

The Digesta



The Digesta, or “The Digest,” was released in 533 and is often considered the most important part of the new code. Assembled by a team of sixteen lawyers, led by Tribonian, “The Digest” organized the incredibly massive and confusing bulk of thoughts and writings from the famous jurists of the past, deciding which opinions were to be recognized and which were to be left out. When they were done, “The Digest” filled fifty books. All material not included in these was considered invalid.

The Institutiones



The Institutiones, or “The Institutes,” was published in 533, the same year as the Digesta. “The Institutes” was much simpler than the previous two parts of the code. It was basically an elementary textbook for beginner law students to study in order to understand the new code.