Book Review. Stumberg, G. W., Guide to the Law and Legal Literature of France

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Book Reviews


In this country where the study of comparative law is so largely neglected, every possible stimulus to the investigation of foreign law is doubly to be desired. Professor Stumberg's book, prepared under the auspices of the Library of Congress, is far from being a mere bibliography. The very complete references which it contains to French statutes, judicial decisions, search books, treatises, historical works, and philosophical and social-science disquisitions, occur in the course of a text which makes interesting reading and which should go far in leading the reader to investigate for himself the sources of which Professor Stumberg gives an account.

It will now be possible for the lawyer or student who wishes to investigate a subject in the law of France to obtain in advance from Professor Stumberg's book a brief account of the development of French law and legal literature, of the nature and varieties of French jurisprudence and legal thought, of the works of a general nature which may be consulted, and of the history and general setting of the subject to be investigated, as well as a thorough bibliography in the particular field. In the course of his reading the investigator will thus obtain an awareness of the cross-currents of thought which play upon his subject such as only a genuine insight on the part of the author, backed by painstaking research, could produce.

If the advertising methods of private publishers were available to increase the sale of Professor Stumberg's book, it would receive general recognition in the profession as an important contribution to legal literature. As matters stand, it will at least be accorded a welcome by the discriminating scholars who keep in touch with library publications. The Government Printing Office has provided a format and binding which leave nothing to be desired.

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The editor saw this book in its English binding on my table and asked me about it. When he found that it was published by the English Society of Public Teachers of Law or at least under its auspices, he bethought himself of the several publications under the auspices of the Association of