

EDITORIAL COMMENT

It is my pleasure to bring you this latest edition of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEGAL INFORMATION (IJLI). Like most issues of the IJLI, it does not possess a theme, although it contains a variety of articles and other information intended to please, challenge, and inform our readers. From Dutch private international law, an annotated selection of Chinese treatises in print, international law influences on Alabama law, challenges to commonly-held notions of international intellectual property rights, and the law of piracy, this issue covers a lot of intellectual – and geographic – ground.

The lead article in this issue of the IJLI is by **Antoon (Teun) V. M. Struycken**. It focuses on the Dutch codification of private international law. At this point, I should tender my apologies to the IJLI's readers, as Professor Struycken's excellent piece should have appeared in the preceding issue of the IJLI – issue 39-2 – along with the other proceedings materials from the IALL annual course held at The Hague in 2010. Unfortunately, difficulties in translating and editing the piece ran up against our publication deadlines and so we had to defer its publication and place it in this issue, being the most immediate issue after the intended issue. I owe many thanks to my colleague, **Jeroen Vervliet**, director of the Peace Palace Library at The Hague, for his invaluable assistance in bringing this article – and the other articles from the 2010 conference – to light.

The next article – or bibliography, really – is written by my former colleague from Yale Law Library, **Evelyn Ma**. With the growing importance of China in the world and the burgeoning interest in Chinese law in the United States and around the globe, Ms. Ma's guide is very timely indeed. She points out in her introduction that the dramatic increase in the number of Chinese legal scholarly publications over the past decade. This is due in part to the vast amount of Chinese legislative output, as well as a rapidly expanding body of law. In China, there is an impressive proliferation of print treatises and web-based legal information in the vernacular. Ma's guide provides a sampling of some of the foremost Chinese legal scholars and their treatises.

For something a little different, we include a piece by **Paul Pruitt, Jr.** on the impact of English common law on American law, using the law of the state of Alabama as his primary example. Mr. Pruitt argues that the impact of

English common law was significant, mutual, and of long duration. He also demonstrates the connections between Anglo and American legal variants by using bibliographic methods.

This important and challenging article takes up the topic of international intellectual property rights. The author, **Jonathan M.W.W. Chu**, argues for a different interpretation from the common understanding that there is a territorial nature of intellectual property rights. He claims that the term “international intellectual property” may actually refer to the underlying *products* of creative endeavors and give rise to rights granted internationally. According to Chu, these are themselves rights of a different sort than the rights attributed to the traditional notion of territorially-defined property rights. Read the article and see if you do not end up with an expanded view of this important topic.

Finally, who could resist a title like “Rascals, Scoundrels, Villains, and Knaves: The Evolution of the Law of Piracy from Ancient Times to the Present”? When the manuscript came across my desk, I certainly couldn't. But beyond the romantic, swashbuckling movie versions of pirates, there is a whole body of law that applies to this criminal endeavor. The author, **Rebecca Fantauzzi**, presents a very readable yet erudite piece that presents an historical trajectory of piracy laws from Greco-Roman times to the modern pirates patrolling the seas around the Horn of Africa and elsewhere. This makes the article timely as well as interesting. Well done, Ms. Fantauzzi!

As in every issue of the IJLI, **Thomas Mills** has edited a collection of book reviews that will help make your work of book selection just that much easier. Many thanks as well to the individual authors of these reviews. Thomas is always on the lookout for additional reviewers for the Book Review section of the IJLI. If you are interested in trying your hand at this rewarding and eminently doable work, please let him know. His contact information can be found in the front matter of each issue of the IJLI. In addition to book Thomas Mills' book reviews, **Aslihan Bulut** has also edited the latest version of the International Calendar for inclusion in this issue. This mainstay continues to be one of the most popular features of the IJLI. I am more than confident you will enjoy our regular sections as well as the excellent feature articles in this issue. Happy reading!

*Mark Engsberg
International Journal of Legal Information
Hugh F. MacMillan Law Library
Emory University School of Law*