

and the Presbyterian Church in Scotland. However, the United Kingdom remains one of the most pluralistic states in Europe and the protection of different religious faiths has been strengthened by the 1998 Human Rights Act. In relation to the church in Northern Ireland and Wales, the author concludes that they cannot be considered established churches, although certain features of the establishment remain in their respective legislations.

On the basis of the position that he takes in his first chapter, the author concentrates on the major Christian denominations in each of the components of the United Kingdom. This is doubtless appropriate, as these may be considered national churches. It would have been interesting, if it had been possible, to include fuller consideration of the contrast between those national churches and other Christian denominations, notably the Roman Catholic Church. Nevertheless, the author is clearly aware of the variety of other religious denominations and faiths in the United Kingdom and he deals in one section with the peculiarities of the established churches within the context of the EU.

As a final note, while the author acknowledges the existence of arguments in favour of the establishment, he argues in favour of a further detachment between the state and the Church of England, allowing the Crown to retain a symbolic role that would best reflect the current plural composition of English society.

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Proceedings of the Eleventh International Congress of Medieval Canon Law, *Monumenta Iuris Canonici*; Series C: Subsidia Vol 12

EDITED BY MANLIO BELLOMO AND ORAZIO CONDORELLI

Biblioteca Apostolica, Vatican City, 2006, xxxviii + 804 pp (paperback, (€100.00) ISBN: 88-210-0801-X

The four-yearly International Congresses on Medieval Canon Law bring together a high proportion of those concerned with the topic, and provide a splendid opportunity to survey the direction of current work, or to imagine new perspectives for research. As they alternate between Europe and North America, and are held in a different centre on each occasion, they all have their distinctive local accent. Surprisingly, Catania in 2000 was the first to be held in Italy, and it is a strength of this volume that Italian scholarship and Italian canonists are particularly well represented; equally, the special interest of the Catania faculty, under the direction of Manlio Bellomo, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries is more fully treated than is usually the case. Since Catania was the birthplace of the great Panormitanus, it is only fitting that he is a powerful presence in the

essays collected here. The traditional long delay in publishing the Proceedings is a matter for regret. Of the hundred and more papers given in 2000, around half are published here; a number of others appear in the compendious *Panta rei: studi dedicati a Manlio Bellomo* (Rome, 2005). Many papers are essential for specialists. Those with wider concerns will probably find most in the two opening papers. Péter Erdő, Cardinal primas of Hungary and a noted canonist, discusses the changing relation of historical study to the practice of the law across the publications of the two Codes of Canon Law, and Peter Landau describes the long and thoughtful engagement of Stephan Kuttner with these Codes and their revision. The questions raised here are central to anyone involved in the subject – both papers deserve a wide readership.

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Huguccio Pisanus: Summa Decretorum – Distinctiones I–XX

EDITED BY OLDŘICH PŘEROVSKÝ

Vatican Apostolic Library, Vatican City, 2006, xxxiv + 372 pp (€110.00) ISBN: 978-88-210-0804-7

Alongside his seminal work on lexicography, Hugh of Pisa dedicated much of his intellectual life to teaching at the University of Bologna, interpreting and commenting on Gratian's *Decretum* (or *Concordantia discordantium canonum*), the main source of medieval canon law. The *Summa Decretorum*, which bears the fruit of such activities, is one of the most authoritative expositions of canon law of the twelfth century. Its first 20 *Distinctiones* have now been published as the first volume of a critical edition of the *Summa*. This is a project of impressive dimensions, as it is expected to number 16 volumes as a whole. The idea of a critical edition of Huguccio's writings in canon law sprung from a group of scholars (namely Stickler, Catalano, Hizing, Leonardi, Prosdocimi, Schramml and Zanetti) who revolved around the Institute of Research and Study in Medieval Canon Law in Washington, DC. Their work began in the mid-1950s and was more recently handed over to Přerovský, the editor of this first volume. This book undoubtedly represents an invaluable resource for canon lawyers, legal historians and ecclesiastical historians alike, as, of course, does the project as a whole.

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