

FOREWORD TO FIFTH EDITION

It has now been nearly fifteen years since the publication of the last edition and fifty years since the publication of the first edition of Professor A.N. Yiannopoulos's *magnum opus*. This year sees a fifth edition of the Civil Law Property volume of the Louisiana Civil Law Treatise. At the time of its initial publication, Civil Law Property was the inaugural volume of the series. It did then and continues now to set the tone and serve as an exemplar for civilian legal scholarship both within Louisiana and beyond.

The current edition of Civil Law Property continues in the tradition of its predecessors. In it the reader will find an exhaustive analysis of the treatment of "Things" and all subsets therein – common, public, and private; movable and immovable; corporeal and incorporeal. All varieties of "Real Actions" are carefully and coherently delineated and expertly expounded upon for the reader. "Possession" and its protection are also comprehensively examined in a way that provides clarity upon even the most abstract and difficult topics. What makes this work and, indeed, all of A.N. Yiannopoulos's work, so rich is that it engages (and often parries) with the greatest scholars and theorists, such as Savigny and Jhering, and does so in a way that sheds light upon and is mindful of the practical application of the law. It is that insight that has made A.N. Yiannopoulos's work indispensable to any court, scholar, or lawyer concerned about a property law issue today. It was often said of the medieval glossator Azo that "he who does not know Azo, should not go to court." (*Chi non ha Azzo non vada in palazzo.*) The very same today could and should be said in the field of property law about A.N. Yiannopoulos.

It is fitting that the author of this work is the very scholar who has been the single most influential force in Louisiana property law in the last century. As Reporter for the 1976 Revision of the Louisiana Civil Code articles on Property (as well as those on servitudes and many other areas of the civil code), A.N. Yiannopoulos gives to Louisiana in this work the careful thought and analysis of the code articles that are necessary for the law's understanding and application in a civil law jurisdiction. This work, of course, does much more than merely elaborate upon the Civil Code articles. It also carefully dissects relevant jurisprudence and other legal developments, and it comments – sometimes critically and always analytically – upon the latest legislative and judicial changes. Moreover, this work is comparative in focus, with French, German, Greek, and common law being considered

as points of comparison for Louisiana civil law concepts.

In this edition, as in all previous ones, the research is prodigious, the writing style is clear, and the thought is profound. It is a monument to civilian and comparative erudition not commonly seen today. The Louisiana legal profession should rejoice and be grateful for the work of such a talented scholar, such a lucid writer, such a dynamic teacher, and such an incomparable friend.

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