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## ***Gustavus Schmidt's Classic Work on Civil Law ...***

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Of  
Spain and Mexico.

ARRANGED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE MODERN CODES,  
WITH NOTES AND REFERENCES.

PRECEDED BY

A HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION TO THE  
SPANISH AND MEXICAN LAW;

AND EMBODYING IN AN APPENDIX SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT  
ACTS OF THE MEXICAN CONGRESS

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**“The *Civil Law of Spain and Mexico* by Gustavus Schmidt remains a major source in Mexico and other Spanish speaking countries. Its influence went beyond the reach of Spanish speaking jurisdictions: it was cited six times by the United States Supreme Court and by other courts in the states of Rhode Island and Washington, in addition to those states with colonial Spanish influence. Even more than 150 years after its publication, it is still cited by courts in the state of New Mexico.**

**The first part of the book provides one of the first comprehensive studies on Spanish legal history written in English, and therefore provides a rich and unique glossary for scholars. The second part of the book resembles a Project of a Civil Code based on the laws of Spain and Mexico and written in English; a monumental and unique work at that time, and a reflection of the quality of Schmidt as a ground-breaking jurist on comparative law.**

**The vast Hispanic background of the South of the United States may now be studied in detail with the help of the republication of the work of Schmidt.”**

*-Professor Olivier Moréteau, Russell Long Chair, and Agustín Parise, Research Associate  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center*

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# About Gustavus Schmidt



Gustavus Schmidt was born in 1795 in Sweden. His father was a successful governmental official, and later an appellate judge, and his brother Carl Christian became a Swedish Supreme Court Judge and founded the first Swedish law journal in 1830. Schmidt joined the navy and in 1815 left for the United States where he established himself as a lawyer in Richmond, Virginia. In 1830 he left for New Orleans. In 1841 Gustavus Schmidt established the first law journal in the state of Louisiana and in the deep south, the **Louisiana Law Journal**. Schmidt's journal, unlike any other law journal published in the United States but very similar to that of his brother Carl, had an international focus. The Journal was published for two years. In 1844, Schmidt established the first law school in Louisiana, *Louisiana Law School*. In 1851 he published *The Civil Law of Spain and Mexico*, one of the first works on comparative law.

- Prof. Kjell Å Modéer, Faculty of Law, at Lund University, Sweden

"When Anglo lawyers in the early American Southwest were confronted with the region's Hispanic legal heritage, the book they reached for was Gustavus Schmidt's CIVIL LAW OF SPAIN AND MEXICO."

-- Michael Widener, Rare Book Librarian, Yale Law School

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LE DIRECTEUR

Ce précieux ouvrage, publié en 1851 à la Nouvelle Orleans par Gustavus Schmidt, doit être un de premiers traités de droit comparé; j'ai été très sensible à ce geste aimable qui enrichira notre bibliothèque: elle sera certainement la seule en France à posséder un exemplaire de cet intéressant ouvrage.

R. BODIERE

(Translation)

This rare work, published in 1851 in New Orleans by Gustavus Schmidt, must be one of the first treatises in comparative law; I am very touched by this generous act which will enrich our library: it will certainly be the only one in France that will possess a copy of this important work.



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