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## COMPARATIVE LAW: BOOKS RECEIVED

**THE CIVIL LAW TRADITION: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LEGAL SYSTEMS OF WESTERN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA**, 2d. ed. By John H. Merryman. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1985, 168 pp.

The purpose of Mr. Merryman's original work was to explain, in simple terms, the differences between common law and civil law systems. In his preface to that edition, the author took great care to make clear that his book was not about French or German law specifically, but about the legal tradition which many countries in Europe, Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East share. The second edition retains most of the original text, but it includes additions which reflect the changes which are occurring in the civil law world. The author has also added to his already extensive list of Suggestions for Further Reading.

The book contains twenty relatively brief chapters which cover topics such as: "Roman Civil Law, Canon Law, and Commercial Law," "The Sources of Law," "Codes and Codification," "Judges," "Scholars," "The Legal Process," "The Legal Professions," "Public Law," and "The Future of the Civil Law Tradition." This easily readable work provides an excellent and interesting introduction to the study of civil law.

**DEMOCRACY IN THE ISLANDS**. By Austin Ranney and Howard R. Penniman. Washington, D.C.: American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, 1985, 126 pp.

The area called "Micronesia" includes a large number of small, sparsely populated islands across the Central Pacific. It is also an area of considerable strategic importance to the United States, and hence a major focus for American diplomats and economists.

In *Democracy in the Islands*, Professors Ranney and Penniman, the co-directors of the American Enterprise Institute's Program in Political and Social Processes, compare and contrast the 1983 Micronesian Plebescites in the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. In 1947, the United Nations placed these islands in a UN Strategic Trust Territory to be administered by the United States. Due to the unusual and demanding conditions of the 1983 Micronesia Plebescites, these islands should be of particular interest to those studying elections and democratic policies. In a smooth, easy to read style, Professors Ranney and Penniman take the readers from the preliminaries to the campaign, the plebescites, and the results, and place these plebescites in a political context of democratic practices.

