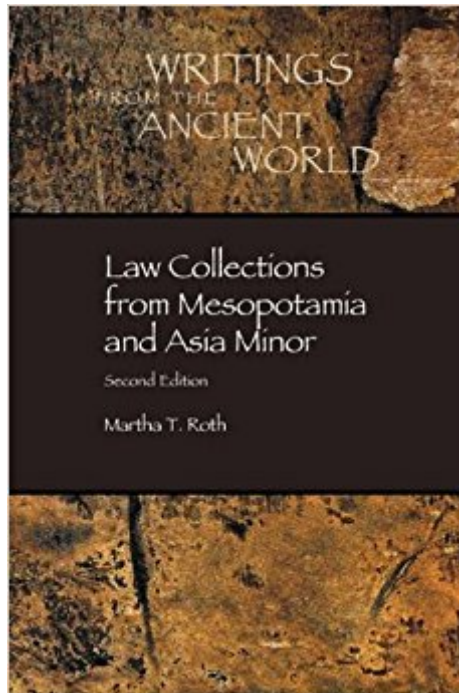




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Law Collections From Mesopotamia And Asia Minor, Second Edition



Synopsis

The law collections presented in this volume are compilations, varying in legal and literary sophistication, recorded by scribes in the schools and the royal centers of ancient Mesopotamian and Asia Minor from the end of the third millennium through the middle of the first millennium B.C.E. Sumerian, Babylonian, Assyrian, and Hittite texts, with accompanying English translations, are included. Some of the collections, like the famous Laws of Hammurabi, achieved a wide audience; others, like the Laws about Rented Oxen, were scribal exercises limited to a local school center. All, however, reflected contemporary legal practice in the scribes' recordings of contracts, administrative documents, and court cases and also provide historians with evidence of abstractions of legal rules from specific cases. In addition to the texts and translations, the volume includes a list of sources, bibliography, glossary, and numerous indexes.

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This work contains translations of all the known "law codes" in the Sumerian, Akkadian and Hittite languages. The book has a transliteration of the text on the left hand side of the page and an English translation on the right hand side of the page. Additionally, the book contains very useful glossaries and an excellent bibliography. The texts included in this volume are: "The Laws of Ur-Nammu", "The Laws of Lipit-Ishtar", "The Laws of Eshunna", "Hammurabi's Law Code", "Middle Assyrian Laws", "Middle Assyrian Palace Decrees" and "Hittite Laws" among others. The book is a simply published volume, in paperback and with a glued spine which, unfortunately, does not allow the book to be opened flat. I recommend this volume if you are interested in Mesopotamian literature or if you are learning Sumerian, Akkadian or Hittite. Since the transliterations are included, this book can be used as a source of more advanced translation practice for students of any of these languages.

I found this book to be exceedingly helpful in understanding ANE law codes.

Roth presents the Sumerian and Akkadian texts of the various law codes from Mesopotamia, translating clearly and indexing by legal categories. Chapter on Hittite laws (Asia Minor, c. 1650 BC) was written by Harry Hoffner, whose recent scientific edition "Laws of the Hittites. A Critical Edition" is published by Brill in 1997. Separate indexes for the Hittite laws. Excellent background for understanding Biblical laws.

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