# Table of Contents

Preface ix–x  

Chapter I: Introduction: The Social Study of the Mishnah 1–34  
A. Definitions and Historical Background 2  
   1. *The Mishnah.* 2  
   2. *The historical background.* 5  
   3. Rabbis in Palestine. 13  
B. Methodology 19  
   1. *The Mishnah as a literary artifact.* 20  
   2. *The Mishnah as a historical document.* 27  
   3. The limitations of this study and areas for future research. 31  

Chapter II: Mishnah Tractate *Baba’ Mesi’a*': Literary and Redactional Problems 35–118  
A. Sources in the Mishnah 37  
   1. Context, terminology, style. 40  
   2. Parallels. 50  
B. The Shape of Sources 59  
   1. Strategies. 60  
   2. Nominative absolute (article + participle) series. 67  
C. Traces of the Redactional Process 83  
   1. Codas. 84  
   2. Glosses, revisions, corrections. 86  
   3. Redaction as literary creation. 94  
D. The Problem of Attributions 98  
   1. Catalogue of attributed statements. 101  
   2. Attributed statements in *m. Baba’ Mesi’a*'. 105  
   3. Attributions and the nominative absolute series. 113  
E. Conclusions: The Mishnah as a Literary Artifact 115
Chapter III: Institutions and Relationships in Mishnah Tractate Baba\textsuperscript{ opponents} Mesi\textsuperscript{ opponents} 119–235

A. Economic Institutions
   1. Money.

B. Economic and Social Relationships
   1. Finder and loser.
   2. Deposits.
   3. Buyer and seller.
   4. Lender and borrower.
   5. Laborer and employer.

C. Conclusions

Chapter IV: Conclusions: Rabbinic Civil Law and the Social History of Roman Galilee 237–241

Appendix I: Mishnah Tractate Baba\textsuperscript{ opponents} Mesi\textsuperscript{ opponents}: Text, Translation, and Annotation 243–310

Appendix II: Mishnah Tractate Baba\textsuperscript{ opponents} Mesi\textsuperscript{ opponents} and Other “Tannaitic” Corpora 311–329

Abbreviations and Bibliography 331–347

Index of Primary Sources 349–363

Index of Subjects 365–368