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## Book Review of Noble's International Guide to the Law Reports

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483. **Noble's International Guide to the Law Reports.** 1995 ed. Scott Noble, comp. and ed. Etobicoke, Ont., Nicol Island Publishing, 1995. 367p. \$110.00 spiralbound; \$90.00 spiralbound (U.S.). ISBN 0-9699467-0-8.

In this unusual book, Noble has examined the court reporters of countries from A to Z (Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, to be precise), and has charted out various characteristics of the reporters from those countries. Has Noble included every country? It is difficult to tell without consulting an encyclopedia. Is he accurate? Again, it is difficult to ascertain, but for the state of Virginia the information he provides seems fine.

So what exactly does Noble tell the reader? Much of his work consists of a matrix that includes the following information for each court reporter: (1) the abbreviation of the court reporter (in Noble's words, the abbreviation he has encountered most often. Presumably this means citations approved by the *Uniform System of Citation*); (2) the full, original title of the reporter; (3) the country (or state) whose cases are published in the reporter; (4) the years in which the published cases were decided; (5) the number of volumes in the reporter series; and (6) occasional comments by Noble, such as alternative citations, cross-references, and references to earlier or later series.

Is the guide useful? One cannot vouch that Noble's work is flawless, but it will help readers figure out the meaning of obscure legal citations and identify the judicial reporters from approximately 130 nations. Is it worth the price? If the user regularly answers questions about foreign court reports, it could be. The *Uniform System of Citation* includes much of this information for about 30 countries. The *World Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations* (see ARBA 93, entry 562) provides 8,400 abbreviations, but not the extras provided by Noble. Should the guide be purchased? For academic and other large law libraries, the answer probably is yes. Smaller law libraries probably can do without.—**James S. Heller**