# SIX ROMAN LAWS

TRANSLATED WITH
INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY
E.D. HARDY, M.A. D.LITT

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BY

## E. G. HARDY, M.A., D.LITT

FELLOW AND TUTOR OF JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD

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### PREFACE

I HAVE been induced to undertake the somewhat unattractive and to me at least the not altogether easy task of translating a few of the longer and more important laws in Bruns's collection, because my own experience has convinced me that some such help is indispensable if these sources of evidence are to be accessible to our younger students in Roman History. That they should be encouraged to make use at first hand of this kind of evidence it is quite unnecessary to insist, since it has long been the tradition of historical teaching at Oxford to base the study of every period as far as possible upon the original authorities, or at least to recognize that even the best of modern works should be tested by every possible criticism. verification, and correction from these sources. But a two years' course involving subjects so various and comprehensive as those required for Literae Humaniores implies serious time limitations both upon students and lecturers. Among the former even our best men-at least this is my experience both as tutor and examiner-very rarely make any real acquaintance with these longer inscriptions. They are deterred partly by the unfamiliar legal phraseology, partly by the numerous gaps and lacunae, and in any case by the time required for translating so much not over easy Latin. On the other hand, lecturers can only deal adequately with the evidence contained in these laws in special courses, and even so, unless the texts themselves are read, perhaps not very much is gained. object, therefore, is to make these laws accessible to all men who are reading for Literae Humaniores. To read the original is of course better than to read a translation, and I should hope that the best men would in using this book have a copy

of Bruns open before them and refer to it on the more important passages. But even apart from this, it seems to me much better that these inscriptions should be read in a translation than not read at all.

My first intention, suggested perhaps too readily by what then seemed feasible, was to let the laws speak entirely for themselves and to attempt no notes or explanations; but I realized as my work proceeded that some comments and explanations were absolutely necessary, and that if I did not supply them either my object would be defeated or my readers would have to apply to their own tutors. I have, therefore, prefixed a general introductory explanation to each law, and have added a certain number of footnotes. It has been my aim, however, to add the latter only where some technical point required explanation or where the meaning was obscured by repeated lacunae. The latter difficulty is especially frequent in the second part of the Lex Agraria.

My translation is made, by kind permission of the publisher, J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck) of Tübingen, from the sixth edition of Bruns, 1893. The seventh edition was published in 1909, a fact of which I only became aware after the book had passed through the press.

The new edition, however, so far as I have been able to discover, introduces no change in any of the laws which I have translated. I have not attempted in my translation to distinguish between the extant text and the conjectural supplement by the use of italics or square brackets, although in a few cases I have employed the latter where I thought it important to point out the conjectural character of the reading. Nor have I thought it necessary to insert the approximate number of letters missing in the lacunae.

It is my hope and intention to continue these translations in a second volume which will contain among other things the Lex Ursonensis, the two Latin charters from Spain, and possibly the Monumentum Ancyranum.

For the thorough and careful index which will, I hope, materially increase the value of the book for purposes of reference, I am indebted to Mr. P. A. Seymour, scholar of Jesus College, to whom I take this opportunity of acknowledging my obligation.

I have to express my thanks to the Master of Balliol, under whose notice a considerable part of the translation came when it was first submitted to the Press, for several corrections and suggestions which I have gladly adopted. I owe a similar debt of gratitude to Mr. P. E. Matheson, of New College, who as a Delegate of the Press went carefully through the whole of the proofs, noting many inaccuracies, and in particular calling my attention to several passages where my translation deviated from the last edition of Bruns. Without the patient assistance all through of my friend Mr. J. C. Haire, the work could not have advanced beyond the actual translation. He has not only corrected all the proofs and taken infinite pains in finding and verifying references, but has contributed so much to the completion of my work that his name might very fairly have appeared on the title-page as joint author. My obligations to others do not end here, as the whole book was written in Braille and typed out by Mr. H. W. Prebble with amazing correctness, considering the difficulty and complexity of the work and my own often faulty writing. I have lastly every reason to thank the staff at the Clarendon Press, not only for their promptitude and wonderfully careful printing, but for verifying and in some cases correcting my references.

I should add that Messrs. Macmillan and the Editors of the Journal of Philology have courteously allowed me to reprint an article contributed by me to that journal which, with slight variations, forms the Introduction to the Lex Agraria.

E. G. HARDY.

OXFORD, Feb. 28, 1911.

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