

BOOK REVIEWS

THE HONG KONG LAW SERIES

Book Review Editor's Note:

The scarcity of authors and the limited market for their books hinder the full development of local legal literature in small jurisdictions like Hong Kong and Singapore. An unhappy compromise is to use books from the United Kingdom and hope for the occasional appearance of local works. This dependence cannot but have an impact on the development of the local system and its jurisprudence, for its local legal actors are constantly approaching legal issues from the perspective of modifications of English law. What they should be doing instead is to view their legal system as an organic whole, whose roots may have been partly English law, but which operates in a different legal environment.

One approach to this dilemma has been to embark on modest but coherent and structured law series. In Singapore, the Law Faculty has produced the Singapore Law Series, which to date has 7 monographs from Constitutional Law, Family Law, Criminal Law, Shipping Law, Banks and Banking, Legal Framework of Business Organisations and Company Law.

The Hong Kong School of Law, is to be congratulated on the first two volumes of its Hong Kong Law Series: Vol. 1 Conveyancing in Hong Kong, by Hartley Bramwell and Vol. 2 Family Law in Hong Kong, by Leonard Pegg. This is a more ambitious series of textbooks, and the two volumes published so far are a harbinger of the quality of works to come.