

Introducing a New Kind of Letter

In this issue the *Forum* introduces a new literary form to its pages. It is an annual Letter about the most interesting developments within civil law and European legal systems. We are pleased that in this issue our colleague and fellow editor Cynthia Samuel inaugurates the series with her “Letter from Louisiana,” and we hope that our authors, contributors, and friends worldwide will respond in the next issue with their own Letter from, say, Germany, France, Italy, or from elsewhere in the civil law world. The justification for this new feature is simply that it is very convenient for the nonspecialist to read about important changes and trends occurring abroad, as interpreted by expert correspondents who in turn may themselves find the letter format to be a very convenient and less demanding literary form.

As in any communication between friends, an informal style is welcome, no particular length is desirable, and footnotes are optional adornments. We hope that an annual exchange of Letters will grow into a permanent and distinguishing feature of our review.

Vernon Palmer