Review of “Doctrina de Monroe y Cooperacion International,” By Camilo Barcia Trelles

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In Part III the author makes a detailed analysis of the rules of the Court, article by article, and a critical survey of its organization. The comments on the operation of the system of nominating and electing the judges and the biographical data relating to the personnel of the Court are set down in an impressively objective manner. In spite of various weaknesses and discrepancies pointed out by the author, the general conclusion is reached that “on the whole the system of nominations has worked with quite satisfactory results” and “the system of elections must be pronounced a success which augurs well for the future maintenance of the Court.”

Part IV consists of an exhaustive, effectively organized analysis of the jurisdiction of the Court. In Part V the author makes his most original contribution in the form of a detailed exposition of the procedure and practice of the Court. “Under the Statute the Court is bound by few procedural limitations. It has the responsibility of building a law of procedure which will meet the needs of interstate litigation, and to some extent this law must be developed de novo. Since its early years the court has sought to follow the course ‘which it considers best calculated to ensure the administration of justice, most suited to procedure before an international tribunal and most in conformity with the fundamental principles of international law.’”

The different classes of law which the Court applies and the general canons which guide the Court in its interpretation of these laws are considered in Part VI. This part might more logically have preceded Part V. In the appendices appear all of the most basic documents relating to the Court and a list of the publications of the Court.

In the Preface Doctor Hudson states that “The time would seem to have arrived for comprehensive studies of the law of the Court for the assistance of lawyers who may appear before it and of others who must deal with its problems. The present volume is designed to serve as such a study.” If occasional revisions are made, it is certain that this volume will serve preeminently as the standard comprehensive study of the Court for years to come.

Arnold J. Lien.

Washington University.


This lengthy monograph was the first fruit of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace fellowships granted to European scholars. The author, a professor in the University of Valladolid, Spain, spent the year 1928-1929 at Washington making use of the splendid library of the Carnegie Endowment, and he expresses the warmest appreciation of the direction in his studies which he received from Dr. James Brown Scott and of American scholars generally for their friendly cooperation. He says he was surprised at the strength of our devotion to the Monroe doctrine and also to the doctrine of isolation. He believes that it prevents us from lending proper cooperation in the conduct of the world’s affairs. It is from this viewpoint that he comments on the development of the Monroe doctrine. He has confind himself to the early history of the doctrine, and especially to its
European antecedents. As a consequence the later development of the doctrine is handled very briefly.

As a Spanish professor of law he is able to make a very distinct contribution to the antecedents of the Monroe doctrine, going back to Francisco de Vitoria's doctrine of "a new world and a new law" and to the dictum of the inalienability of America of Charles V (1519). He finds other antecedents of the doctrine in the Spanish-Portuguese treaty of 1750 guaranteeing the perpetual neutrality of America, in the doctrine of continental unity of John Adams, and in the state papers and addresses of Washington and Jefferson, as well as in the major constitutional documents of the nation. The contributions of Lord Castlereagh and of Canning to the doctrine, especially on the diplomatic side, are much better known to us, but they are reviewed here with insight and an admirable clarity of exposition. We already know what was up Canning's diplomatic sleeve when in 1823 he encouraged James Monroe to take the final step of declaring the doctrine which has had such a marked effect upon the subsequent history of the western continent. It is perhaps perfectly natural to identify this doctrine with insularity and to consider it as an obstacle to a wider participation of the United States in world affairs. One interesting aspect of the controversy over the Monroe doctrine—that of the reaction of the Latin American countries to it—he would doubtless have treated much more fully if his monograph had not already attained such large proportions before he reached recent times.

Washington University.

L. L. Bernard.


This book is a welcome departure from the growing tendency for law books to be written by persons who, although technically lawyers, are without substantial practical experience in the field of which they write. Any bright person with a legal education, upon being supplied by the publisher with cards containing the digest paragraphs of a large number of cases on a particular subject, can string them together in a more or less logical sequence and produce a book, but, unfortunately, this method, although suited to quantity production, is not well calculated to produce a real "law book." It needs but a short examination to conclude that the present work was not produced in any such fashion. The author is a man of long experience in his field, having been assistant attorney general of the state of Illinois in charge of inheritance taxes for many years. This experience has been invaluable to him in writing the present work.

The practising attorney, for whom the book is said to have been primarily written, will quickly recognize that here is a book in which needed information is fully presented, and superfluous matter eliminated.

The author does not deem it beneath his dignity to tell you exactly what you have to know. For example, he gives a list showing the name of the particular state official or commission charged with the supervision of the inheritance tax law in each state, with the post-office address.