

decide which body one requires by detailing the objectives as well as the address and details of the Officers.

This volume has certainly found a place with my quick reference books at the side of my desk.

M.A.C.

2. "REINSURANCE LAW"

BY JOHN BUTLER AND ROBERT MERKIN

If there is one area of insurance law in England which has seen a significant increase in activity over the past decade it is reinsurance. Case after case comes before the Commercial Court, some go to appeal and the odd one, like the recent *South Carolina v. Seven Provinces* case, even finds its way into the House of Lords.

Reflecting this development there has been an equivalent increase in the number of articles published and even conferences organised dealing with reinsurance law problems. Practitioners have therefore has a fair amount of information to go on and reference could always be made to the chapters dedicated to reinsurance law in the standard works of Professor Carter and, although more from the German point of view, Dr. Klaus Gerathewohl. What has been lacking, however, is an up to date work which deals extensively and clearly with all aspects of reinsurance law from the English point of view. For this reason the publication of "Reinsurance Law" in October 1986 is to be warmly welcomed.

John Butler, the senior author, is already well-known as the legal correspondent of "Reinsurance" and he has been joined by Robert Merkin, Director of Research at Richards Butler and Visiting Lecturer at the Centre for Commercial Law Studies at London University's Queen Mary College, to produce a work which, with its intended continuing flow of supplements, should quickly establish itself as a valuable addition to the bookshelves of both reinsurance underwriters and their legal advisers.

The format chosen by Kluwer, the publishers, is that which they used for their 2-volume work "Regulation of Insurance in the United Kingdom and Ireland", namely a loose-leaf hard back volume clearly broken down into quickly identifiable sections.

Part A is headed "Principles of Reinsurance Law" and covers such basic matters as the different forms of reinsurance, how reinsurance has developed

over the decades and what the legal nature of reinsurance is. It then deals with the formation of the contract and how the principle of the utmost good faith is applied to the reinsurance contract. It is interesting to note that the authors were able to cover the April 1986 decision in *Highlands v. Continental*, thereby giving readers a completely up to date comment.

The claims area, that most sensitive of all aspects of reinsurance and the one which is so often the breeding ground for legal disputes, is covered very fully with extensive discussion of both the nature and extent of a reinsurer's liability.

The final section, headed "General Matters" deals inter alia with winding-up and insolvency, sadly a big problem these days, and the law with regard to the rights and obligations of reinsurance brokers, an area which is of very great significance for the London Market bearing in mind that brokers often find themselves joined as third party defendants in an action brought by a ceding company against his reinsurer.

It is not only the recent legal developments which are highlighted in this eminently readable work; there is ample and fascinating coverage of the older cases which form the basis of our modern reinsurance law and of the relevant statutory provisions of, for instance, the Marine Insurance Act 1906.

"Reinsurance Law" in its hard backed binder costs £100 and it is Kluwer's intention to produce two updates per year costing approximately £12 each. The full address of the publishers is:-

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G.C.