
Haensel: Das Gericht vertagt sich

Peter Nelles

Follow this and additional works at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/law-review>

Recommended Citation

Peter Nelles, *Haensel: Das Gericht vertagt sich*, 14 DePaul L. Rev. 237 (1964)
Available at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/law-review/vol14/iss1/31>

This Book Reviews is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Law at Via Sapientiae. It has been accepted for inclusion in DePaul Law Review by an authorized editor of Via Sapientiae. For more information, please contact digitalservices@depaul.edu.

The mechanical make-up of this book, such as the typography, index and the binding, is well-planned and well-executed. Each chapter commences with an analysis which gives a degree of lucidity to the maze of federal and state law that is American bankruptcy jurisprudence. The sixty-page index cross-references the author's material, and it is all keyed into other West Publishing Company publications, but there are very few references to works produced by other publishers. The portions of the Bankruptcy Act relevant to the author's material, namely, Chapters I to VIII and Chapter XIII, and the General Orders in Bankruptcy are set out in full in the appendix. This work contains a section on court forms that is complete insofar as the straight wage-earner case is concerned, and contains a few basic forms on Chapter XI reorganization cases and Chapter XII wage-earner cases. Many of the court forms are accompanied with informative comments that are helpful pointers to the practicing attorney.

The treatment of material in this book gives life to a complex field of law and reflects Mr. Cowans' years of experience as a Referee in Bankruptcy in California. This book is not only practical in its approach to legal theory, but departs from the patchwork seen in many volumes on bankruptcy and is realistic in appraising the underlying factual situations producing bankruptcies.

THEODORE GULINO*

* Member of the Illinois Bar. J.D., *cum laude*, Loyola University, 1957.

Das Gericht vertagt sich (The Tribunal Shall Adjourn). By CARL HAENSEL. Hamburg: Claassen Verlag, 1960. Pp. 337.

Here, the great Nuremberg trial is presented by a participating defense attorney in an unexpectedly artistic form. Though subtitled by its author as excerpts from a diary, this work might better be described as a sketchbook. At any rate, it is this aspect of the work which particularly impressed this reader, who, it must be added, is well aware that the author is, in fact, concentrating throughout on the legal and philosophical problems at the core of his thinking.

Some of the sketches are absolutely literal and minutely detailed, especially those giving features of the courtroom and suggesting its atmosphere of tension; others are freer, broader, but likewise deftly executed, such as those of General Keitel, the rigid, unthinking "cadet"; Ribbentrop, the schoolboy called on the carpet; or Hess, the silent wraith. Here and there, indeed, one even comes upon a whimsical arabesque. The author knows well what can be done with words and has, moreover, a sense of drama. Witness, in particular, an "off-stage" monologue assigned to Goering, grimly parodying Shakespeare's Caesar.

Even very extended accounts of procedural wrangling are sustained by the sure theatrical hand. In particular, there come to mind the passages dealing with the fruitless struggles of the defense to have evidence admitted disclosing the secret pact between Hitler and Stalin, divicing Poland between them. Other devices freely used are metaphors, flashbacks and, with striking success, brief literary quotations—from Pindar, G. K. Chesterton, Oscar Wilde, to mention a few. Such, in part, is the repertory of means employed, and it is hoped that this description, though focused only on the surface of the work, will nevertheless hint at the abundance of material which lies in this source and which is perhaps hardly to be found elsewhere.

PETER NELLES*

* Linguist, philologist and professional translator of Chicago.