ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The subject of my Brandeis University doctoral dissertation in the year 1963 was “The Laws of the Hittites”. That dissertation, published subsequently by University Microfilms in the American dissertation series, was my first engagement with this text. It was not an edition, but consisted of a fresh English translation, a series of lexical studies, and a summary of Hittite law in traditional Western legal categories. In subsequent years I engaged myself with the broader field of Hittitology and only occasionally returned to the subject of the laws: in 1966b for an encyclopedia article about Hittite law, in 1969b on Hittite laws resembling the legislation of ancient Israel, in 1973b on the laws dealing with ḥurkel, in 1982 the verb šuwayne- which occurs in the ubiquitous parnašša šuwayezzi, in 1995b giving a survey of the legal institutions, in 1995a giving a new English translation, and in 1997 investigating the subject of homicide.

When a representative of the publishing house of E. J. Brill approached me several years ago, asking if I would be interested in producing a new edition of the laws to replace J. Friedrich’s 1959 edition, I was challenged by the project, which I knew would consume much time.

Although responsibility for all views expressed herein remains my own, I should like to acknowledge here the generous assistance offered me from many quarters. Photographic prints of manuscripts A, B and p were sold to me by the Berlin Museum and permission granted to publish them in this book. Professor Horst Klengel made several collations for me from tablets and photos in Berlin. Professor Heinrich Otten and Dr. Silvin Košak of Mainz communicated to me unpublished fragments belonging to the laws. Professors Otten and Neu kindly supplied photos of published joins to manuscript A (KBo 6.2+), reproduced here in Plates 3a, 3b and 10. Prof. H. C. Melchert and Drs. Richard Beal and Hripsime Haroutunian kindly read early drafts of the transliteration and translation. Professor Hans G. Güterbock generously gave me the use of his transliterations of the laws. Any ideas about readings which I derived from any of these helps have been explicitly acknowledged in the transliteration and translation. Professor Erich Neu generously shared with me by letter his views on the dating of certain copies of the laws. Dr. Haroutunian and graduate students Simrit Dhesi, Kathleen Mineck and Steven Thurston helped compose the glossary. Some proofreading was done by graduate student Scott Branting. Technical advice in the formatting of the book as camera-ready copy was given by Mr. Thomas Urban of the Oriental Institute Publications Office and by Ms. Patricia Radder of E. J. Brill.

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