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Principles of Commercial Law

Second Edition

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Cavendish
Publishing
Limited

London • Sydney

Second edition first published in Great Britain 2001 by Cavendish Publishing Limited, The Glass House, Wharton Street, London WC1X 9PX, United Kingdom

Telephone: + 44 (0)20 7278 8000 Facsimile: + 44 (0)20 7278 8080

Email: info@cavendishpublishing.com

Website: www.cavendishpublishing.com

This title was previously published under the Lecture Notes series

© Furmston, MP 2001

First edition 1995

Second edition 2001

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Furmston, MP (Michael Philip)

Principles of Commercial Law – 2nd ed

1 Commercial law – England 2 Commercial law – Wales

I Title II Commercial law

346.4'2'07

ISBN 1 85941 463 X

Printed and bound in Great Britain

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Second Edition



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PREFACE

The first edition of this book formed part of the Lecture Notes series, which was intended to help students by giving them a clear outline of the material to be covered in the course, so as to enable them to concentrate on the lectures and other reading within a framework which was easy to assimilate and understand. The second edition has been written with the same purpose in view although the Lecture Notes series itself is no more.

Apart from bringing the text up to date, there are two more substantial changes. The first is the disappearance of the discussion of consumer credit. If commercial law is about the relations between merchants, then the law of consumer credit, important and complex as it is, is not part of commercial law. This doctrinal consideration is reinforced by the fact that examination shows that nowadays relatively few universities include this material in courses entitled Commercial Law or something similar. I am very grateful indeed to Peter Shears for undertaking this formidable labour in the first edition. At a relatively late stage in preparation of the text, it was decided that a rather fuller treatment of agency was appropriate. My other commitments did not permit me to do this myself within the desired time frame and I am extremely grateful to Professor Richard Stone, who has not only done this, but done it better than I could have done myself.

There is a strong case for a general expansion of the whole work so that it could fit in to the Cavendish Principles series. This would present a formidable but exciting challenge but it is one which will have to be postponed until the third edition.

Michael Furmston
April 2001

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