



The European Society for
History of Law

NEWSLETTER

OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR HISTORY OF LAW

Nr. 1

Vol. 1

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ISSN 2694-7587

Dear members
of The European Society for History of Law,
in October 2015 we have decided to inform our members in Czech republic about news in history of law, Roman law, canon law and the history of legal thought through a newsletter, which is published four times a year. This year we have decided to start publishing an international newsletter for our members, which is going to inform about news and events with international impact.

This newsletter contains also invitations to conferences and for the future we would like to include reviews and annotations of recently published monographs and also reports about scientific activities, mainly conferences, seminars, doctoral thesis defences or important jubilees.

The newsletter has its own ISSN and will be published only in an electronic version twice a

year. Members of the European Society for History of Law will receive it via e-mail and also it will be available for general public at www.historyoflaw.eu, which also contains an archive of previously issued newsletters.

We would also like to invite Facebook users to join our Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/271287786103/>. This represents an opportunity to receive quick updates about news in our fields of interest.

In the end we would like to encourage all members to participate in the creation of this newsletter. Mainly we would appreciate reports from conferences and thesis defences or reviews and annotations of monographs. Also we would welcome publishing invitations to conferences.

*Board of Directors
The European Society for History of Law*

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR HISTORY OF LAW

The European Society for History of Law was established in the autumn of 2009 based on the efforts of the legal historians from Brno who discussed their idea to establish such a society with numerous partners and co-researchers from other European countries. The European Society for History of Law brings together all those who are interested in history of law. The founders of the society believed that history of law is inseparable from the general history, history of religions, regional history or, for instance, the economic history. Knowing the history may help better understand the processes which had taken place in the past, for the contemporary codifications valid in the particular European states are the results of a long-lasting historical development.

The European Society for History of Law makes it possible for everyone interested in history of law to understand the historical consequences of the contemporary and future laws. It also mediates and explains the historical approaches to some legal issues and the almost forgotten judicial decisions to the practicing lawyers.

One of the objectives of the European Society for History of Law is to support the research in the field of legal history, Roman law and history of legal thought in various European countries. The society therefore focuses mainly on legal systems and legal institutes, legal structures and prominent persons of history of law, legal science and the history of legal thought.

Members of the European Society for History of Law may also use the society's website to publish their bibliography so that it is available to broad public. The society's website also provides information about the ongoing conferences, seminars and colloquiums concerning history of law and Roman law.

The activities of the society may be divided into three sections: (i) publishing monographs, textbooks, collections of papers; (ii) helping and co-organizing the publishing of the Journal on European History of Law; and (iii) organizing scientific conferences, seminars and colloquiums.

The European Society for History of Law organizes conferences, lectures, seminars, excursions and gatherings for its members. At these events, there are usually discussed the ongoing issues of European history of law and which also provide room for presenting the scientific findings of the legal historians of Europe.

One of the most important activities of the society is also cooperation with publishing of the peer reviewed Journal on European History of Law (ISSN 2042-6402), in which are articles in English and German. This journal is also a mean by which the findings of legal history and Roman law are presented to readers from all over the world. The journal is managed by an international board whose members are from ten different European countries.

The European Society for History of Law brings together not only the academics, but also prominent persons from judiciary, especially the Constitutional Court, state attorneys, advocacy or public administration who significantly contribute to meeting the goals of the society.

The European Society for History of Law closely cooperates with the Department of History of the State and Law of the Faculty of Law at Masaryk University. The European Society for History of Law creates a platform for cooperation among the European legal historians and legal and historical research centers concerning, for example, publishing or meetings of legal historians. The European Society for History of Law has a great potential also due to its location, i.e. that it is located "in the middle of Europe" and thus it may help to connect legal historians and legal jurisprudence of both the former Eastern Bloc and the countries of the Western Europe.

More information about the activities and goals of the European Society for History of Law are available at the website www.historyoflaw.eu.

AN OVERVIEW OF MONOGRAPHS PUBLISHED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2019

Old Legal History

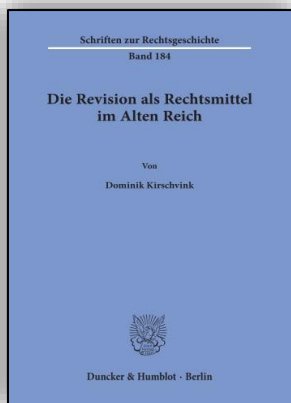


KOMMENTAR ZUR "SYNOPSIS CANONUM" Eleftheria Papagianni at all.

ISBN 978-3110586794

De Gruyter, 2019, 319 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



DIE REVISION ALS RECHTSMITTEL IM ALTEN REICH Dominik Kirschvink

ISBN 978-3-428-15478-4

Duncker & Humblot, 2019, 230 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

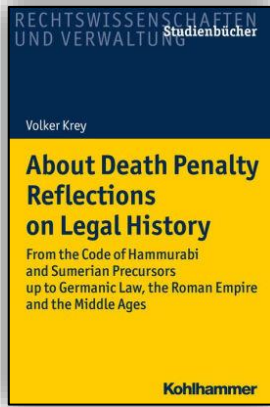


KULTURELLE VERNETZUNG IN EUROPA: DAS MAGDEBURGER RECHT UND SEINE STÄDTE Gabriele Köster, Christina Link, Heiner Lück (eds.)

ISBN 978-3954984527

Sandstein Kommunikation, 2019, 520 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

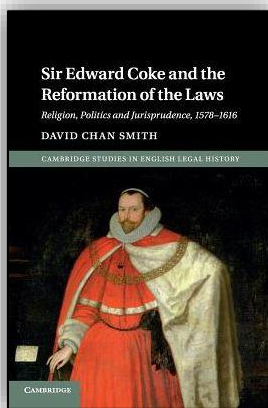


**ABOUT DEATH PENALTY. REFLECTIONS ON LEGAL HISTORY:
FROM THE CODE OF HAMMURABI AND SUMERIAN
PRECURSORS UP TO GEMANIC LAW, THE ROMAN EMPIRE
AND THE MIDDLE AGES**
Volker Krey

ISBN 9783170367852

Kohlhammer Verlag, 2019, 38 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

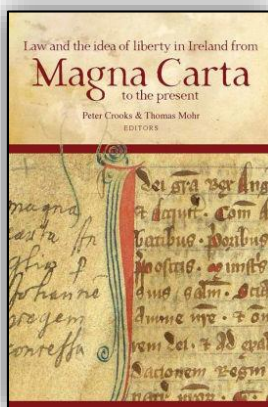


**SIR EDWARD COKE AND THE REFORMATION OF THE LAWS:
RELIGION, POLITICS AND JURISPRUDENCE, 1578-1616**
David Chan Smith

ISBN 9781107639546

Cambridge University Press, 2019, 309 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

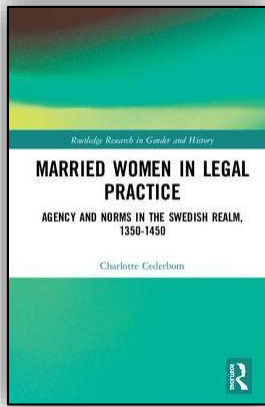


**LAW AND THE IDEA OF LIBERTY IN IRELAND FROM MAGNA
CARTA TO THE PRESENT**
Peter Crooks, Thomas Mohr (eds.)

ISBN 9781846827402

Four Courts Press, 2019, 320 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



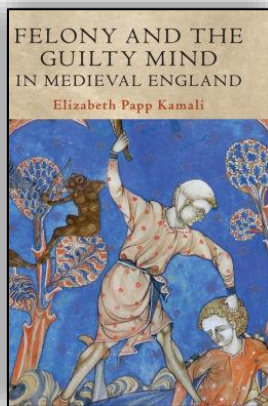
**MARRIED WOMEN IN LEGAL PRACTICE: AGENCY AND NORMS
IN THE SWEDISH REALM, 1350-1450**

Charlotte Cederbom

ISBN 9780367363123

Taylor & Francis, 2019, 224 pages

More information about the book [here](#):



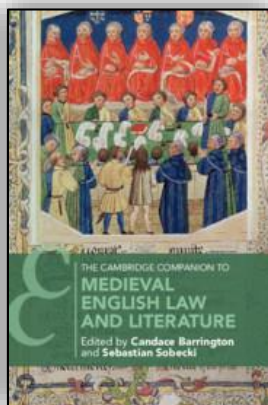
FELONY AND THE GUILTY MIND IN MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

Elizabeth Papp Kamali

ISBN 9781108498791

Cambridge University Press, 2019, 365 pages

More information about the book [here](#):



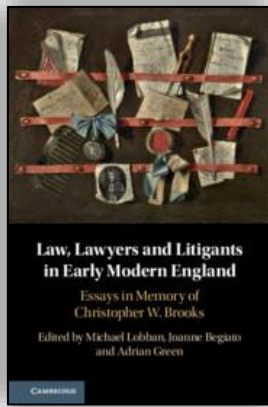
**THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO MEDIEVAL ENGLISH LAW
AND LITERATURE**

Candace Barrington, Sebastian Sobceki

ISBN 9781316632345

Cambridge University Press, 2019, 232 pages

More information about the book [here](#):

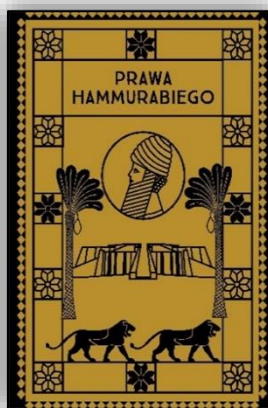


**LAW, LAWYERS AND LITIGANTS IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND.
ESSAYS IN MEMORY OF CHRISTOPHER W. BROOKS**
Michael Lobban, Joanne Begiato, Adrian Green (eds.)

ISBN 9781108491723

Cambridge University Press, 2019, 384 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



PRAWA HAMMURABIEGO
Josef Klima

ISBN 978-83-934565-1-2

Domarton, 2019, 307 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

Modern Legal History



EUROPÄISCHE VERFASSUNGEN 1789-1990. TEXTSAMMLUNG
2. Auflage
Hinnerk Wißmann

ISBN 978-3-16-157038-4

Mohr Siebeck, 2019, 583 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



PRIVATRECHTSGESCHICHTE
Steffen Schlinker / Hannes Ludyga / Andreas Bergmann

ISBN 978-3-406-73124-2

C. H. Beck, 2019, 400 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



IURA NOVIT CURIA IN INTERNATIONALEN SCHIEDSVERFAHREN: EINE HISTORISCH-RECHTSVERGLEICHENDE STUDIE ZU DEN GRUNDLAGEN DER RECHTSERMITTLUNG

Björn Centner

ISBN 978-3-16-156832-9

Mohr Siebeck, 2019, 391 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



GESCHICHTE DES AKTIENRECHTS IN DER SCHWEIZ 1863-1991
Theodor Bühler

ISBN 978-3725579068

Schulthess Juristische Medien, 2019, 372 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



**DAS STRAFRECHT DES HERZOGTUMS BRAUNSCHWEIG IM
19. JAHRHUNDERT BIS ZUM REICHSTRAFGESETZBUCH**
Benedikt Beßmann

ISBN 978-3110646542

De Gruyter, 2019, 288 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



**ZUR RICHTSPRAXIS IM 19. JAHRHUNDERT: EIN
SCHMUGGELEIPROZESS AM OBERAPPELLATIONSGERICHT
LÜBECK. EINFÜHRUNG UND EDITION.**

Peter Oestmann

ISBN 978-3412513351

Böhlau Verlag, 2019, 1104 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



**DIE VERFASSUNG VON CÁDIZ (1812): SPANIENS SPRUNG IN
DIE MODERNE, GESPIEGELT AN DER VERFASSUNG
KURHESSENS VON 1831**

Olaf Kroon

ISBN 978-3110627541

De Gruyter, 2019, 224 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



VON DER 'POLIZEI DER DEMOKRATIE' ZUM 'GLIED UND WERKZEUG DER NATIONALSOZIALISTISCHEN GEMEINSCHAFT'

Antonio Vera

ISBN 978-3848756223

Nomos Verlag, 2019, 625 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



NATIONALSOZIALISTISCHES STRAFRECHT: KONTINUITÄT UND RADIKALISIERUNG

Kai Ambos

ISBN 978-3848756315

Nomos Verlag, 2019, 169 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



DER PARLAMENTARISCHE RAT 1948-1949: DIE ENTSTEHUNG DES GRUNDGESETZES

Michael F. Feldkamp

ISBN 978-3525105658

Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2019, 266 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



**FORM – VERFAHREN – STRUKTUR.
ENTWICKLUNGEN IM NOTARBERUF SEIT 1800**
Mathias Schmoeckel (eds.)

ISBN 978-3-8487-5464-9

Nomos Verlag, 2019, 201 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



**SCHWERT DER JUSTIZ: DAS RICHTSVOLLZIEHERWESEN
IN DEUTSCHLAND VON 1800 BIS ZUR GEGENWART**
Manfred Görtemaker / Kristina Hübener

ISBN 978-3954102426

be.bra wissenschaft, 2019, 256 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



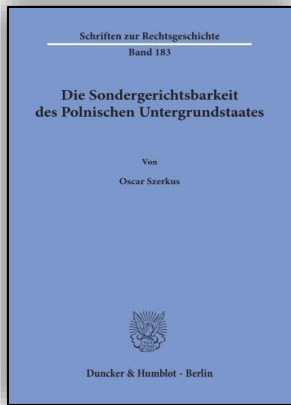
**DAS LEISTUNGSSTÖRUNGSRECHT DES POLNISCHEN
OBLIGATIONSGESETZBUCHS VON 1933 UND DAS DEUTSCHE
RECHT**

Antje Franz

ISBN 978-3-631-79010-6

Peter Lang GmbH, 2019, 263 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

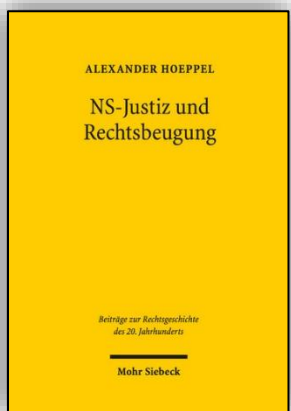


**DIE SONDERGERICHTSBARKEIT DES POLNISCHEN
UNTERGRUNDSTAATES**
Oscar Szerkus

ISBN 978-3-428-15681-8

Duncker & Humblot, 2019, 469 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

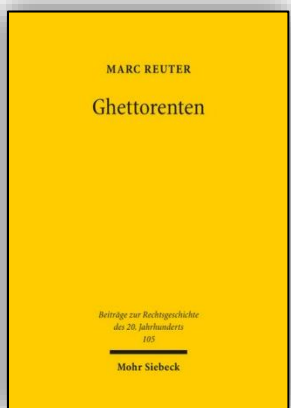


**NS-JUSTIZ UND RECHTSBEUGUNG. DIE STRAFRECHTLICHE
AHDUNG DEUTSCHER JUSTIZVERBRECHEN NACH 1945**
Alexander Hoepfel

ISBN 978-3954102426

Mohr Siebeck, 2019, 630 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



**GHETTORENTEN. EINE RECHTSMETHODISCHE UND -
HISTORISCHE UNTERSUCHUNG ZUM UMGANG MIT
NATIONALSOZIALISTISCHEM UNRECHT
IN DER SOZIALVERSICHERUNG**
Marc Reuter

ISBN 978-3-16-156573-1

Mohr Siebeck, 2019, 296 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



**DIE SICHERUNGSVERWAHRUNG IM NATIONALSOZIALISMUS
UND IHRE FORTENTWICKLUNG BIS HEUTE:
EINE AUFARBEITUNG ANHAND VON FÄLLEN**
Kristina Schuster

ISBN 978-3848753642

Nomos Verlag, 2019, 287 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



**MAUTHAUSEN VOR GERICHT.
NACHKRIEGSPROZESSE IM INTERNATIONALEN VERGLEICH**
Christian Rabl

ISBN 978-3-7003-2114-9

C. H. Beck, 2019, 348 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

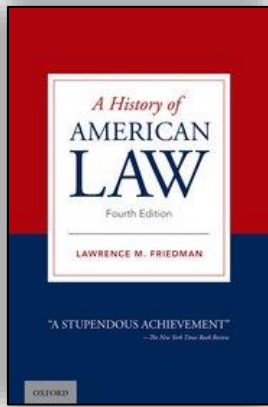


**NEUAUSRICHTUNG DES STAATSSCHUTZES NACH 1945? DIE
BEISPIELE BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND, ITALIEN UND
ÖSTERREICH**
Hilde Farthofer

ISBN 978-3-525-31084-7

Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2019, 610 pages

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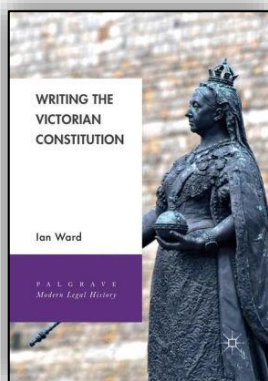


A HISTORY OF AMERICAN LAW
Lawrence M. Friedman

ISBN 9780190070885

Oxford University Press, 2019, 808 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

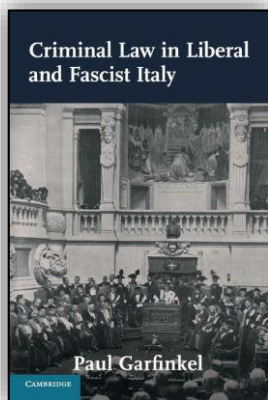


WRITING THE VICTORIAN CONSTITUTION
Ian Ward

ISBN 9783030072315

Springer Nature Customer Service Center GmbH, 2019, 226 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

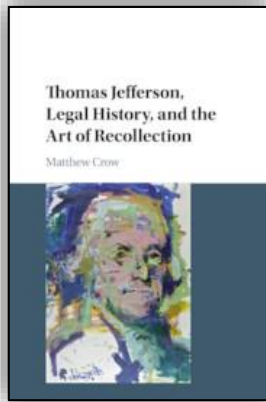


CRIMINAL LAW IN LIBERAL AND FASCIST ITALY
Paul Garfinkel

ISBN 9781107520141

Cambridge University Press, 2019, 554 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



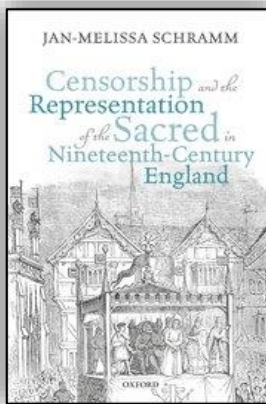
THOMAS JEFFERSON, LEGAL HISTORY, AND THE ART OF RE-COLLECTION

Matthew Crow

ISBN 9781316614129

Cambridge University Press, 2019

More information about the book [here](#):



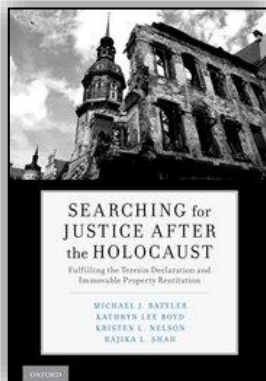
CENSORSHIP AND THE REPRESENTATION OF THE SACRED IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY ENGLAND

Jan-Melissa Schramm

ISBN 9780198826064

Oxford University Press, 2019, 288 pages

More information about the book [here](#):



SEARCHING FOR JUSTICE AFTER THE HOLOCAUST

Michael J. Bazyler, Kathryn Lee Boyd, Kristen L. Nelson, Rajika L. Shah

ISBN 9780190923068

Oxford University Press, 2019, 568 pages

More information about the book [here](#):



FRANCISZEK LONGCHAMPS DE BÉRIER. PISMA WYBRANE Z LAT 1934-1970
Zbigniew Kmiecik

ISBN 978-83-8160-666-0

Wolters Kluwer Polska, 2019, 426 pages

More information about the book [here](#):

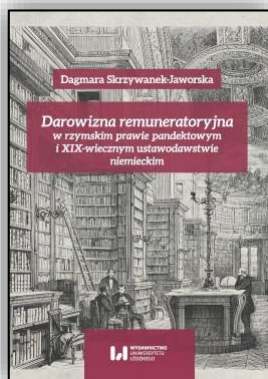


MIĘDZY TRADYCJĄ A NOWOCZESNOŚCIĄ. PRAWO POLSKIE W 100-LECIE ODZYSKANIA NIEPODLEGŁOŚCI
Łukasz Pisarczyk

ISBN 978-83-8160-334-8

Wolters Kluwer Polska, 2019, 616 pages

More information about the book [here](#):



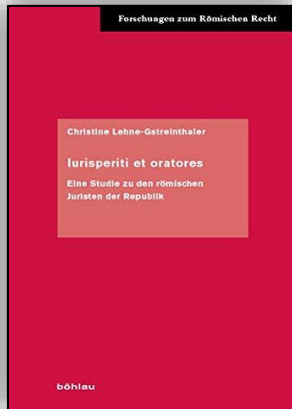
DAROWIZNA REMUNERATORYJNA W RZYMSKIM PRAWIE PANDEKTOWYM I XIX-WIECZNYM USTAWODAWSTWIE NIEMIECKIM
Dagmara Skrzywanek-Jaworska

ISBN 978-83-8142-387-8

Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 2019, 292 pages

More information about the book [here](#):

Roman Law



IURISPERITI ET ORATORES: EINE STUDIE ZU DEN RÖMISCHEN JURISTEN DER REPUBLIK Christine Lehne-Gstreinthaler

ISBN 978-3412508999

Böhlau Verlag, 2019, 464 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



METUS: DER PRÄTORISCHE RECHTSSCHUTZ BEI FURCHT, ZWANG UND GEWALT Julia Gaulhofer

ISBN 978-3205202981

Böhlau Verlag, 2019, 368 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



PERPETUATIO OBLIGATIONIS: LEISTUNGSPFLICHT TROTZ UNMÖGLICHKEIT IM KLASSISCHEN RECHT Gregor Albers

ISBN 978-3412515072

Böhlau Verlag, 2019, 419 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



RÖMISCHES PRIVATRECHT: AUF GRUNDLAGE DER INSTITUTIONEN IUSTINIANS

Jens Peter Meincke

ISBN 978-3848755530

Nomos Verlag, 2019, 160 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



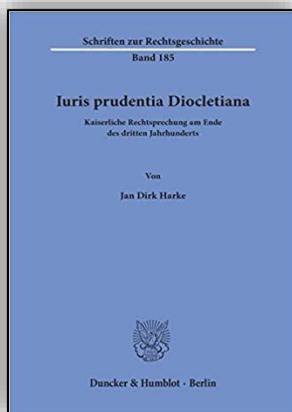
DIE «RES EXTRA COMMERCIIUM» IM RÖMISCHEN RECHT

Gero Alvensleben

ISBN 978-3631768280

Peter Lang GmbH, 2019, 192 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



IURIS PRUDENTIA DIOCLETIANA: KAISERLICHE RECHTSPRECHUNG AM ENDE DES DRITTEN JAHRHUNDERTS

Jan Dirk Harke

ISBN 978-3428156986

Duncker & Humblot, 2019, 361 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

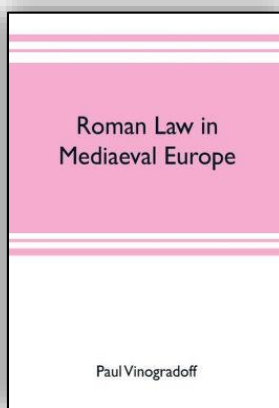


**FREIHEITSBESCHRÄNKUNGEN DER DEKURIONEN IN DER SPÄTANTIKE
(SKLAVEREI – KNECHTSCHAFT – ZWANGSARBEIT)
Alexander Baumann**

ISBN 978-3487311906

Olms, Georg, 2019, 232 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

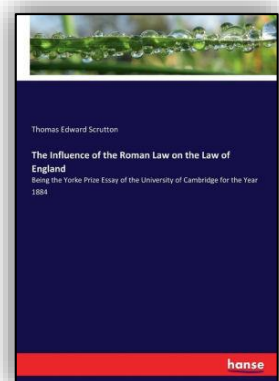


**ROMAN LAW IN MEDIAEVAL EUROPE
Paul Vinogradoff**

ISBN 9789353703455

Alpha Edition, 2019, 150 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

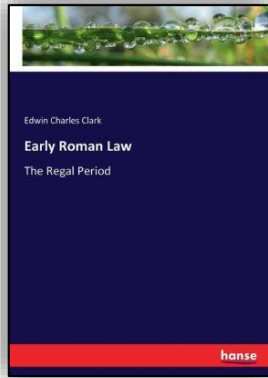


**THE INFLUENCE OF THE ROMAN LAW ON THE LAW OF ENGLAND
Thomas Edward Scrutton**

ISBN 9783337007836

Bod Third Party Titles, 2019, 250 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



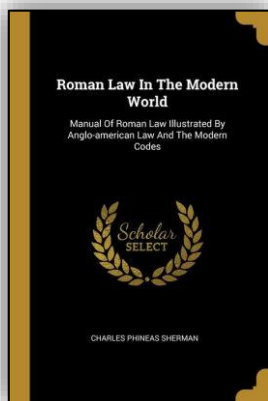
EARLY ROMAN LAW. THE REGAL PERIOD

Edwin Charles Clark

ISBN 9783744774758

Bod Third Party Titles, 2019, 164 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



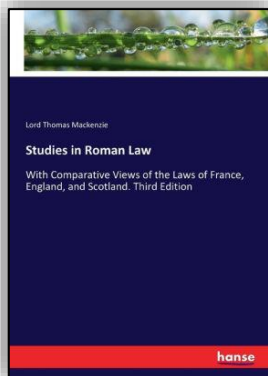
ROMAN LAW IN THE MODERN WORLD: MANUAL OF ROMAN LAW ILLUSTRATED BY ANGLO-AMERICAN LAW AND THE MODERN CODES

Charles Phineas Sherman

ISBN 9781010896975

Creative Media Partners, LLC, 2019, 534 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



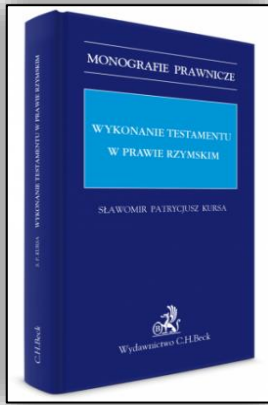
STUDIES IN ROMAN LAW

Lord Thomas Mackenzie

ISBN 9783744773300

Bod Third Party Titles, 2019, 444 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

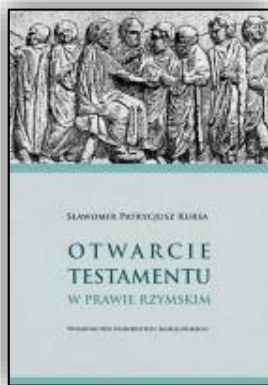


WYKONANIE TESTAMENTU W PRAWIE RZYMSKIM
Sławomir P. Kursa

ISBN 978-83-8158-246-9

Wydawnictwo C.H.Beck, 2019, 156 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



OTWARCIE TESTAMENTU W PRAWIE RZYMSKIM
Sławomir P. Kursa

ISBN 978-83-233-4579-4

Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, 2019, 150 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)



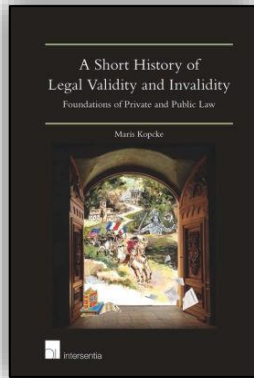
PRAWO RZYMSKIE W ANGLII W XVIII WIEKU
Łukasz Jan Korporowicz

ISBN 978-83-8142-323-6

Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 2019, 238 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

Other Topics

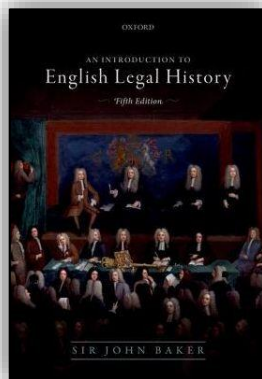


**A SHORT HISTORY OF LEGAL VALIDITY AND INVALIDITY:
FOUNDATIONS OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LAW**
Maris Kopcke

ISBN 9781780688152

Intersentia, 2019, 119 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

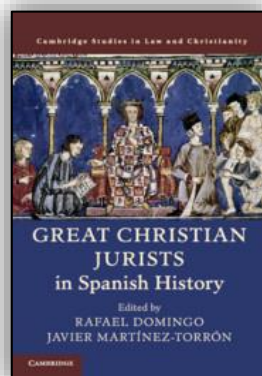


INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LEGAL HISTORY
John Baker

ISBN 9780198812609

Oxford University Press, 2019, 704 pages

More information about the book [here:](#)

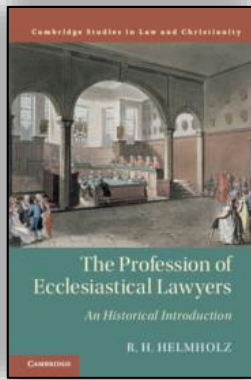


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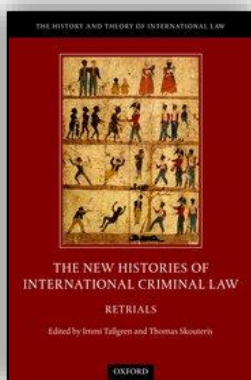


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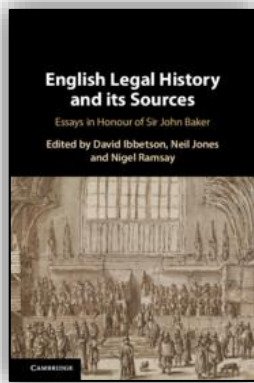


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BOOK REVIEWS

Cosmin Sebastian Cercel: Towards a Jurisprudence of State Communism: Law and the Failure of Communism

Siegfried Hanke / Rainer Vogel (Hg.): Urbar Freudenthal (Bruntál) 1604. Urbar der Herrschaft Freudenthal (Bruntál) von 1618

Bernd Rütters: Die unbegrenzte Auslegung

Peter Landau: Deutsche Rechtsgeschichte im Kontext Europas. Vierzig Aufsätze in vier Jahrzehnten

João Nuno Pereira, Jochen Zenthöfer: Einführung in das luxemburgische Recht

Markus Gehrlein: Franz Schäfer – Ein Juristenleben vom Kaiserreich bis zum Bonner Grundgesetz

Stephan Meder (Hg.): Geschichte und Zukunft des Urheberrechts

Silke von Lewinski / Heinz Wittmann (Hg.): Urheberrecht! Festschrift für Hon.-Prof. Dr. Michel M. Walter zum 80. Geburtstag

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Christian Neschwara: „Zum immerwährenden Gedenken an die Ausrufung des Freistaates“: Das Selbstbild der (deutsch-)österreichischen Republik 1918/19 und seine Verdrängung

Martin Paar: Zur Geschichte des österreichischen Weinrechts von 1907 bis 1985

Thomas Gergen: Entscheidungsfindung auf kommunaler Ebene vor 80 Jahren – Mobilmachung 1939 im Landkreis Saarlouis

Malte Wilke, Stefan Segerling: Politisierte Beleidigungsprozesse in der Weimarer Republik

Martin Löhnig: Die norwegische Verfassung von 1814 in der deutschen Verfassungspublizistik des 19. Jahrhunderts

Javier Belda Iniesta, Michela Coretti: The Clementines Dispendiosam and Saepe Contingit and the Evolution of the Medieval Summary Procedure

Dmitry Poldnikov: Two Divergent Approaches to Comparative Legal Studies in Europe and Their Implications for Legal History

Bartosz Kamil Truszkowski: Registration of Civil Status in the Second Polish Republic (1918 – 1939)

Karol Siemaszko: Criminals and Criminality on the so-called Recovered Territories (Poland) after the End of WW II (1945 – 1950) in the Light of Judicature of the Selected Polish Regional Courts

József Szalma: Die Kodifikationsentwicklung des Zivilrechts in Serbien – insbesondere über den Vorentwurf des Bürgerlichen Gesetzbuches und über das neue Handelsgesetzbuch der Republik Serbien

Pavel Salák: The Dating of Last Wills in the Territory of the Czech Lands from the 19th to the 21st Century

Pál Sály: The Ancient Roman Pollicitatio and a Similar Hungarian Legal Institution

Kinga Beliznai Bódi: Judicial Robe. The Insignia of the Judicial Profession

Jenő Szmodis: Some Newer Views to the Problems of the Hungarian Holy Crown and Holy Crown-Doctrine. (Considerations from Historical and Legal Historical Aspects)

Árpád Olivér Homicskó: The History of the Hungarian Social Security Regulation until the Present Day

Zoltan J. Toth: The Last Three Decades of Capital Punishment in Hungary: The Process of Abolition between 1961 – 1990

Katalin Siska: “You cannot put women and men on an equal footing, it is against nature.” A Review of the Evolution of Women’s Rights since the Establishment of the Republic of Turkey

Barbara Ellen Logan: Pedagogy and Punishment: Distinguishing Between Erudire and Iniuria in Roman Education and Law

Thomas Gergen: Le concile de Charroux (989) et les coutumes du comté de la Marche: A la recherche des mécanismes de règlement de conflits

Diemut Majer, Wolfgang Höhne: Europäische Einigungsbestrebungen vom Mittelalter bis zur Gründung der Europäischen Wirtschaftsgemeinschaft (EWG) 1957 – Teil IV.

REPORTS FROM HISTORY OF LAW

Bericht zum Symposium für Hans Jürgen Becker zum Thema Deutscher Bund und nationale Rechtseinheit an der Universität Regensburg am 21. und 22. März 2019



Professions and Methods in Comparative Legal History

1-3 July 2020, University of Lisbon, Portugal

The Organising Committee of the 6th Biennial Conference and the Executive Council of the ESCLH are pleased to call for papers for the upcoming conference to be held. The main theme picks up threads of thought from the earlier ESCLH conferences in Valencia (2010), Amsterdam (2012), Macerata (2014), Gdansk (2016), Paris (2018) to explore what roles Professions and Methods have played, and continue to play, within comparative legal history. Offers of papers should be submitted by 15 November 2019 (details below).

The conference will focus on legal professions and method, especially the methods of legal professionals across Europe and the world. Judges, lawyers and other legal professions have developed differently from country to country and even now, we can find substantial differences in training, method, role and work. Legal methodology, including the motivation of judicial decisions, lawyerly style and method of arguing cases needs to be studied in historical and comparative perspective to understand where we are now, and where we might be heading.

Papers could probe the process of emergence and evolution of legal professions, from their institutional aspects and their understanding of their jobs, through to technical matters of method. They could also study the effects of structure of legal professions on the on the way law functions, most obviously through case law. Papers which also look through the lens of the historical context of the countries in which the legal professions operated are welcome.

Papers should be novel, properly researched and referenced. They should address the conference theme, exploring doctrinal, theoretical, cultural or methodological aspects of comparative legal history. They must also be comparative, addressing more than one system of laws. The organisers particularly welcome **addressing multiple legal systems or cultures**. This includes where a similar legal system functions in different cultural circles.

Practical details:

1. To offer a paper, please send the title of their paper, a **short abstract** (of 200-400 words, no more, and a short CV (no more than 1 page) by **15 November 2019** to the organizing committee, c/o esclhinlisbon2020@fd.ulisboa.pt
2. The presentations should be in **English**.
3. It is also possible to submit a complete proposal for one or more **panels** (3 papers normally).
4. The list of accepted papers will be announced by **early December 2019**.



INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
WEIMAR AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL CYCLE POST *GREAT WAR*

In the Centenary of the Weimar Constitution, 1919-2019

Lisbon Geographic Society

November 28-29, 2019

Elapsing in 2019, a century since the creation and implementation of the Weimar Constitution, the Lisbon Geographic Society promotes, in co-organization with the European Centre for the Study of Constitutional History (CHC), with the Institute of Contemporary History (IHC) of NOVA University Lisbon, with the CEDIS – Research Centre on Law and Society of NOVA University Lisbon, and with the *Universidade Europeia*, the holding of an International Congress dedicated to this event. The Congress will take place on 28 and 29 November, seeking to bring together the contribution of researchers and interested, around the following thematic areas:

- I – Weimar Constitution Weimar in constitutional history and historiography
- II – The historical-political context of the Weimar Constitution
- III – The Weimar Constitution: sources, works and constituents
- IV – The organization of political power in the Weimar Constitution
- V – The fundamental rights in the Weimar Constitution
- VI – The coeval Constitutions of Weimar: The Constitutions of the End of the Great War
- VII – The coeval Constitutions of Weimar: The Constitutions of the immediate *post* War
- VIII – The influence of the Weimar Constitution

Experts and interested in participating are invited to send, until September 30, to the congress email: congressoweimar2019@hotmail.com, the theme and the respective abstract (maximum of two pages), accompanied by a biographical note. After examination by the Scientific Council, the authors will be duly notified until October 10.



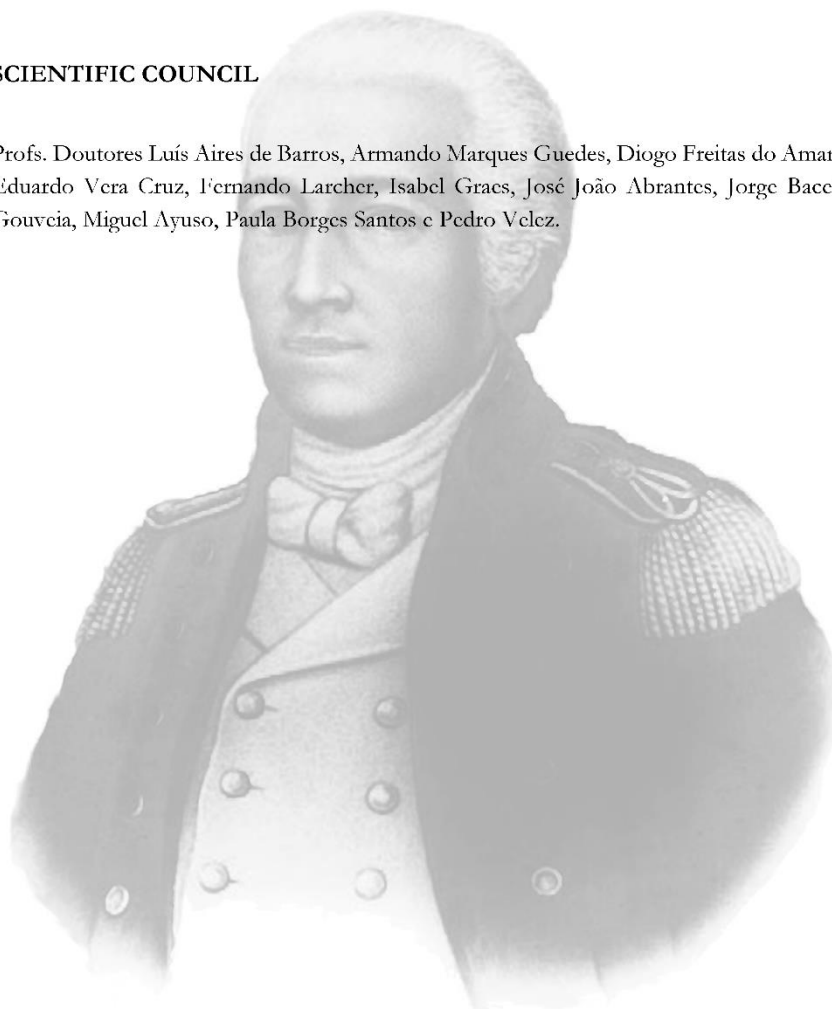
The final program, as well as the volume with abstracts of the communications, will be available from November 9.

Participants in the Congress are requested to send their final text by December 31.

The official languages of the Congress are Portuguese, Spanish, French, English and German.

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Prof. Doutores Luís Aires de Barros, Armando Marques Guedes, Diogo Freitas do Amaral, Eduardo Vera Cruz, Fernando Larcher, Isabel Graes, José João Abrantes, Jorge Bacelar Gouvêa, Miguel Ayuso, Paula Borges Santos e Pedro Velz.



Conference “Digital Methods and Resources in Legal History”

19-20 March 2020

Max Planck Institute for European Legal History, Frankfurt/Main, Germany

Organization: Sigrid Amedick, Andreas Wagner

Introduction

The digital turn that changes society as we are watching has reached far into academia and even into the humanities as well. Digital methods are in use in academic fields like archaeology, music, art history, and digital resources are being established in literature studies, history, media studies and many more. (And that is not even mentioning fields arguably closer to quantitative methods such as social and political sciences, psychology or linguistics.) Computers are now involved in the gathering and preparation of research objects (e.g. digital audio records of interviews, digital images of manuscript pages, harvesting of social media on internet platforms, “cleaning” the resulting raw audio/video or text data, photogrammetrical extrapolation of archaeological 3D models etc), in their collection and curation (e.g. classifying objects in catalogues, linking cross-references over the internet, or providing smart access points to a digital collection), in their perusal, exploration and analysis (via search interfaces that include features like suggestion mechanisms and fuzzy matches, via various forms of complexity reduction, information extraction and exploratory visualization) and in the enhanced publication of research results (e.g. instantiating cross-references as hyperlinks, combining different media and dynamic forms of visualization, or offering interactive elements). Even in the field of applicable law, databases provide access to legislation and case law, sometimes going back to the 17th century, and they offer “intelligent” methods like semantic querying or citation extraction. In fact, while expectations of research policy makers and a general interest even of many non-technical legal historians have become tangible, the array of potentially useful resources and methods has already become quite confusing.

Another feature of digital approaches in the humanities that stands out is their inter- or transdisciplinary nature. In making use of digital methods and resources, scholars almost inevitably come into contact with persons, experiences and approaches from other disciplines: not only do they have to negotiate the applicability in their domain or the possible extensibility of existing tools and resources with the providers of the latter, but they also learn about the use of the same tools and resources in other disciplines, with slightly different, or maybe even

quite similar questions and perspectives. On the other hand, as those who are already using digital tools in the various disciplines can confirm, they can hardly ever be applied to a new field without difficulties, and frequently, what at first might seem to be a small but necessary modification is in fact a substantial challenge on the conceptual level, so that the seemingly effortless transdisciplinary use of those methods and tools is actually backed by continuing processes of critique, revision and redesign. The experience in other disciplines suggests that a more intense discussion of digital methods and resources in legal history is likely to reveal new challenges for toolmakers, too, and that it can be expected to promote the development of new tools that answer specific needs of legal history more directly.

While by now, more than just a few projects making use of such techniques have made their contributions to legal history, the uptake of those techniques in legal history as a field is still rather hesitant. To some extent this is probably due to the limited visibility of these methods (which is often related to disciplinary boundaries) and to the limited knowledge of how they may respond to genuinely legal-historical questions. In 2016, a [forum of the journal *Rechtsgeschichte*](#) has discussed the character of such projects' results (in some cases by tentatively translating results from other disciplines to legal history), and a [special issue of the *Law and History Review*](#) has presented a number of pioneering projects (with a – maybe unintended – exclusively Anglo-american focus), but by now a more encompassing, more concrete, and more differentiated picture can be drawn. Thus, we think it is a good moment to assemble legal historians and discuss what role digital methods play in their respective projects and what some of the aspects of a *digital legal history*, taken more generally, could be.

To that end, the *Max Planck Institute for European Legal History* holds a conference on “Digital Methods and Resources in Legal History” in March 2020, bringing together scholars with experiences and interest in digital methods who contribute to the composition of such a picture. Besides the presentation and critical discussion of methods, resources and project results, the conference also seeks to provide an opportunity for legal history scholars who are interested in digital approaches to get to know each other and begin building a community of sorts. In this vein, we will devote some sections of the conference to the discussion of common needs, of communication and collaboration strategies, and of perspectives relating the digital turn to the development of the discipline.

Call for Papers/Posters

With this conference, we want to provide an opportunity to present collections, databases, gazetteers and similar resources of relevance to legal history, but also to have demonstrations of how these or other resources, and how digital methods in general have been put to use in concrete project contexts. Note that we explicitly invite reports about research questions, projects or approaches that have *failed* to find or create digital means to work with in a satisfactory manner, too. Some of the questions that could be discussed are the following:

- what insights in legal history have been made possible by the use of digital methods and resources?
- how do you integrate digital methods with hermeneutical and narrative aspects of your work?
- how are popular digital methods of analysis applied in legal history?
- what aspects of texts and objects are particularly relevant for legal history and how can they be modelled and processed in digital approaches?
- how do data-driven methods differ from other approaches in legal history?
- which limitations did you encounter when trying to use digital tools or methods?
- which digital resources are presently available, waiting to be exploited by legal history?
- which resources are lacking?

The conference combines invited talks with an open Call for Papers/Posters, so when submitting, please indicate whether you intend your submission as a talk or a poster proposal.

Paper submissions should have a length of up to 1.200 words, excluding references. Please also add a short abstract (150-300 words) for publication with the preliminary program.

Poster submissions should have a length of up to 500 words, excluding references. There will be an opportunity invite the audience to your poster during a poster slam. Please also add a short abstract for publication with the preliminary program.

Please note that submissions will not be anonymized in the review process.

The primary language of the conference will be English, but if you want to hold your presentation in another language, please get in touch with us so we can discuss the options.

Important dates

- Please submit your proposal by: 2019-09-15
- Notifications of acceptance will be sent by: 2019-10-30
- Conference dates: 19-20 March 2020

Contact, fees and administrative issues

Submissions should be sent by e-mail to dlh@rg.mpg.de.

There is no conference fee. For paper presenters, we will provide accommodation and reimburse travel costs according to the institute's general guidelines. (If you are presenting and want to organize your accommodation yourself, please get in touch so we can clarify conditions of reimbursement.) For poster presenters, we can

provide reimbursement of up to 400 € for travel and accommodation costs, according to the institute's guidelines.

The conference venue is the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History, Hansaallee 41, 60323 Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Directions for getting to the venue can be found [on the Institute's website](#).

For all questions and comments, you are very welcome to contact us by sending e-mail to: dlh@rg.mpg.de

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