

# Book Reviews: Examination of Titles, By George W. Thompson

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**Examination of Titles.** By George W. Thompson, X, 340 pp. including index and table of contents: Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, 1929.

To the average student and to a great many who are practicing before the bar today the question of titles and abstracts is an uncharted sea and the problems which they present are shunned until brought to their attention by an anxious client. Thus the author had in mind the difficulties which the average lawyer would encounter in the preparation of an opinion based upon an abstract and to assist the average lawyer the writer prepared this handbook.

The author has followed the classic admonition of Cicero, that all logical discussions should start from a definition, to its ultimate conclusion. He has devoted almost three-fourths of his book to legal definitions of the various terms which comprise that technical and difficult subject known as real property, particular stress being laid upon the phases of real property which deal with titles. Lest one be misled by one of the foregoing assertions it might well be set forth here that the numerous definitions referred to are grouped in an intelligent and logical manner so as to be understood by even the layman.

"A practical manual on the examination of abstracts to real property," which is the subtitle which the author, himself, has given to the book is perhaps the best expression possible to fully convey in a few words, to one who has not had an opportunity to read the book, just what it might contain.

After defining the various terms and instruments which will be referred to in an abstract the writer delves into his experiences and gives many practical suggestions as to how the beginner should prepare himself for the reading of an abstract and the writing of the opinion later. If his warnings are heeded the inexperienced attorney will be saved from not only the so-called embarrassing moments, but also from actual financial loss.

The real key to the treasure of knowledge contained in this small volume is the sixty page index which appears at the end of the substantive matter. Throughout the book the author supports his contentions by citations to the leading cases on each point.

JOHN A. KLUWIN

**International Law as a Substitute for Diplomacy.** By Marcellus Donald Redlich, D.C.L., Ph.D. pp. 203. Independent Publishing Co. Chicago.

International law is a most interesting and much discussed topic during this present era that is greatly interested in the outlawry of war. In this short book of Dr. Redlich's, we have the opportunity to take a glance into history and see the forces at work which will eventually do away with the system of diplomacy as a hope for abolishing war and which will substitute in its place a system of international law. 'Tis a beautiful thought to picture a world in which war is nothing but a memory in the minds of men. Will such be the case when this system of international law becomes fully established.

There is a sort of glitter of romance that attracts one to the maneuvers of the diplomats of old. It is with a feeling of deep regret that the writer