

Martha T. Roth continues her research into the social and legal history of ancient Mesopotamia, concentrating on the family history of late first-millennium B.C. Babylonia. In particular, her investigations focus on the "marginal" populations: on women, children, male and female dependent classes — that is, on those elements of society other than the free, male, elite populations associated with the established economic and political structures of the temple and palace — and on the institutions and societal norms within which these marginal groups operated. Some of her recent work has explored questions relating to these groups. She has published and lectured on the age at first marriage for males and females and its ramifications for household structure; on adultery and marital exclusivity; on social and economic options available to unmarried women. Two studies currently in press deal with dowries and marriage strategies: "The Dowries of the Women of the Itti-Marduk-balātu Family" (to appear in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*) is a case study of the matrimonial properties of nine women in three generations who marry into and out of a single Babylonian family; and "The Material Composition of the Neo-Babylonian Dowry" (to appear in *Archiv für Orientforschung*) explores the categories and components of first-millennium dowries. Work in progress includes a study of widows in first-millennium Babylonia and a study of "mixed marriages" between members of the slave and free populations and the heritability of dependent status.

Autumn 1989 saw the publication of *Studies in Honor of Åke W. Sjöberg*, a festschrift with fifty-nine contributions to Assyriological, Sumerological, and Biblical studies, which Roth was pleased to co-edit (with H. Behrens and D. Loding) in honor of her friend and teacher. Roth's own offering in the volume publishes a cuneiform tablet from The Oriental Institute's collections, a record of a court case heard by the judges of King Cyrus II in Uruk in 530 B.C. in which a former slave, who had been dedicated to the temple almost nine years earlier by his now-deceased master, successfully contested the right of the latter's widow to transfer ownership of his person.

In addition, Roth continues her work on the *Chicago Assyrian Dictionary*, of which she is an Associate Editor (see separate report).