



THE FRENCH LEGAL SYSTEM AND ITS INDIAN CONNECTIONS (1995). By David Annoussamy. National Law School of India University, Bangalore. Pp. 193.

IN INTRODUCING the book under review¹ in the Foreword N.R.M. Menon observes as follows :

Admittedly, this is an elementary study more based on perceptions and experience rather than advanced scholarly research. The idea was to give an introduction of the then existing French law in Pondicherry and its influences in law and justice which prevailed during the French regime and immediately thereafter. As an introduction to modern European laws, to the average Indian lawyer this volume will be of great help. An alien legal system cannot be understood without understanding the language and culture of the people. As such there are serious limitations in conveying the details of French Law in the Format of a brief volume like the one in hand. Nevertheless, the author has attempted to write the book keeping in mind the frame of the coverage Indian student of law. In the process he might have over-generalised principles and practices which themselves are controversial in continental jurisprudence. There are inevitable pitfalls in comparative legal scholarship which the readers are requested to bear with us.²

Menon has judged the book too harshly. The author's endeavour was only to describe as clearly as possible some aspects of French law in highlighting the features which are quite different from what we find in Indian law, and to give a comparative perspective. In this, he has succeeded admirably and the book would kindle the interest of many in French law.

The book comprises the following chapters : (i) history of French law; (ii) structure of French law; (iii) the French Constitution of 1958; (iv) the French Constitutional Council; (v) French Administrative Tribunals; (vi) Dispensation of civil justice; (vii) law professionals; (viii) Outline of criminal justice; (ix) elements of commercial law; (x) settlement of industrial disputes; (xi) French nationality in Pondicherry; (xii) divorce in French law; (xiii) adoption in French law; (xiv) French law in Pondicherry; (xv) influence of French law on Muslims in Pondicherry; (xvi) legitime in French law and its extension to Hindus; and (xvii) the impact of merger on French law.

Menon should be congratulated for publishing the book so nicely under the auspices of the National Law School of India University and the author should be complimented for rushing in where angels fear to tread.

Z.M. Shahid Siddiqi

1. David Annoussamy, *French Legal System and its Indian Connections* (1995)

2. *Id.* at xiv.

* Formerly Dean, Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.