

**11. Activities of Shao
Xinchen, Han Dynasty,
before 33 B.C.E.**

[Shao] Hsin-ch'en [Xinchen] was promoted to be grand administrator of Nanyang. . . . Hsin-ch'en was a person of energy and plans; he took an interest in creating benefits for the people and regarded it as his urgent task to enrich them. Crossing in and out of the fields, stopping and resting even at remote vil-lages and cantons, and having very little time for quiet living, he personally en-couraged farming.

As he traveled about, he inspected the waters and springs in the command-ery. He dug canals and ditches and built water gates and dikes in several tens of places in all to expand the irrigated land, which increased year by year to as much as [500,000 acres]. The people obtained benefits from this and had a sur-plus of stores.

Hsin-ch'en formulated regulations for the people concerning the equitable distribution of water. They were inscribed on stones and set up at the bound-aries of the fields to prevent disputes over the distribution [of water].

Source 12 from B. K. Workman, editor and translator, They Saw It Happen in Classical Times (New York: Barnes & Noble, 1964), pp. 179-181.

**8. Sections from the Code of
Hammurabi Referring to
Irrigation, 1750 B.C.E.**

53. If a man neglects to maintain his dike and does not strengthen it, and a break is made in his dike and the water carries away the farmland, the man in whose dike the break has been made shall replace the grain which has been damaged.

54. If he is not able to replace the grain, they shall sell him and his goods and the farmers whose grain the water has carried away shall divide [the results of the sale].

55. If a man opens his canal for irrigation, and neglects it and the water car-ries away an adjacent field, he shall pay out grain on the basis of the adjacent field.

56. If a man opens up the water and the water carries away the improve-ments of an adjacent field, he shall pay out ten *gur* of grain per *bur* [of damaged land]. . . .

66. If a man has stolen a watering-machine from the meadow, he shall pay five shekels of silver to the owner of the watering-machine.

Source 9 from Joseph Needham, Science and Civilization in China, Vol. 4, Pt. 3 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1974), p. 285.