

BOWSTEAD ON AGENCY. Ed. F.M.B. REYNOLDS & B.J. DAVENPORT.
Fourteen Edition. [London: Sweet & Maxwell. 1976. xcix+
432+(index) 29 pp. S\$130.50]

FRIDMAN'S LAW OF AGENCY. By G.H.L. FRIDMAN. Fourth Edition.
[London: Butterworths. 1976. xxxi+332+(index) 9 pp. Hard
S\$61.50, Soft S\$36.00]

The appearance of both editions of the now standard works would ordinarily lead one to conclude that there have been massive developments in agency law. In the case of Bowstead, a new edition seems eminently justified seeing that the last one was published in 1968. However, in the case of Fridman, since the last edition in 1971 the major changes justifying this new edition appear to be only the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Act 1970 which abolished the deserted wife's agency of necessity, the Powers of Attorney Act 1971 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974 together with *Morgans v. Launchberry*.

Reflecting the growing universality, at least in common law countries, of the commercial law regimes, both works make the almost necessary wide reference to cases from non-British jurisdictions, albeit confining themselves to U.S., Canadian and Australian cases and materials.

Bowstead, has also been extensively revised to modernise particularly the illustrations used which have in earlier editions necessarily been culled from "ancient" cases. In some areas, current problems which have not been litigated are outlined in some depth. For example, the corporate and other bribery issues brought to notice by the Lockheed disclosures and the underlying agency concepts which apply are

set out at some length in the discussion on the liability of agents accepting bribes.

One reservation, the reviewer has, however, relates to the style of presentation of specialised agents, e.g. stockbrokers, shipping agents, partners and companies. Possibly because of the confines of earlier editions the discussion of the unique aspects of each of these specialised forms are dealt with under various other agency headings. Thus for a coherent view of the subject the user is obliged to make extensive use of the index and to frequently refer to differing sections of the work. It would make easier reference, if the treatment of the more significant specialised agents were dealt with together in one place. Fridman, on the other hand, quite admirably partly meets this problem with specific chapters on agency in company law, and partnership and agency.