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## Review of “A Manual of Roman Private Law,” By W. W. Buckland

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In the Annexes to the volume are to be found a summary of opinions and judgments of the Court, the text of the Statute of the Court, the Rules of the Court, various proposals from this country, and a statement of the Court's jurisdiction.

As has been noted, its faults to some will prove virtues to others, depending largely on the standpoint from which they read. Naturally, from its very nature, this book cannot be expected, even in the legal world, to be listed among the best sellers; but that is a fact which may, in itself, recommend it to many.

JAMES T. BRITT, '26.

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A MANUAL OF ROMAN PRIVATE LAW. July, 1925. By W. W. Buckland, LL.D., F. B. A., of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law; Regius, Professor of Civil Law, University of Cambridge; Fellow of Gonville and Cains College. Cambridge University Press. (Macmillan, U. S.)

The last two decades have brought a greatly increased interest in the laws of other nations besides our own. A greater commerce between nations, improved means of travel, the world war, a more serious consideration of international problems and international law might be mentioned as possible factors in this new interest. Whatever may be the cause, one very wholesome result seems to be that the study of Roman Law, and its offspring, the Civil Law, is regarded as increasingly important.

Probably anticipating a need, Professor Buckland meets it more than half way in the work under review. Many able members of the profession, who have long regarded Roman Law as something old and far away, should find this work to their liking. It is a lawyer's book; its classification will enable Anglo-American barristers to strike an instant comparison and analogy with the problems with which they are presently more familiar.

Being all this, it is primarily intended, by the author's own purpose, as a text for the use of beginners. It is first of all a student's book. It sets forth the Roman Law of classical and later times without much of the detail and which the translations of Continental works are so often burdened. Professor Buckland has collected carefully the important principles of his subject; he has no doubt purposely restricted certain parts of his work, even so far as to treat summarily a number of important divisions of the law. The work is

restricted to a little over four hundred pages, parceled into seventeen chapters.

Just enough space is devoted to history to give the subject matter the necessary chronological setting. The new book is in marked contrast with Morey's *Outline*, Clark's *Roman Private Law*, or Muirhead's *Historical Introduction*, in this respect. While accurate as far as it goes, it cannot be recommended to those desiring primarily a historical treatment.

The introduction is an interesting and refreshing dissertation on Law, its causes, its effect, its changes and a variety of things, well calculated to create interest in the material to follow. This learned discussion was written with the collaboration of Dean Pound of Harvard, a fact of no little significance in a discussion of Roman Law.

The first chapter is well devoted to legal resources; the second to a classification of the law. The ensuing three deal with the Law of Persons, and the sixth to fifteenth, inclusive, with the Law of Things, seemingly rather disproportionately. The last two chapters are taken up with actions, procedure and formulae. Much of this might well have appeared earlier in the text, or have been omitted altogether. The formulae given are interesting as antiques, but are about as full of meaning to the average American as the original Magna Charta.

As a concise reference work, one feature is particularly appealing. The Index is unusually complete, with many cross references. The principal reference is in each case printed in bold type.

A bibliography of the subject reveals this work as the fourth one by the same author, two of the preceding being considerably more comprehensive; the third, a special work on the Law of Slavery. We thus see the author as an acknowledged master of his subject; a lawyer of experience, a preëminent teacher, but above all a thorough research student.

The author has here delved into a mass of material and has sifted the wheat from the chaff. He moves without effort and with certain knowledge through the whole field of Roman Private Law. He has created rather than compiled, with a result which would seem to fill very nicely the requirements of American Law students.

ROBERT B. TERRY, '26.