Canada*, 3rd ed., (Toronto: Butterworths, 1976).

use the text will not have to waste time familiarizing himself with its organizational structure. Instead, he will have more time to make effective use of the contents of the text.

Finally, it is very helpful to a person using the *Bibliography* to find that the necessary bibliographic information concerning dates, volume numbers, pages, etc. is complete for each entry. There is also a consistency of format which makes it quite easy to obtain the necessary information needed to track down any particular work.

In closing, one cannot help but note that criticisms of the *Bibliography* will inevitably arise (my major one is its price — \$50.50 for 277 pages, which one could xerox for under ten dollars). Some will complain that various annotations lack clarity or that they misinterpret the contents of the work they describe. Others will say that the compiler's process of selection was faulty because references to some inferior works were included while others, which are considered by some to be of vital importance, were omitted. These are all subjective opinions which can be remedied by anyone who wishes to append to the *Bibliography* a filing system of articles, monographs and source materials for his own personal use. What Professor Merrills has given us is a good beginning. He has created a skeleton key that fits easily into a very complex lock. To discover the secrets from which we were previously barred, all we need do is use the tool he has given us.

DONALD J. FLEMING\*

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\*B.A. (Mt. A.), LL.B. (U.N.B.), LL.B. (Cantab.). Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of New Brunswick.

***Real Estate Law*, B. J. Reiter and R. C. B. Risk, Toronto: Emond-Montgomery Ltd., 1979. Pp. li, 1209. \$57.50 (cloth).**

Professor Reiter's and Professor Risk's "casebook" on *Real Estate Law* marks the introduction of the first major work of its kind in Canada. In 1958 Professor Laskin (as he then was) noted in his text, *Cases and Notes on Land Law*:<sup>1</sup>

There has been nothing in Canada comparable to the English texts, let alone those in the United States (where there is a proliferation of general casebooks and specialized treatises as well). We have to go back to Armour's second edition of *Real Property*, 1916, to find any general treatment of the subject . . . . We will go no further than Armour unless it is by the efforts of the law teachers . . . .<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>B. Laskin, *Cases and Notes on Land Law* (rev. ed) (Toronto: Univ. Toronto Press, 1958).

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, at iv.