

## From the Editor in Chief

The Forum, which was founded in 1973, is now more than thirty years old. As the contributions in this volume attest, The Forum still remains dedicated to its original purpose of “preserving and advancing the civilian tradition and to strengthening Louisiana’s links with Europe.” The contributions now presented relate to the subject of codification and the recodification here in Louisiana, in Asia and around the globe.

Professor David Gruning’s article expertly assesses the recodification of the Louisiana Civil Code in its present stage. He compares the past codes and the present revision to envision or map the societies behind those enactments. His perspective yields many insights into the nature of the civil code and the types of material found (and not found) in it.

From the other side of the world, Professor Goudong Xu of Xiamen University presents a birds-eye view of the current efforts in China to produce a new civil code. This may be considered a recodification of China’s first civil code of 1929 (which is still in effect in Taiwan today). The new code will become one of China’s most important modernizations. Professor Xu carefully describes the “tide of civil code projects” now on the table (as many as five complete projects are now vying for legislative approval), the legal personalities behind them, and the interesting differences between these drafts. He also skillfully relates the drafts to the world-wide scene of civil and comparative law. For instance, our readers will be gratified to know that the Louisiana Civil Code has had an important influence on one of the projects.

The final article by Thomas Tucker is a critical account of an important chapter in the history of codification in Louisiana. The period he covers, 1808-1840, is pivotal to that history and contemporary historians who debate the nature of the Digest of 1808 and the Civil Code of 1825 will read with profit what Mr. Tucker has to say. This is the first publication of his master’s thesis at the University of Glasgow which he submitted in 1972. The Forum considered it too important a document to remain unpublished. In making it accessible to scholars and readers, we are confident that it will make a lasting contribution to an understanding of the sources and origins of Louisiana civil law.