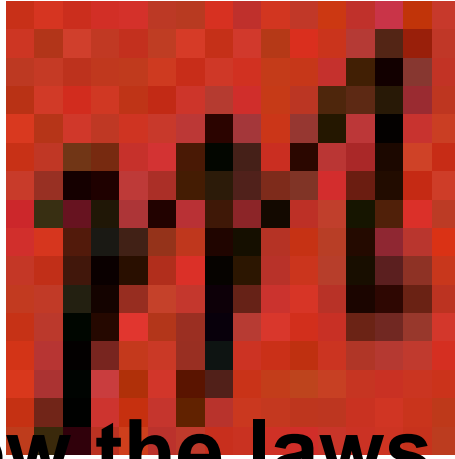


<http://montesquieu.ens-lyon.fr/spip.php?article2903>



XIX.23 How the laws follow the ethos

- The Spirit of Law - Book XIX. On the laws in the relation they have to the principles that constitute the general spirit, the ethos, and the manners of a nation -

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XIX.23 How the laws follow the ethos

In the times when the Roman ethos was pure, there was no particular law against embezzlement. When this crime began to appear, it was held to be so loathsome that being condemned to restore [\[1\]](#) what one had taken was considered a great punishment, witness the trial of L. Scipion. [\[2\]](#)

[\[1\]](#) *In simplum*.

[\[2\]](#) Livy, book XXXVIII.