Frederick Parker Walton’s *Historical Introduction to Roman Law* is a magisterial work that was part of the movement for the revival of Roman law teaching in the Anglo-American world…”

Introduction, iii

**Historical Introduction to the Roman Law**

*Fourth Edition, Revised (1920)*

**Frederick Parker Walton**

iii-vii (new introduction), xvi, 394 pp.

*With a New Introduction*  
by  
**Michael H. Hoeflich**  
John H. & John M. Kane Professor of Law  
University of Kansas School of Law

“With the exception of the Bible there is no book which has so profoundly affected western civilization as the *Corpus Juris*.“ With these suggestive words Dean Walton begins his clear and interesting summary of the history of the Roman Law before Justinian. Intended as an introduction to the study in Montreal of the Roman law in its modern form, and especially as it appears today in the law of the Province of Quebec, it is equally valuable for one who is to learn the modern Civil law and for one to whom Roman law is of interest only as a wonderful and effective example of the human intellect applied to the complex affairs of an imperial civilization. Dean Walton describes clearly and convincingly not only the history of important legal doctrines, but also the constitutional history of Rome so far as it had to do with the making of law. The author’s learning is evident, but not obtrusive; his grasp of the subject is complete; his enthusiasm is, even to a devotee of the Common Law, almost contagious. Of especial value to a student of English law are his description of the growth of the commercial law at Rome, his explanation of the ante-Justinian sources of law, and his theory of the development of the jus gentium. In publishing in so handy a form just the facts about the history of Roman law that we most need to know, Dean Walton has deserved the thanks of the profession.


**Frederick Parker Walton** [1858–1948] studied classics at Oxford, received his LLB at the University of Edinburgh and became an advocate in that city. He lectured in Roman law at the University of Glasgow before he was appointed Dean of the law faculty, McGill University, Montreal. He was the author of *The Egyptian Law of Obligations* (1920) and other works on Scottish and Canadian law.
The History of the Roman or Civil Law
Shewing Its Origin and Progress; How, and When the Several parts of It Were First Compil’d; ... To Which is Added, Dr. Duck’s Treatise on the Use and Authority of the Civil Law in England (1724)
Claude Joseph de Ferriere
John Beaver, Translator. Sir Arthur Duck.

The History of the Origine of the French Laws
Translated from the French by J.B. Esq., With a Preface and Notes Shewing, the Analogy of the Laws of the Antient Gauls and Britons
v (iii-v new introduction), [ix], iv, [1], 169, xxxviii, [8], vii, 105, 7 pp.

Through the influence of Doctors’ Commons and the universities the civilians played an important role in the development of English law, especially in the fields of commercial, estate and admiralty law. Despite its value, study of the civil law had entered a moribund phase by the eighteenth century. Several student handbooks attempted to correct this deficiency, and Beaver’s translation of Ferriere’s treatise is among the best. Accompanied by Duck’s learned essay that connects the civil law to the common law, the work is among the first in English to establish the confluence of these legal traditions. Also included is Beaver’s translation of The History of the Origine of the French Laws, Translated from the French by J.B. Esq., Shewing, the Analogy of the Laws of the Antient Gauls and Britons. First published anonymously in 1703, it has been attributed to Ferriere, Gabriel Argou and Claude Fleury.

An Analysis of the Civil Law
In Which a Comparison Is Occasionally Made between the Roman Laws and Those of England. A New Edition With Alterations and Additions, Being the Heads of a Course of Lectures Publicly Read in the University of Cambridge by John William Geldart... (1836)
Samuel Hallifax

Reprint of the final and best edition. In 1774 Hallifax, Bishop of Gloucester, Regius Professor of Civil Law at Cambridge University and teacher of Sir Henry Maine, offered a course of lectures on “the Roman Civil Law.” According to the Dictionary of National Biography, they were “attended by persons of the highest rank and fortune at the university.” The lectures were published that year and reissued in 1775, 1779 and 1818. Geldart became Regius Professor in 1814. His lectures are interesting because they offer a snapshot of civil law studies at Cambridge a half-century later.

History of the Roman-Dutch Law (1908)
Johannes Wilhelmus Wessels
iv (new introduction), xx, 791 pp.

Roman-Dutch law is a hybrid of medieval Dutch law, mainly Germanic in origin, and Roman law as defined by the Corpus Juris Civilis and its later reception. It was developed in Holland during the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Bynkershoek, Damhouder, Grotius and other important Roman-Dutch scholars had a profound influence on the development of European civil law and were the primary conduit that brought civil-law ideas to America. Dutch colonists exported it to South Africa, where it became the primary component of its current legal system. This engagingly written history by a judge of the Transvaal Supreme Court offers a thorough analysis of Roman-Dutch jurisprudence and its intellectual background. He devotes a great deal of attention to its literature, and he analyzes several treatises at length. Valuable as an introduction to one of the most important legal systems in history, it is equally useful as a reference.
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<td>Translated with Notes by J.T. Abdy and Bryan Walker</td>
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<td>In Latin with a parallel English translation. One of the five authorities accepted by Justinian, it is the primary source of the Institutes.</td>
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<td>Probably the first doctrine on the conflict of laws. Bartolus was one of the great medieval commentators.</td>
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<td>[ii], 333-808 pp.</td>
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<td>A comprehensive reference that includes a useful English-Latin law glossary and an extensive bibliography (centered on English-language publications) that covers all of the dictionary’s topics. A formidable research tool.</td>
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<td>“An indispensable reference.”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ancient Roman Statutes</strong></td>
<td>Allan Chester Johnson, Paul Robinson Coleman-Norton and Frank Card Bourne</td>
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<td><strong>State and Family in Early Rome (1908)</strong></td>
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David Yale, Yale Law Journal 71 (1961-1962) 1370, 1374

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