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Book Review: Les Codes civils - The Civil Codes, A Critical Edition, Third Edition, edited by Paul-A. Crépeau

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Les Codes civils—The Civil Codes. A Critical Edition, Third Edition.
Edited by PAUL-A. CRÉPEAU with the collaboration of LOUISE LUS-
SIER. Montreal: Société québécoise d'information juridique. 1983.
Pp. xlvi, 857. (\$17.00)

This book, unlike *The Civil Code 1866-1980. An Historical and Critical Edition*¹ covers the articles presently in force in both the Civil Code of Lower Canada² and the Civil Code of Quebec.³ In the Preface the editor informs us that Quebec has two Civil Codes because the wide range of the reform proposed by the Office of Revision of the Civil Code⁴ makes it necessary to spread the enactment of its various parts over a period of years. Thus, one must cross from one Code to the other depending upon the subject matter involved. Eventually the Civil Code of Quebec will replace the Civil Code of Lower Canada. This may take a long time as some of the topics dealt with by the Office of Revision do not fall within provincial jurisdiction under the Constitution of Canada.⁵

The texts of the Civil Code of Lower Canada have been drawn from the historical and critical edition and the first cumulative supplement

⁵ A supplement to the work has now been published: see, Code Civil—Civil Code, 1866-1980, Supplément—1980-1983—Supplement (1983).

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¹ See preceding book review.

² 1866.

³ L.Q. 1980, c. 39, which came into force on April 2nd, 1981.

⁴ Report on the Civil Code (1978), Vol. I, Draft Civil Code, Vol. II, Commentaries.

⁵ This explains why some provisions of the Civil Code of Quebec are not yet in force, eg., those dealing with divorce are printed in smaller type.

1980-1983. As for the texts of the articles of the Civil Code of Quebec, they are drawn from the Act to establish a new Civil Code and to reform family law.⁶ The book follows the same pattern as the historical and critical edition of the Civil Code of 1866 and uses the same symbols to draw the reader's attention to typographical or other errors which the two codes may contain.

The present edition incorporates legislative modifications introduced into the Codes up to June 30th, 1983. One of the new interesting features of this edition is the inclusion of a correlation table between the provisions of the Civil Code of Quebec and those of the French Civil Code which are also the product of wide ranging reform.

The provisions of the Codes are not followed by annotations with a view to facilitating their understanding, interpretation and application but we are informed that should this new edition find favour with the legal profession, such annotations would be added to subsequent editions. Still as it stands, the third edition should greatly facilitate the work of the legal profession in Quebec.

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⁶ *Supra*, footnote 3.

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