

In This Issue

This issue of the *Law and History Review* contains three research articles, several commentaries, numbers of book reviews, an exchange sparked by a previously published book review, and an electronic resource page.

Two of the research articles—those by Rab Houston and Manon van der Heijden, and by Thomas Kuehn—are presented here in the familiar format of stand-alone essays. Houston and van der Heijden use a case study of marriage and divorce to explore the different historic laws of marriage in eighteenth-century England, Scotland, and the Netherlands, and their social context. Kuehn uses another particular socio-legal instance—legal regulation of illegitimate children's rights of inheritance in fifteenth-century Florence—to pursue at the level of practical engagement the relationship between *ius commune* (learned law) and *ius proprium* (local statute and customary law) in medieval Europe.

The third research article, by James R. Hackney, has been made the subject of a “forum”—of which, I hope, there will be more in future issues. Hackney's article offers an interpretive intellectual history of the trajectory of law-and-economics, which he seeks to situate in its relationship to wider intellectual trends in twentieth century Western thought that defined the domains of “science” and “politics.” Critical commentaries by Neil Duxbury, James J. Heckman, and James P. May explore Hackney's achievement from viewpoints grounded in law, legal-intellectual history, and economics. Professor Hackney will respond to the commentators in our next issue.

Two other features deserve brief mention. First, Joyce Malcolm and Michael Bellesiles exchange opinions of the merits of Bellesiles's review of Malcolm's *To Keep and Bear Arms: The Origins of an Anglo-American Right*, which appeared in the *Law and History Review* 14 (Fall 1996): 382–84. Where such exchanges are appropriate and likely to be generally informative we will be happy to facilitate them. In addition, readers may resort to the ASLH-affiliated electronic discussion list, H-LAW, to air opinions of the articles, reviews, and other material featured in the *Law and History Review*. To facilitate this, and more generally to keep *LHR* readers aware of the large and expanding range of opportunities, services, and resources to which H-LAW is a crucial gateway, we will make the “H-LAW Resource Page” a regular feature of the *Law and History Review*. H-LAW moderator Chris Waldrep uses this issue's inaugural page to offer readers a short orientation to H-LAW and to describe some of the resources to which subscribers can gain access.

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