Dharmasūtra Parallels: Containing the Dharmasūtras of Āpastambha, Gautama, Baudhāyana, and Vasiṣṭha. Edited and translated by PATRICK OLIVELLE. Delhi: MOTILAL BANARSIDASS, 2005. Pp. 230. Rs. 29700.

This extremely useful work lays out, in synoptic fashion, the parallel passages found in the early dharmasütras—the legal treatises, mostly in prose, associated with particular Vedic schools, that precede the major dharmasästras, especially the Mānava Dharma Śāstra, the law code of Manu. It is organized by topic, from "Sources of Dharma" through "Legitimate Seizure of Property"; there are thirty main headings, each with a number of subheadings. For each topic the treatments of each text, in both Sanskrit and English translation,

are arranged in tabular form, allowing easy comparison of provisions and wording across texts. This layout also allows one easily to see when a particular text does not treat a particular topic, a lacuna that can be almost as interesting as the treatment itself. Though the passages from the various dharmasūtras are not presented in the order of the text, a complete index allows the treatment of any passage to be located in the main text.

There is a minimal introduction and no notes. The book is designed to be used with Olivelle's invaluable edition and translation of these same texts, his 2000 Dharmasūtras: The Law Code of Apastambha, Gautama, Baudhāyana, and Vasiṣṭha (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass), a review of which I hope will be forthcoming in JAOS. Needless to say, the text and translations in the volume under review are extracted from the 2000 edition. The special value of this present work is the direct access it affords to comparative approaches to the same topic, and this access should stimulate even more scholarly work on the development of early Indian law.