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**THE COMMISSION FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
AND THE MEDITERRANEAN
OF THE UNION INTERNATIONALE DU NOTARIAT LATIN**

in September 2003 will publish
the **3rd** revised and updated **edition** of the book

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THE BLUE BOOK OF THE NOTARIAT LATIN

Previous editions

At the 7th Congress of the Notariat Latin in Brussels in 1963, an imposing volume bound in navy blue (thus the name Blue Book) was unveiled with the title: “*LES RÉGIMES MATRIMONIAUX ET LES SUCCESSIONS EN DROIT INTERNATIONAL PRIVÉ – Étude des solutions en vigueur dans les six pays du Marché Commun*”. In the preface, Professor François RIGAUX announced: “... mainly written by practitioners, addressed to practitioners, the work contains the answers to the principal questions that the notary has to ask himself when certain international problems require his intervention.” Further, Professor Henri BATIFFOL stated that the Notary was particularly well placed to undertake this work: “... he has the direct responsibility of problems to be resolved; he must have definitive solutions.”

The 2nd edition of the Blue Book was published in 1979, under the title “*RÉGIMES MATRIMONIAUX, SUCCESSIONS ET LIBÉRALITÉS. Droit international privé et droit comparé*”, on the occasion of the *XV U.I.N.L. Congress* and of the *30th anniversary of its founding*. Published by the Editions de la Baconnière (Neuchâtel - Switzerland), it comprised two volumes totalling 2,200 pages and encompassed the family property laws of fifteen States.

This important work has been out of print for a number of years. In several European countries, the subjects which it treated have fundamentally altered, in both internal and private international law. In the meantime, international conventions have considered these matters and treaties are already in force in a number of European States. Finally, practitioners have often regretted that the book was limited to the States of Western Europe.

It was thus essential to update the work ...

The forthcoming 3rd edition

The COMMISSION FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND THE MEDITERRANEAN of the U.I.N.L. decided to undertake the revision. The *spirit* of the work is to remain unchanged. Important innovations to this work make it fair to speak of it as a truly *complete restructuring of the previous edition*.

The GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT is no longer limited to Western European States, but extends to other member States of U.I.N.L. The volume contains about twenty national reports.

The SUBJECTS STUDIED remain those of the 2nd edition. The work will cover the entirety of private international law relative to family property: matrimonial systems, gifts and successions, with some developments on institutions such as the Anglo-Saxon trust. At the request of numerous practitioners, a review of internal law of the States on the subjects discussed has been included.

The GENERAL INTRODUCTION, which precedes the presentation by countries, is the result of the expansion of the work. It contains a general review of the subjects, making it easier to follow the national reports.

In view of the expansion of the work since the first edition, consideration has been given to an international language. Each report is published in *French* and followed by a summary in English or German.

The forthcoming edition will consist of three separate volumes and a CD-Rom, allowing for future updates.

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USEFUL

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FIRSTLY, TO PRACTITIONERS interested in explanations related to their national law: Notaries certainly, but also barristers, solicitors, judges, civil servants of international organisations or national administrations, who will find exceptional documentation collated by distinguished specialists.

To RESEARCHERS ALSO: The work is a valuable tool for law teachers (private international law, comparative law, civil law,...), for researchers and for students desiring to know not only the content of the normative precepts but also the method of applying them to concrete situations.

To LIBRARIES: It goes without saying that all libraries, general and legal, public and private, university and others, will be interested in the new “Blue Book”. It is in effect, a modern work.

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Presentation by Michel VERWILGHEN, Emeritus Professor at the Faculty of Law, Catholic University of Louvain (UCL), Editor of the “Livre Bleu du Notariat Latin”

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Reading of a will.
Honoré Daumier (Marseille, 1808 - Valmondois, 1879).

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