

Hadith, Piety, and Law

Selected Studies

by Christopher Melchert

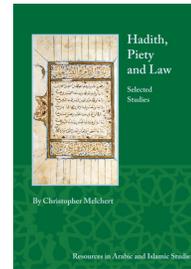
DESCRIPTION:

The publication of *The Formation of the Sunni Schools of Law, Ninth-Tenth Centuries C.E.*, first as a University of Pennsylvania doctoral dissertation in 1992, and subsequently as a monograph in 1997 (*Studies in Islamic Law and Society*, Brill), established Christoph Melchert as a preeminent scholar of the history of Islamic law and institutions. Through close readings of works on fiqh, meticulous unpacking of data in biographical dictionaries, and careful attention to curricular, pious, pedagogical, and scholarly practices, Melchert has subsequently illuminated the processes and procedures that undergirded the development of Islamic movements and institutions in the formative period of Islam.

The present volume brings together sixteen of his articles, including those considered his most important as well as ones that are difficult to access. Originally published between 1997 and 2014, they are arranged chronologically under three rubrics—hadith, piety, and law. The material is presented in a new format, updated by Melchert where appropriate, and indexed. The appearance of these articles together in a single volume makes this book a highly significant and welcome contribution to the field of classical Islamic Studies.

CONTRIBUTORS BIOGRAPHIES:

Christopher Melchert is professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Oxford. His main interests are Islamic movements and institutions, Sufism and renunciant and other pietistic movements, and the life and works of Ahmad ibn Hanbal, on all of which he has published more than fifty major articles, as well as a biography in the *Makers of the Muslim World* series—Ahmad ibn Hanbal (Oneworld, 2006). Melchert has held a Social Science Research Council Fellowship (Syria), a Fulbright Fellowship (Turkey), and a Charlotte Newcombe Fellowship, and has been a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, and most recently at the National Humanities Center in Durham, North Carolina.



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