

CIVIL CODE ANNOTATED. 1953 Edition. By Ambrosio Padilla, A.B., LL.B., D.C.L. *P.C.F. Publications*. 4 volumes.

Law graduates reviewing for the bar almost invariably select Prof. Ambrosio Padilla's Civil Code Annotated. The reason for its wide appeal is the simplicity, clarity, exhaustiveness and the "up-to-date-ness" of the text. In the 1953 edition, decisions promulgated as late as May, 1953 are included.

It should be emphasized, however, that the usefulness of this text is not confined to the narrow (indeed, not so narrow) circle of bar-reviewers. It is a book that should be of great value to practitioners as well and even judges. The Supreme Court has on more than one occasion found reason to cite it as authority.

With the enactment of Republic Act No. 386 otherwise known as the Civil Code of the Philippines, there was so to speak a change, for better or for worse, in our system of civil law. The change consisted principally in the elimination of many provisions in the old Civil Code, the addition of new principles, and the modification and amendment of numerous provisions of the old Code. The need for the exposition, clarification and harmonization of these changes was therefore imperative.

The author of the text has been teaching Civil Law in various law schools since 1937. He has handled Civil Law review classes since 1939, and is a very successful law practitioner. The author is therefore eminently competent to deal with the subject of Civil Law and its intricacies. He therefore does not walk in a strange country but may be said to be moving in what is perhaps his natural habitat.

The author's first labors on the new Civil Code were embodied in the 1949 Edition which consisted of two volumes. It was followed by the 1951 Edition consisting of three volumes. The inevitable growth of our jurisprudence in the field of Civil Law necessitated a further revision. The 1953 Edition was the answer to the need. This latest edition consists of four volumes. The first volume covers Articles 1 to 711, the second deals with Articles 712 to 1155 and the last two volumes contain the law and jurisprudence on Obligations and Contracts and the remaining provisions of the new Civil Code.

The articles are arranged in their numerical order. After each provision, a brief explanation usually follows. In the explanation

there is a reconciliation, harmonization or reference to other articles of the Code, or of other Codes or special laws. Prudently the author rarely advances his personal opinion on the wisdom or defectiveness of the law, except in those cases where the unreasonableness or lack of logic in the law is apparent.

After the codal provision and its explanation follow the cases in point, which are often plentiful. Every case is preceded by a topic line which is a summary of the principle involved.

Mr. Padilla's method of presentation is perhaps best evaluated by Justice J. B. L. Reyes himself who writes in the Foreword to the text, "Consistent with the policy he has established in previous publications, the author adheres to the faith that there is greater interest in texts than in theory, in precedents rather than doctrinal controversies. He limits himself, therefore, to what is known, accepted and certain. With painstaking industry he has collated under each article of the New Code the related provisions and applicable decisions down to mid-1949 (1953), leaving to the reader the task of building his own juridical conception from the material at hand."