

The Mishnah in Contemporary Perspective

Volume Two

Edited by
Alan J. Avery-Peck and Jacob Neusner



BRILL LEIDEN • BOSTON 2006

CONTENTS

Preface	vii
Anecdotal Evidence: The Yavneh Conundrum, Birkat Hamminim, and the Problem of Talmudic Historiography Daniel Boyarin University of California, Berkeley	1
On the Quality of the Rabbinic Text: The Opening of the Mishnah Dalia Hoshen University of Manchester	36
The Construction of Households in the Mishnah	55
The Mishnah in Historical and Religious Context	81
The Structure and Implicit Message of Mishnah Tractate Nazir Simcha Fishbane Touro College	110
Archaeology and the Mishnah's Halakhic Tradition: The Case of Stone Vessels and Ritual Baths Eyal Regev Bar-Ilan University	136
The Poetics of the Mishnah Avraham Walfish Herzog Teachers Academy	153

vi CONTENTS

Why We Cannot Assume the Historical Reliability of	
Attributions: The Case of the Houses in Mishnah-Tosefta	
Makhshirin	190
Jacob Neusner	
Bard College	
Subject Index	213