Legal formularies are books of model legal documents compiled by early medieval scribes for their own use and that of their pupils. A major source for the history of early medieval Europe, they document social relations beyond the narrow world of the political elite. Formularies offer much information regarding the lives of ordinary people: sales and gifts of land, divorces, adoptions, and disputes over labour as well as theft, rape or murder. Until now, the use of formularies as a historical source has been hampered by severe methodological problems, in particular through the difficulty of establishing a precise chronological or geographical context for them. By taking a fresh look at Frankish legal formularies from the Merovingian and Carolingian periods, this book provides an invaluable, detailed analysis of the problems and possibilities associated with formularies, and will be required reading for scholars of early medieval history.

Alice Rio is Osborn Fellow in Medieval History and Culture, Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge.
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LEGAL PRACTICE AND THE WRITTEN WORD IN THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES

*Frankish Formulae, c. 500–1000*

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The decision to turn my PhD research into a book came somewhat late in the day, so that some parts of it will already have been published elsewhere: chapter 9 was published separately as an article (‘Freedom and unfreedom in early medieval Francia: the evidence of the legal formularies’, in *Past & Present* 193 (2006), 7–40), and appears here only with some minor adjustments; the discussions of the formularies of Angers and Marculf in chapter 4 appeared in a similar state in the introduction to the translation of these two texts published with Liverpool University Press.
Acknowledgements

ABBREVIATIONS

BHL Bibliotheca Hagiographica Latina
CCL Corpus Christianorum Series Latina
C. Th. Codex Theodosianus, ed. T. Mommsen and P.M. Meyer (Berlin, 1905)
Kölzer DM T. Kölzer, ed., Die Urkunden der Merovinger, MGH Diplomata regum Francorum e stirpe merovingica (Hanover, 2001)
MIÖG Mitteilung des Instituts für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung
MGH Monumenta Germaniae Historica
MGH Capitularia ed. A. Boretius, Capitularia regnum Francorum, MGH Leges II, 2 vols (Hanover, 1883–97)
MGH Formulae ed. K. Zeumer, Formulae Merovingici et Karolini aevi, MGH Leges V (Hanover, 1886)
NA Neues Archiv der Gesellschaft für ältere deutsche Geschichtskunde
SK D. Schaller and E. Könsgen, Initia carminum latinorum saeculo undecimo antiquorum (Gottingen, 1977)
TRHS Transactions of the Royal Historical Society
ZSSRG Zeitschrift der Savigny-Stiftung für Rechtsgeschichte: GA Germanistische Abteilung
RA Romanistische Abteilung