

# Conveyancing.

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**George L Gretton and Kenneth GC Reid, CONVEYANCING**

Edinburgh: W Green (<http://www.sweetandmaxwell.co.uk/wgreen/>), 5th ed, 2018. 532pp.

ISBN 9780414032545. £84.

The fifth edition of Professors Gretton and Reid's *Conveyancing* is now with us. Those familiar with earlier editions will know what to expect. The content is much the same as in the previous edition, though of course developments since then have necessitated substantial changes in certain parts. The main change to take account of is the enactment of the Land Registration etc (Scotland) Act 2012, which has been covered in depth by the authors in their book *Land Registration* (Avizandum Publishing 2017). The authors have also kept us apprised of developments large and small through their annual updates (most recently *Conveyancing 2018* (Avizandum Publishing 2019)). It is most welcome, however, to have the effect of these developments consolidated into this single volume.

In this edition, the authors' undoubted erudition is present – few have made a greater contribution to the Scots law of property – but that erudition is worn lightly. The authors' style is as engaging as ever as they lead the reader through the subject. There is nothing here to intimidate the beginner, but the needs of the more advanced reader are also thoroughly catered to. Much further reading, for those wishing to pursue a point in greater detail, is to be found in the footnotes. If I might venture a minor criticism, it is that it would be helpful to have the titles of journal articles as well as the author and citation. As a long-standing user of the book through its various editions, I would have found it easier with that information to identify articles that I had not previously read.

As always, the authors' footnotes though are an education in themselves, and should not be overlooked. The authors range widely, covering matters from the *actio quanti minoris* (page 103, footnote 88) to the prices of fake passports (page 9, footnote 71) and the conveyancing implications of haunted houses (page 34, footnote 40). The teacher of Roman law in this reviewer particularly enjoyed the citation of first century BC case law on page 377 (footnote 37).

In a review of an earlier edition of this fine work ((2002) 6 Edin LR 139, at 140) it was said that the "names of Gretton and Reid have become as familiarly linked in the minds of Scottish conveyancers and law students as Lewis and Short or Liddell and Scott in those of classicists. Gretton and Reid has become the *vade mecum* of the fledgling conveyancing practitioner." These words are still amply justified. Nobody involved in conveyancing in Scotland can afford to be without a copy of this book.