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Ang Kodigo, 13 ATENEO L.J. 492 (March 1964).

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, Ang Kodigo, 13 Ateneo L.J. 492 (1964).

APA 7th ed.

(1964). Ang kodigo. Ateneo Law Journal, 13(4), 492-492.

Chicago 17th ed.

"Ang Kodigo," Ateneo Law Journal 13, no. 4 (March 1964): 492-492

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MLA 9th ed.

"Ang Kodigo." Ateneo Law Journal, vol. 13, no. 4, March 1964, pp. 492-492.
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OSCOLA 4th ed.

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BOOK NOTE

Ang Kodigo Sibil ng Pilipinas, tr. by Cezar C. Peralejo.
Quezon City: Mars Publishing House, 1964. 236 pp.

Several questions come to mind when one is confronted with the translation of a legal code. Is the translation necessary? How effective is the translation? Does the translation achieve its purpose? These crop up naturally, because legal codes are perhaps the most difficult works to translate. A minor mistake in translating a phrase or a word can lead to differences in the interpretation and construction of their provisions.

This translation, according to the translator himself, is intended for the common man, unable to read the Civil Code in either its Spanish or its English version, in order to apprise him of his rights and obligations under the civil law. This purpose, by itself, would seem to justify the appearance of such a volume. One asks further — in actual fact, does the justification stand? In spite of the fact that Pilipino is the national language, how many of our countrymen actually speak and read Pilipino? It may be widespread in Luzon, but certainly not in the Visayas and Mindanao, where the people apparently prefer to use their own dialects.

How effective is the translation? No person can attempt to translate any work, much less a legal code, without knowing the intricacies of the language it is to be translated into. Atty. Peralejo exhibits such knowledge and linguistic skill. It is unfortunate, however, that a legal code of the nature of our Civil Code does not lend itself to easy and exact translation. The word "Possession" is a good example. It is translated by the author as "Pamumunisyon," a term which carries neither the flavor nor the implications of the original word. Under the circumstances, however, one cannot conceive of a better substitute. The translations suffice if one simply goes over them without thinking of all the legal implications deductible. It is hoped that the readers of this translation will bear this in mind. Otherwise, mistakes may result.

Does the work achieve its purpose? This volume covers the first 711 articles of the Civil Code. Considering the actual length of this code, it will take at least two more volumes to complete the work. The paper and the binding employed lend themselves to the idea that the total cost may be beyond the reach of the common man, for whom the work is primarily intended. For practical purposes, a less expensive edition is advisable.