

## Book Review

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/mlr>

---

### Recommended Citation

*Book Review*, 3 Md. L. Rev. 199 (1939)

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/mlr/vol3/iss2/9>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Academic Journals at DigitalCommons@UM Carey Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maryland Law Review by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UM Carey Law. For more information, please contact [smccarty@law.umaryland.edu](mailto:smccarty@law.umaryland.edu).

## Book Review

---

READINGS ON PERSONAL PROPERTY. By William T. Fryer. St. Paul. West Publishing Co. 1938. Pp. xxxii, 1184.

For a considerable period the law reviews of this country have been producing comprehensive and scholarly articles and comments upon numerous controversial questions of law which daily confront the profession. Most of these articles and comments have been written, after thorough and complete investigations of all adjudicated cases, by writers who have spent much time qualifying themselves in their particular fields. Unfortunately, the products of this research have never been fully utilized by the bench and bar. Much criticism has been directed at law reviews on the ground that their articles and comments have been written in such a style as to be unintelligible to lawyers not familiar with the problem and cases involved. This is probably true. But, to a lawyer who is confronted by the very problem in his practice such an article or comment can have inestimable value in preparing the particular case for trial.

Probably the reason why these articles and comments have not been more fully utilized by lawyers is because they are unaware of their existence at the time of their need. Few lawyers can or do subscribe for many of these periodicals; and even where the local bar library maintains a complete collection of them the index systems are so cumbersome and unsatisfactory as to make them of little use to the profession. A need has been felt for some system whereby the outstanding articles and comments on a particular subject can be assembled into one or two volumes so as to be available to the bench and bar. The Association of American Law Schools has appreciated this need and has already sponsored such compilations both for Contracts and Constitutional Law, and plans others.

Professor Fryer, of the George Washington University Law School, and formerly a member of the Baltimore City bar, now offers to the profession a similar compilation in the field of Personal Property. This volume contains reprints of all of the leading articles in the field. In addition it also contains reprints of notes and comments on leading cases of recent years. When, as often happens, a lawyer is confronted by a recent case either in his own or neighboring jurisdiction, in which the reasoning is somewhat novel, a comprehensive case note or comment on it will be of great value in explaining or distinguishing it. The insertion of such case notes and comments in this volume is a distinct advantage, because practically every problem or question in the field of personal property is covered either by a leading article or by a case note or comment.

As this volume was compiled by Professor Fryer for use as a supplemental textbook in teaching Personal Property from a casebook, the material is grouped and arranged in the same order as in the standard casebooks of Bigelow and Fraser. For the benefit of the practicing bar, however, he has inserted a very thorough index at the end of the volume. This index is so complete and comprehensive that every problem discussed in any of the articles or case notes can be quickly and easily found.

This reviewer feels that this compilation is so extensive that there are very few problems in Personal Property, if any, which are not discussed in some article or case note therein. Since the recent treasure trove case in Baltimore City attracted considerable local newspaper publicity, it is interesting to discover in this volume four different articles or case notes discussing the rights of the owner of the premises against the finder. In fact, one of the reprinted case notes deals with the *Nisi Prius* decision of Judge O'Dunne in the local treasure trove case.

It will be a great help to the legal profession when similar compilations will have been completed in other fields. Such a group of readings should make available, at a reasonable cost and in such a form as to be readily accessible, much of the valuable contents of legal periodicals, which at the present are not fully utilized.

—RUSSELL R. RENO\*

---

\* Assistant Professor of Law, University of Maryland School of Law.