

**Przepisy prawne najstarszych „kodeksów” mezopotamskich,  
ustanawiające kary dla ludzi wolnych**

**The regulations of the oldest Mesopotamian’s law “Codes”  
which established penalties for free men**

SUMMARY

The article is engaged in regulations of the oldest Mesopotamian’s law “codes” (“codes” of Ur-Nammu, Lipit-Istar and Hammurabi; moreover “code” from Eshunna and fragments of the unknown Mesopotamian law “codes”) which established penalties for free men. In author’s opinion constitution of the talion’s principle by Hammurabi was more progressive then older financial compensation’s principle. He suggests that money’s compensation’s principle discriminated the poor who were not able to pay. Despite we haven’t any proves, they probably had to be punished in different way (perhaps according to the talion’s principle). In other hand very rich men who didn’t afraid the fines could feel themselves safely (if not related only authors of the heaviest crimes who were threatened by total punishment). Author also takes into consideration that both conceptions: the financial compensation’s principle and the talion’s principle were connected with cultural traditions and mode of life of communities which invited them. The first conception was probably characteristic for municipal Mesopotamian civilization of third millennium B.C., the second one was typical as we suppose for Old-Babylonian Period, face of which was. in great measure, shaped by Amorites who in that time and not long earlier began changing their mode of life from nomadic to settled.