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## Torah, Temple, Land

### Constructions of Judaism in Antiquity

Edited by Markus Witte, Jens Schröter, and Verena Lepper

2021. Approx. 320 pages.  
forthcoming in January

ISBN 9783161598531  
cloth approx. 135,00 €

ISBN 9783161598548  
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The present volume contains the proceedings of a conference held in October 2018 at Humboldt University Berlin. The articles reflect the different categories of describing Judaism of the Second Temple Period in view of their sustainability in characterising an ancient religious community in different historical situations and discuss relevant (re)constructions of ancient Judaism in the history of scholarship. Since the Persian period, ancient Judaism existed in a world which was in constant flux regarding its political, social, and religious contexts. Consequently, Judaism was subject to permanent processes of change in its self-perception as well as its external perception. In all complexity, however, the Torah, the Temple(s) as a place where heaven meets the earth, and the 'holy' or 'promised' land as the dwelling place of God's people can be regarded as institutions to which all kinds of Judaism in the Babylonian and Egyptian diaspora as well as in Israel/Palestine were related in some way or another.

#### Survey of contents

*Jens Schröter/Markus Witte/Verena Lepper:* Introduction – *Peter Schäfer:* Judaism or Judaisms: The Construction of Ancient Judaism – *Benedikt Hensel:* Debating Temple and Torah in the Second Temple Period. Theological and Political Aspects of the Final Redaction(s) of the Pentateuch – *Sebastian Grätz:* The Golah, the Temple and the Torah in the Book of Ezra: Biblical and religious-historical perspectives on Judah and Jerusalem in post-exilic times – *Stefan Schorch:* »Mount Garizim is the house of God and the dwelling place for his glory«: The origins and early history of Samaritan theology – *Karel van der Toorn:* The Religion of the Elephantine Jews – *John J. Collins:* Jewish Communities in the Dead Sea Scrolls – *Charlotte Hempel:* The Dead Sea Scrolls: Challenging the Particularist Paradigm – *Robert Kugler:* Finding »Judaism« in Documentary Papyri: The Case of the Petitions from the Herakleopolis Archive – *Lutz Doering:* Torah and Temple in Judaeae Pseudepigrapha From Jubilees to Fourth Ezra and Second Baruch – *Gabriele Boccaccini:* What Does the Forgiving Jesus Have to Do with the Unforgiving Enoch? Forgiveness of Sins in the Enochic Traditions – *Maren R. Niehoff:* Constructing Temple and Torah in Philo of Alexandria – *Martin Goodman:* Paul as Persecutor and the History of Judaism – *Adela Yarbro Collins:* What Sort of Jew is the Jesus of Mark? – *René Bloch:* Jew or Judean: The Latin Evidence – *Werner Eck:* Die – fast – unsichtbare jüdische Diaspora im Westen des Imperium Romanum vor der Spätantike – *Shaye J.D. Cohen:* Jews and Judaism in Antioch as Portrayed by John Chrysostom and the Rabbinic Sages – *Catherine Hezser:* The Contested Image of King David in Rabbinic and Patristic Literature and Art of Late Antiquity

### Hempel, Charlotte

## The Community Rules from Qumran

### A Commentary

Volume 183  
2020. XXV, 346 pages.

ISBN 9783161570261  
cloth 144,00 €

ISBN 9783161570278  
eBook PDF 144,00 €

In this volume, Charlotte Hempel offers the first comprehensive commentary on all twelve ancient manuscripts of the Rules of the Community, works which contain the most important descriptions of the organisation and values ascribed to the movement associated with the Dead Sea Scrolls. The best preserved copy of this work (1QS) was one of the first scrolls to be published and has long dominated the scholarly assessment of the Rules. The approach adopted in this commentary is to capture the distinctive nature of each of the manuscripts based on a synoptic translation that presents all the manuscripts at a glance. Textual notes and Commentary deal with the picture derived from all preserved manuscripts. The publication of the Cave 4 manuscripts in 1998 can be likened to a volcanic eruption that challenged prevalent notions of the Community Rules that were founded on the quasi-archetypal status of the Cave 1 copy published in 1951. Since then the smoke has lifted and, as the pieces have begun to settle, we see green shoots emerging in the scholarly debate. This commentary embraces the post-volcanic landscape of the Community Rules, which is carefully sifted for clues to establish a fresh reading of the material in conversation with the latest research on the Scrolls. The evidence suggests that some of the practices described as the beating heart of the movement's organization reflect the aspirations of a privileged sub-elite from the late Second Temple Period.

## Toledot Yeshu in Context

### The Jewish »Life of Jesus« in Ancient, Medieval, and Modern History

Edited by Daniel Barbu and Yaacov Deutsch

Volume 182  
2020. VIII, 358 pages.

ISBN 9783161593000  
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eBook PDF 144,00 €

The Jewish »Life of Jesus« or *Toledot Yeshu* provides one of the most extraordinary accounts of the beginnings of Christianity. The narrative describes Jesus as child born of adultery, a charlatan, and a false prophet who performed would-be miracles through the use of magic. Throughout the centuries, the story aroused the ire of anti-Jewish polemicists, delighted anti-clerical authors, and was viewed by Jewish scholars as a subject of embarrassment. *Toledot Yeshu* presents us with a formidable counter-history of the origins of Christianity. In the eighteenth century, Voltaire went so far as to proclaim that *Toledot Yeshu*, however extravagant, was perhaps more truthful than the Christian gospels. The object of this volume is to consider this narrative as an object of history, to question its transmission, reception and function within the various historical settings in which it circulated, and seek to understand its meaning for both Jews and non-Jews from antiquity to the modern era.

#### Survey of contents

*Daniel Barbu/Yaacov Deutsch:* Introduction: Reading *Toledot Yeshu* in Context – *William Horbury:* Titles and Origins of



*Toledot Yeshu* – Daniel Stökl Ben Ezra: On Some Early Traditions in *Toledot Yeshu* and the Antiquity of the »Helena« Recension – Gavin McDowell: The Alternative Chronology: Dating the Events of the Wagenseil Version of *Toledot Yeshu* – Gideon Bohak: Jesus the Magician in the »Pilate« Recension of *Toledot Yeshu* – Sarit Kattan Gribetz: The Mothers in the Manuscripts: Gender, Motherhood, and Power in *Toledot Yeshu* – Alexandra Cuffel: *Toledot Yeshu* in the Context of Polemic and Sira Literature in the Middle East from the Fatimid to the Mamluk Era – Jonatan M. Benarroch: »A Real Spark of Sama'el«: Kabbalistic Reading(s) of *Toledot Yeshu* – Daniel Barbu/Yann Dahhaoui: The Secret Booklet from Germany: Circulation and Transmission of *Toledot Yeshu* at the Borders of the Empire – Stephen Burnett: Martin Luther, *Toledot Yeshu*, and »the Rabbis« – Evi Michels: Yiddish *Toledot Yeshu* Manuscripts from the Netherlands – Claudia Rosenzweig: The »History of the Life of Jesus« in a Yiddish Manuscript from the Eighteenth Century (Ms. Jerusalem, NLI, Heb. 8° 5622) – Yonatan Moss: »I Am Not Writing an Apology«: Samuel Krauss's *Das Leben Jesu* in Context

Spielman, Loren R.

## Jews and Entertainment in the Ancient World

Volume 181  
2020. IX, 311 pages.

ISBN 9783161550003  
cloth 134,00 €

ISBN 9783161577031  
eBook PDF 134,00 €

Countering the traditional belief that Jews in antiquity were predominantly disinterested in the popular entertainments of the Greek and Roman world, Loren R. Spielman maps the varieties of Jewish engagement with theater, athletics, horse racing, gladiatorial, and beast shows in antiquity. The author argues that Jews from Hellenistic Alexandria to late antique Sepphoris enjoyed and exploited, or alternatively resisted and scorned, popular forms of public entertainment as they adapted to the political, social, and religious realities of imperial rule. Including references to ancient Jewish actors, athletes, promoters, and plays alongside analysis of rabbinic and other early Jewish critique of sport and spectacle, Loren R. Spielman describes the different ways that attitudes towards entertainment might have played a role in shaping ancient Jewish identity.

## Jews and Syriac Christians

### Intersections across the First Millennium

Edited by Aaron Michael Butts and Simcha Gross

Volume 180  
2020. XII, 350 pages.

ISBN 9783161591341  
cloth 149,00 €

ISBN 9783161591358  
eBook PDF 149,00 €

Scholarly interest in intersections between Jews and Syriac Christians has experienced a boom in recent years. This is the result of a series of converging trends in the study of both groups and their cultural productions. The present volume contributes to this developing conversation by collecting sixteen studies that investigate a wide range of topics, from questions of origins to the development of communal boundaries, from social interactions to shared historical conditions, involving Jews and Syriac Christians over the first millennium CE. These studies not only reflect the current state of the question, but they also signal new ways forward for future work that crosses disciplinary boundaries between the fields of Jewish Studies and Syriac Studies, in some cases even dismantling those boundaries altogether.

Survey of contents

Aaron Michael Butts/Simcha Gross: Introduction – Michal Bar-Asher Siegal: Syriac Monastic Motifs in the Babylonian Talmud: The Heruta Story Reconsidered (b. Qiddushin 81b) – Adam H. Becker: Syriac Anti-Judaism: Polemic and Internal Critique – Bar Belinitzky/Yakir Paz: Bound and Banned: Aphrahaṭ and Excommunication in the Sasanian Empire – Shaye J. D. Cohen: Jewish Observance of the Sabbath in Bardaisan's *Book of the Laws of Countries* – Sidney H. Griffith: Jewish Christians and the Qur'ān: The Transit of Religious Lore in Late Antique Arabia – Simcha Gross: A Long Overdue Farewell: The Purported Jewish Origins of Syriac Christianity – Geoffrey Herman: Exilarch and Catholicos: A Paradigm for the Commonalities of the Jewish and Christian Experience under the Sasanians – Richard Kalmin: Contextualizing Late Antique Rabbinic Narratives – Naomi Koltun-Fronm: Syriac Fathers on Jerusalem – Sergey Minov: Staring Down a Laundress: Reading Hagiographic Literature from Syria-Mesopotamia Alongside Rabbinic Writings – Yonatan Moss: Versions and Perversions of Genesis: Jacob of Edessa, Saadia Gaon, and the Falsification of Biblical History – Ophir Münz-Manor: Hebrew and Syriac Liturgical Poetry: A Comparative Outlook – Jeffrey L. Rubenstein: Syriac Christian Sources and the Babylonian Talmud – Christian Stadel: Judaeo-Syriac: Syriac Texts in Jewish Square Script – J. Edward Walters: Anti-Jewish Rhetoric and Christian Identity in Aphrahaṭ's *Demonstrations* – Robin Darling Young: The Anonymous *Mēmra* on the *Maccabees*: Jewish Pseudepigraphon or Late-Ancient Festal Poem?

Katzoff, Ranon

## On Jews in the Roman World

Collected Studies

Volume 179  
2019. XVI, 396 pages.

ISBN 9783161577437  
cloth 149,00 €

ISBN 9783161577444  
eBook PDF 149,00 €

The present volume presents a selection of studies by Ranon Katzoff on Jews in the ancient Roman world. Common to them is that they deal with Jews in liminal situations – confronted with non-Jewish, mainly Roman, laws, places, government, and modes of thought. In these studies – in which texts in Greek and Latin and rabbinic texts (all in translation) elucidate each other – Jews are shown to be rather loyal to their Jewish traditions, a controversial conclusion. The first two sections concern law. Section one searches the remains of popular Jewish culture for evidence on the degree to which rabbinic law really prevailed, through the study of Judaeo-Desert documents, mainly those of Babatha. Section two sifts through rabbinic law for traces of Roman law. Section three comprises studies of Jews in, to, and from the city of Rome, and section four a miscellany of studies on Jews confronted with non-Jewish life.



Sänger, Patrick

## Die ptolemäische Organisationsform *politeuma*

Ein Herrschaftsinstrument zugunsten jüdischer und anderer hellenischer Gemeinschaften

Volume 178  
2019. XV, 344 pages.

ISBN 9783161568831  
cloth 139,00 €

ISBN 9783161568848  
eBook PDF 139,00 €

How did the Ptolemies secure their rule when internal and external crises threatened their kingdom from the end of the third century BC onwards? To find out, Patrick Sänger examines the strategies of the *politeuma* – a type of association as yet only identified as having existed on Ptolemaic territory which is linked to Jewish and other communities bearing foreign ethnic designations. The author reveals a particular aspect of Ptolemaic social, legal and administrative policy, and sheds light on a historical situation in which Jews both supported and profited from a political regime.

Zanella, Francesco

## Vergeltungsvorstellungen in der tannaitischen Literatur

Volume 177  
2019. XIII, 386 pages.

ISBN 9783161566707  
cloth 139,00 €

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eBook PDF 139,00 €

Francesco Zanella traces the origin, formation, and development of Tannaitic ideas of divine retribution in order to understand the historical, religious, and cultural reasons for their usage. He particularly focuses on the contribution of the ideas of divine retribution to the development of the self-conception of Tannaitic Judaism, or rather to the creation of a Tannaitic identity as opposed to a punishable otherness. Does God punish or reward the »other« because of this otherness? Who are »the others« anyway? And what happens, on the other hand, in the domain of identity? Are these conceptions of divine retribution able to provide a satisfactory explanation of the troubled Tannaitic era, to offer at the same time a successful continuation of the tradition of the fathers, and, in this way, secure the survival of the Tannaitic community? These are only a few questions which the author attempts to answer in this volume.

Teugels, Lieve M.

## The Meshalim in the Mekhiltot

An Annotated Edition and Translation of the Parables in Mekhilta de Rabbi Yishmael and Mekhilta de Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai

With the assistance of Esther van Eenennaam

Volume 176  
2019. XIV, 477 pages.

ISBN 978316156487  
cloth 159,00 €

ISBN 9783161563461  
eBook PDF 159,00 €

This edition of rabbinic parables (meshalim) in the two Mekhiltot, the tannaitic Midrashim to the book of Exodus (3rd century CE), has a double scholarly purpose. It offers a critical synoptic presentation and study of the textual witnesses of the parables, and a commentary on their meaning and function in their literary and historical context. Moreover, a new English translation of every parable will make the edition a useful tool for interested readers with less knowledge of Hebrew, or those merely looking for a quick reference. This edition, which intends to be the first in a series of editions of parables in all the tannaitic works, is an indispensable tool not only for scholars of Jewish texts, but also for students of the New Testament and early Christian literature, historians of religion in late Antiquity, and those interested in similar literary genres, such as fables.

Schwartz, Marcus Mordecai

## Rewriting the Talmud

The Fourth Century Origins of Bavli Rosh Hashanah

Volume 175  
2019. XI, 151 pages.

ISBN 9783161541230  
cloth 99,00 €

ISBN 9783161576010  
eBook PDF 99,00 €

In this study, Marcus Mordecai Schwartz argues that there were two distinct periods in which traditions from Rabbinic Palestine exerted their influence upon extended passages of *B. Rosh Hashanah*. This doubling of influence resulted in a Babylonian-born text with two distinct Palestinian ancestries. This oddly mixed parentage was responsible for Bavli texts that both resemble synoptic passages in the Yerusalmi and differ from them in substantial ways. The main project of this book is to trace the dynamics of this doubled Palestinian influence and to account for the mark it left on passages of *B. Rosh Hashanah*.



## Placing Ancient Texts

### The Ritual and Rhetorical Use of Space

Ed. by Mika Ahuvia and Alexander Kocar

Volume 174  
2018. X, 263 pages.

ISBN 9783161563768  
cloth 119,00 €

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eBook PDF 119,00 €

In this volume, scholars of Judaism, Christianity, and late antique religion demonstrate how special attention to the ritual and rhetorical functions of space can improve modern interpretations of ancient literary, liturgical, and ritual texts. Each chapter is concerned with reconstructing the dynamic interaction between space and text. Demonstrating the pliability of the idea of space, the contributions in this volume span from Second Temple debates over Eden to Byzantine Christian hymnography. In so doing, they offer a number of answers to the seemingly simple question: What difference does space make for how modern scholars interpret ancient texts? The nine contributions in this volume are divided into the three interrelated topics of the rhetorical construction of places both earthly and cosmic, the positioning of people in religious space, and the performance of ritual texts in place.

Survey of contents

*Mika Ahuvia/Alexander Kocar*: Introduction

#### Part I: Constructing Spaces and Places

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#### Part III: Re-Placing Ritual Texts

*David Frankfurter*: 'It is Esrme who appeals': Place, Object, and Performance in a Quest for Pregnancy in Roman Egypt – *AnneMarie Luijendijk*: 'If you order that I wash my feet, then bring me this ticket': Encountering Saint Colluthus at Antinoë – *Mika Ahuvia*: The Spatial and Social Dynamics of Jewish Babylonian Incantation Bowls

Gafni, Isaiah M.

## Jews and Judaism in the Rabbinic Era

### Image and Reality – History and Historiography

Volume 173  
2019. X, 547 pages.

ISBN 9783161527319  
cloth 169,00 €

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eBook PDF 169,00 €

This collection of essays by Isaiah M. Gafni reflects over forty years of research on central issues of Jewish history in one of its formative eras. Questions relating to representations of the past, beginning with Josephus but primarily in rabbinic and post-rabbinic literature, represent an axial theme in this volume. Throughout the collection the author addresses the tension between realities on the ground and the historiography that shaped the image of that reality for all subsequent generations. Two specific clusters of studies analyze the emergence and development of the Babylonian rabbinic community, as well as the complex relationship between the Judaeae centre and the Jewish diaspora in Late Antiquity. A final selection of essays examines the impact of modern ideologies and revised methods of research on the image of Jewish life and rabbinic leadership in late antique Judaism.

Swartz, Michael D.

## The Mechanics of Providence

### The Workings of Ancient Jewish Magic and Mysticism

Volume 172  
2018. XVI, 333 pages.

ISBN 9783161550027  
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The phenomena we call magic and mysticism had a profound effect on the shaping of Judaism in late antiquity. In this volume, Michael D. Swartz offers a wide-ranging study of the purposes, world-views, ritual dynamics, literary forms, and social settings of ancient Jewish magic and mysticism and their function in religion and history. Based on the author's studies over the past few decades, he proposes innovative methods for the study of these two phenomena. The author focuses especially on the rituals of early Jewish magic and mysticism, their social contexts, and the textual dimension of this complex literature. He also offers introductions to these phenomena. Michael D. Swartz argues that the authors of these texts employed intricate technologies, literary and artistic forms, and physical practices to negotiate between the values and world-views of their cultures and the texture of everyday life.

Reed, Annette Yoshiko

## Jewish-Christianity and the History of Judaism

### Collected Essays



Mohr Siebeck

Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism  
Last updated: 27/01/2021

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Volume 171  
2018. XXX, 505 pages.

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eBook PDF 174,00 €

»Jewish-Christianity« is a contested category in current research. But for precisely this reason, it may offer a powerful lens through which to rethink the history of Jewish/Christian relations. Traditionally, Jewish-Christianity has been studied as part of the origins and early diversity of Christianity. Collecting revised versions of previously published articles together with new materials, Annette Yoshiko Reed reconsiders Jewish-Christianity in the context of Late Antiquity and in conversation with Jewish studies. She brings further attention to understudied texts and traditions from Late Antiquity that do not fit neatly into present day notions of Christianity as distinct from Judaism. In the process, she uses these materials to probe the power and limits of our modern assumptions about religion and identity.

Boyarin, Daniel

## The Talmud – A Personal Take

Selected Essays

Ed. by Tal Hever-Chybowski

Volume 170  
2017. X, 499 pages.

ISBN 9783161528194  
cloth 169,00 €

ISBN 9783161548420  
eBook PDF 169,00 €

This collection of Daniel Boyarin's previously uncollected essays on the Talmud represents the different methods and lines of inquiry that have animated his work on that text over the last four decades. Ranging and changing from linguistic work to work on sex and gender to the relations between formative Judaism and Christianity to the literary genres of the Talmud in the Hellenistic context, he gives an account of multiple questions and provocations to which that prodigious book gives stimulation, showing how the Talmud can contribute to all of these fields. The book opens up possibilities for study of the Talmud using historical, classical, philological, anthropological, cultural studies, gender, and literary theory and criticism. As a kind of intellectual autobiography, it is a record of the alarms and excursions of a life in the Talmud.

Orlov, Andrei A.

## Yahoel and Metatron

Aural Apocalypticism and the Origins of Early Jewish Mysticism

Volume 169  
2017. XII, 238 pages.

ISBN 9783161554476  
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eBook PDF 114,00 €

In this work, Andrei A. Orlov examines Jewish apocalyptic traditions about the angel Yahoel, tracing their conceptual impact on the development of later rabbinic and Hekhalot beliefs concerning the supreme angel Metatron. The author argues that the figure Yahoel, who became associated in Jewish apocalypticism with the distinctive aural ideology of the divine Name, provides an important conceptual key not only for elucidating the evolution of the Metatron tradition, but also for understanding the origins of the distinctive aural ideology prominent in early Jewish mystical accounts. Andrei A. Orlov suggests that the aural mould of Jewish apocalypticism exercised a decisive and formative influence on the development of early Jewish mysticism.

Grossberg, David M.

## Heresy and the Formation of the Rabbinic Community

Volume 168  
2017. X, 277 pages.

ISBN 9783161551475  
cloth 129,00 €

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eBook PDF 129,00 €

Between the first and sixth centuries C.E., a group of sages that scholars refer to as the rabbinic community systematized their ideas about Judaism in works such as the Mishnah and the Talmud. David M. Grossberg offers a new approach to thinking about this community's formation. Rather than seeking an occasion of origin, he examines the gradual development of the idea of an authorized rabbinic collective. The classical rabbinic texts imagine a diverse setting of Sadducees, Pharisees, sinners, and sectarians interacting in complex and changing ways with pious sages, teachers, and judges. Yet this representation aligns only vaguely with the social reality in which these ancient sages actually lived and operated. The author contends that these texts' primary aim was not to describe real rabbinic opponents but to create and enforce boundaries between piety and impiety and between legitimate and illegitimate teachings. In this way, the emerging rabbinic movement set standards of inclusion and exclusion in the community of righteous Israel and established the bounds of the community aspiring to lead them, the rabbinic community itself.

Sanders, Seth L.

## From Adapa to Enoch

Scribal Culture and Religious Vision in Judea and Babylon



Volume 167  
2017. XIV, 280 pages.

ISBN 9783161544569  
cloth 129,00 €

ISBN 9783161547270  
eBook PDF 129,00 €

Seth L. Sanders offers a history of first-millennium scribes through their heavenly journeys and heroes, treating the visions of ancient Mesopotamian and Judean literature as pragmatic things made by people. He presents each scribal culture as an individual institution via detailed evidence for how visionary figures were used over time. The author also provides the first comprehensive survey of direct evidence for contact between Babylonian, Hebrew, and Aramaic scribal cultures, when and how they came to share key features. Rather than irrecoverable religious experience, he shows how ideal scribal »selves« were made available through rituals documented in texts and institutions that made these roles durable. He examines how these texts and selves worked together to create religious literature as the world came to be known differently: a historical ontology of first-millennium scribal cultures. The result is as much a history of science as a history of mysticism, providing insight into how knowledge of the universe was created in ancient times.

## Genesis Rabbah in Text and Context

Ed. by Sarit Kattan Gribetz, David M. Grossberg, Martha Himmelfarb, and Peter Schäfer

Volume 166  
2016. IX, 288 pages.

ISBN 9783161547027  
cloth 129,00 €

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eBook PDF 129,00 €

*Genesis Rabbah*, the earliest rabbinic commentary on Genesis, was composed in Roman Palestine around the 5th century CE. In this volume, an international team of scholars explores the literary formation and textual transmission of this work in late antiquity, and the historical, cultural, religious, and political contexts from which it emerged. Some essays study the multi-layered nature of this text, the relationship of the traditions within the collection to one another and to other compositions, its redaction, its manuscript history, and the interpretive strategies it applies to biblical verses. Other essays explore how the midrash engages with Greco-Roman literature, competing theological and exegetical ideas found in contemporary Christian works, and other genres of Jewish literature. The collection aims to advance scholarly conversations about the classical rabbinic corpus; midrash; religions of late antiquity; interactions between Jews, Christians, and others in the Greco-Roman world; and the reception of *Genesis Rabbah* in medieval and modern times.

### Survey of contents

*Sarit Kattan Gribetz/David M. Grossberg*: Introduction: *Genesis Rabbah*, a Great Beginning – *Michael Sokoloff*: The Major Manuscripts of *Genesis Rabbah* – *Sarit Kattan Gribetz*: Between Narrative and Polemic: The Sabbath in *Genesis Rabbah* and the Babylonian Talmud – *Peter Schäfer*: *Genesis Rabbah*'s Enoch – *Chaim Milikowsky*: Into the Workshop of the Homilist: Comparison of *Genesis Rabbah* 33:1 and *Leviticus Rabbah* 27:1 – *Martha Himmelfarb*: Abraham and the Messianism of *Genesis Rabbah* – *Carol Bakhtos*: The Family of Abraham in *Genesis Rabbah* – *Maren Niehoff*: Origen's Commentary on Genesis as a Key to *Genesis Rabbah* – *Laura Lieber*: Stage Mothers: Performing the Matriarchs in *Genesis Rabbah* and Yannai – *Joshua Levinson*: Composition and Transmission of the Exegetical Narrative in *Genesis Rabbah* – *David M. Grossberg*: On Plane-Trees and the Palatine Hill: Rabbi Yishmael and the Samaritan in *Genesis Rabbah* and the Later Palestinian Rabbinic Tradition – *Martin Lockshin*: *Peshat* in *Genesis Rabbah* – *Marc Hirshman*: The Final Chapters of *Genesis Rabbah*

Gregerman, Adam

## Building on the Ruins of the Temple

### Apologetics and Polemics in Early Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism

Volume 165  
2016. XIV, 266 pages.

ISBN 9783161543227  
cloth 119,00 €

ISBN 9783161545214  
eBook PDF 119,00 €

In the immediate centuries after the Romans' destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple in 70 CE, Jews and Christians offered contrasting religious explanations for the razing of the locus of God's presence on earth. Adam Gregerman analyzes the views found in three early Christian texts (Justin's *Dialogue with Trypho*, Origen's *Contra Celsum*, and Eusebius' *Proof of the Gospel*) and one rabbinic text (the *Midrash on Lamentations*), all of which emerged in the same place – the land of Israel – and around the same time – the first few centuries after 70. The author explores the ways they interpret the destruction in order to prove (in the case of Christians), or make it impossible to disprove (in the case of the Jews) that their community is the people of God. He demonstrates the apologetic and polemical functions of selected explanations, for claims to the covenant made by one community excluded those made by the other.

Milgram, Jonathan S.

## From Mesopotamia to the Mishnah

### Tannaitic Inheritance Law in its Legal and Social Contexts

Volume 164  
2016. XXI, 201 pages.

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cloth 114,00 €

ISBN 9783161544217  
eBook PDF 114,00 €

In this study, Jonathan S. Milgram demonstrates that the transformation of inheritance law from the biblical to the tannaitic period is best explained against the backdrop of the legal and social contexts in which the tannaitic laws were formulated. Employing text and source critical methods, he argues that, in the absence of the hermeneutic underpinnings for tannaitic innovations, the laws were not the result of the rabbinic imagination and its penchant for inventive interpretation of Scripture. Turning to the rich repositories in biblical, ancient near eastern, Second Temple, Greek, Elephantine, Judean desert, and Roman sources, the author searches for conceptual parallels and antecedents as well as formulae and terminology adopted and adapted by the tannaim. Since the tannaitic traditions reflect the social and economic contexts of the tannaitic period – the nuclear family on privatized landholdings in urban centers – the author also considers the degree to which tannaitic inheritance laws may have emerged out of these contexts.



## Jewish Art in Its Late Antique Context

Ed. by Uzi Leibner and Catherine Hezser

Volume 163  
2016. IX, 381 pages.

ISBN 9783161543883  
cloth 159,00 €

ISBN 9783161543890  
eBook PDF 159,00 €

The contributions to this volume examine the emergence of ancient Jewish art from the interdisciplinary perspective of scholars in Art and Archaeology, Ancient Judaism and Rabbinics, Patristics and Church History. They evaluate the manifold ways in which late antique and early Byzantine Jewish art was embedded in its Hellenistic and Roman cultural context by, at the same time, evincing specifically Jewish and local Near Eastern idiosyncrasies. Since the Graeco-Roman context was shared with early Christian art, some formal similarities are recognizable, whereas the meanings associated with the images would have differed. A study of the relationship between the literary sources (the Hebrew Bible, Jewish Hellenistic and rabbinic literature) and the artistic depictions is crucial for a proper understanding of ancient Jewish art. Similarly important are the artistic analogies appearing in Graeco-Roman and early Christian contexts. Of particular interest is the question why Jewish figurative art developed in the Land of Israel in late antiquity only: which political, social, economic, religious and cultural constellations may have led to the emergence of figurative art? How do these images relate to biblical commandments advocating aniconism and what would rabbis have made of them? Was Erwin Goodenough correct about a dichotomy between »popular« synagogue art and an aniconic rabbinic Judaism? The Jewish use of images with analogies in pagan (and sometimes also Christian) contexts is particularly striking: what led Jews to adopt images such as the zodiac and pagan mythological figures and scenes and how were they combined with images based on biblical narratives? The volume shows how an interdisciplinary approach leads to a better understanding not only of ancient Jewish, but of Graeco-Roman and Christian art as well.

Survey of contents

*Catherine Hezser/Uzi Leibner:* Jewish Art in its Late Antique Context: An Introductory Essay

### Part I: The Development of Jewish Art in the Roman-Byzantine Period

*Orit Peleg-Barkat:* Interpreting the Uninterpreted: Art as a Means of Expressing Identity in Early Roman Judaea – *Lee I. Levine:* Why Did Jewish Art Flourish in Late Antiquity? – *Peter Stewart:* The Bet Alpha Synagogue Mosaic and Late-Antique Provincialism – *Rina Talgam:* From Wall Paintings to Floor Mosaics: Jewish and Christian Attitudes to Figurative Art

### Part II: Synagogue Mosaic Panels

*Zeev Weiss:* Decorating the Sacred Realm: Biblical Depictions in Synagogues and Churches of Ancient Palestine – *Uzi Leibner:* Rabbinic Traditions and Synagogue Art – *Roland Deines:* God's Revelation Through Torah, Creation, and History: Interpreting the Zodiac Mosaics in Synagogues

### Part III: Symbols and Iconography

*Rachel Hachlili:* Why Did the Menorah and Not the Showbread Table Evolve into the Most Important Symbol of Judaism? – *Catherine Hezser:* »For the Lord God is a Sun and a Shield« (Ps. 84:12): Sun Symbolism in Hellenistic Jewish Literature and in Amoraic Midrashim – *Karen B. Stern:* Celebrating the Mundane: Figural Graffiti and Daily Life among Jews in the Levant

### Part IV: Jewish and Christian Art

*Markus Vinzent:* Earliest 'Christian' Art is Jewish Art – *Sean V. Leatherbury:* Competitive Sacrifice: Christian Visual Engagement with Jewish Sacrificial History and the Temple in Late Antique Arabia – *Robin M. Jensen:* The Three Hebrew Youths and the Problem of the Emperor's Portrait in Early Christianity – *Holger Zellentin:* The Rabbis on (the Christianisation of) the Imperial Cult: Mishnah and Yerushalmi Avodah Zarah 3:1 (42b, 54–42c, 61)

## Avot de-Rabbi Natan B

Aus dem Hebräischen übers. u. hrsg. v. Hans-Jürgen Becker

Volume 162  
2016. V, 189 pages.

ISBN 9783161540882  
cloth 119,00 €

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eBook PDF 119,00 €

Following the analysis of the Hebrew basis-text through the edition of the Genizah fragments (2003) and the synopsis of the manuscripts of both versions of Avot de-Rabbi Natan (2006), Hans-Jürgen Becker presents a translation of Version B with this volume. The translation is in alignment with the text research for this work, which is a central source for historical interpretation and wisdom of antique Rabbinic Judaism, and renders the work accessible to interested neighbouring disciplines. The basis of the translation is the oldest and most completely preserved manuscript MS Parma 2785 (= de Rossi 327, Spain 1289), supplemented by the MS Vatican 303 (Italy, 15<sup>th</sup> century). Translation-relevant variations of all textual witnesses are annotated or documented in a synoptic depiction. The greatest possible literality is aimed for and difficult passages are not linguistically concealed. The remarks indicate possible understandings of the text without preempting its interpretation.

Septimus, Yehuda

## On the Boundaries of Talmudic Prayer

In this work, Yehuda Septimus investigates a boundary phenomenon of talmudic prayer: ritual speech with addressees other than God. These addressees included socially conventional addressees, like judges or celebrants at a religious rite as well as unconventional addressees, like angels and dead people. But whether the addressees were the types one might expect an individual to address in a non-ritual context, they were definitely *not* the types we would expect a rabbinic Jew to address in a *prayer* context. And yet talmudic passages treated ritual speech addressed to beings other than God as they treated other forms of conventional prayer. Such treatment forces us to question the way prayer was conceived by the rabbis.

Septimus argues that the rabbis conceived and practiced something similar to but broader than what is conventionally called prayer. He accomplishes this through close analyses of a number of specific ritual recitations with these atypical

Volume 161  
2015. XII, 365 pages.

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eBook PDF 154,00 €

addressees as they appear embedded in talmudic literature.

The English term »prayer« is usually understood as communication with God or the gods. Scholars of Jewish ritual until now have accepted this characterization and applied it to Jewish *tefillah*. But does rabbinic prayer indeed necessarily entail second-person address to God, as many scholars of rabbinic prayer to this point have presumed? Often God is the target of communication, even when ritual speech does not address God in the second person. But what if that speech is specifically addressed to beings *other* than God? What does this phenomenon teach us about the beliefs, ritual tendencies, and prayer culture of the formulators of such ritual speech?

Septimus' book qualifies the assumption that rabbinic ritual communication is directed to God alone. The liturgical relationship between ritual prayer and other ritual recitations is complex; the historical relationship between classical Jewish prayer and a broader range of ritual addresses even more complex. Septimus offers a fresh look at the possible range of performances undertaken by talmudic ritual prayer. Moreover, he places that range of performances into the historical context of the rapid emergence of prayer as the centerpiece of Jewish worship in the first half of the first millennium CE.

## Encounters by the Rivers of Babylon

### Scholarly Conversations Between Jews, Iranians and Babylonians in Antiquity

Ed. by Uri Gabbay and Shai Secunda

Volume 160  
2014. VI, 469 pages.

ISBN 9783161528330  
cloth 189,00 €

ISBN 9783161530371  
eBook PDF 189,00 €

This volume presents a group of articles that deal with connections between ancient Babylonian, Iranian and Jewish communities in Mesopotamia under Neo-Babylonian, Achaemenid, and Sasanian rule. The studies, written by leading scholars in the fields of Assyriology, Iranian studies and Jewish studies, examine various modes of cultural connections between these societies, such as historical, social, legal, and exegetical intersections. The various Mesopotamian connections, often neglected in the study of ancient Judaism, are the focus of this truly interdisciplinary collection.

Survey of contents

*Uri Gabbay/Shai Secunda*: Introduction

*Yaakov Elman*: Contrasting Intellectual Trajectories: Iran and Israel in Mesopotamia

**Society and Its Institutions** *Ran Zadok*: Judeans in Babylonia—Updating the Dossier – *Caroline Waerzeggers*: Locating Contact in the Babylonian Exile: Some Reflections on Tracing Judean-Babylonian Encounters in Cuneiform Texts – *Maria Macuch*: Jewish Jurisdiction within the Framework of the Sasanian Legal System

**The Transmission of Knowledge** *Abraham Winitzer*: Assyriology and Jewish Studies in Tel Aviv: Ezekiel among the Babylonian literati – *Jonathan Ben-Dov*: Time and Culture: Mesopotamian Calendars in Jewish Sources from the Bible to the Mishnah – *Nathan Wasserman*: Old-Babylonian, Middle-Babylonian, Neo-Babylonian, Jewish-Babylonian? Thoughts about Transmission Modes of Mesopotamian Magic through the Ages – *James Nathan Ford*: The Ancient Mesopotamian Motif of kidinnu 'divine protection (of temple cities and their citizens)' in Akkadian and Aramaic Magic – *Reuven Kiperwasser/Dan D. Y. Shapira*: Encounters between Iranian Myth and Rabbinic Mythmakers in the Babylonian Talmud  
**Scholasticism and Exegesis** *Irving Finkel*: Remarks on Cuneiform Scholarship and the Babylonian Talmud – *Eckart Frahm*: Traditionalism and Intellectual Innovation in a Cosmopolitan World: Reflections on Babylonian Text Commentaries from the Achaemenid Period – *Uri Gabbay*: Actual Sense and Scriptural Intention: Literal Meaning and Its Terminology in Akkadian and Hebrew Commentaries – *Prods Oktor Skjærvø*: Abar Rōdestān ī Babēl: The Zoroastrian Tradition—the dēn—in Sasanian and Early Islamic Times – *Shai Secunda*: Rabbinic and Zoroastrian Hermeneutics: Background and Prospects – *Yishai Kiel*: Shaking Impurity: Scriptural Exegesis and Legal Innovation in the Babylonian Talmud and Pahlavi Literature

## Toledot Yeshu: The Life Story of Jesus

Two Volumes and Database. Vol. I: Introduction and Translation. Vol. II: Critical Edition

Ed. and Transl. by Michael Meerson and Peter Schäfer with the collaboration of Yaacov Deutsch, David Grossberg, Avigail Manekin, and Adina Yoffie

Volume 159  
2014. XVII, 716 pages.

ISBN 9783161534812  
cloth 379,00 €

ISBN 9783161587276  
eBook PDF 379,00 €

The Book of the Life of Jesus (in Hebrew *Sefer Toledot Yeshu*) presents a »biography« of Jesus from an anti-Christian perspective. It ascribes to Jesus an illegitimate birth, a theft of the Ineffable Name, heretical activities, and finally a disgraceful death. Perhaps for centuries, *Toledot Yeshu* circulated orally until it coalesced into various literary forms. Although the dates of these written compositions remain obscure, some early hints of a Jewish counter-history of Jesus can be found in the works of Christian authors of Late Antiquity, such as Justin, Celsus, and Tertullian. Around 600 CE, some fragments of Jesus' »biography« made their way into the Babylonian Talmud; and in 827, archbishop Agobard of Lyon attests to a sacrilegious book about Jesus that circulated among Jews. In the Middle Ages, the book became the object and tool of an acrimonious controversy. Jews, Christians, and theists, such as Ibn Shaprut, Luther, and Voltaire, quoted and commented on *Toledot Yeshu*, trying to disprove the beliefs of their opponents and revealing their own prejudices. The narrative was translated into Latin and many vernacular languages and soon branched into numerous versions with only a few basic facts in common. The present publication provides researchers with reliable conclusions regarding the narrative's origin and evolution. In addition, the purchase of the volume offers full online access to a comprehensive database of *Toledot Yeshu* manuscripts, designed to encourage and facilitate further research about this important book in the history of Jewish-Christian polemics. All Hebrew and Aramaic manuscripts are edited in the present book and database: an unusual combination of a traditional critical edition with an electronic research tool. The database features a full-text search of all manuscripts as well as printing and downloading capabilities. The price includes access to the database (for one simultaneous user). Access for institutions is provided through the IP address, for private individuals through username and password. An activation code is enclosed in the book. Access to a free seven day trial period can be obtained here: [toledot \[AT\] mohrsiebeck.com](http://toledot[at]mohrsiebeck.com).



Swoboda, Sören

## Tod und Sterben im Krieg bei Josephus

### Die Intentionen von *Bellum* und *Antiquitates* im Kontext griechisch-römischer Historiographie

Volume 158  
2014. XVI, 601 pages.

ISBN 9783161528286  
cloth 189,00 €

ISBN 9783161530630  
eBook PDF 189,00 €

In the study of his works, there is an increasing focus on Josephus as an author. Up to now however there has been no monograph whose main subject is the intentions of *Bellum* and *Antiquitates*. Sören Swoboda deals with this issue, basing his work on five subjects which are associated with the description of »death and dying in war.« Beginning with the observation that Josephus functionalizes these subjects as the conveyor of pivotal intentions of the work and that a comparison with Greco-Roman historiography provides crucial insight into his textual-pragmatic focus, Sören Swoboda broadens his view at the end of the book and develops detailed theories about the intentions of *Bellum* and *Antiquitates* and their classification in ancient historiography. In addition, he provides complete collections of text passages and summaries for anyone wishing to obtain information on the ancient description of »death and dying in war.«

Eck, Werner

## Judäa – Syria Palästina

### Die Auseinandersetzung einer Provinz mit römischer Politik und Kultur

Volume 157  
2014. XIV, 307 pages.

ISBN 9783161530265  
cloth 129,00 €

ISBN 9783161530456  
eBook PDF 129,00 €

Many aspects of the history of a province are missing in the literary records. In the past decades, numerous epigraphical, papyrological, numismatic and archeological sources have become accessible for the province of Judaea. These sources have led to a considerably newer and more realistic image of the province of Judaea / Syria Palestine than had previously evolved, especially under the influence of the information in Mishnah or Talmud. The essays in Werner Eck's volume show the new perspective on Roman rule in Judaea enabled by Latin and Greek inscriptions in particular and also the disastrous consequences of the Bar Kokhba revolt for the country. In addition, there is a skeptical view on Josephus, whose description of the Roman prefects before the first revolt is exposed as a deliberate defamation.

Appelbaum, Alan

## The Dynasty of the Jewish Patriarchs

Volume 156  
2013. XI, 246 pages.

ISBN 9783161529641  
cloth 99,00 €

ISBN 9783161529696  
eBook PDF 99,00 €

The Patriarchs of the Jews were remarkable not only because they governed much of Palestine in late antiquity, collected taxes from and sent emissaries to Jews across the Roman Empire, acted as the representative of both Palestinian and diaspora Jewry to the Roman imperial government, and achieved great prominence in Roman society. They were remarkable also because they led the Jews for more than two centuries while maintaining the Patriarchate as a family affair. This book is the first examination of the Patriarchate as a hereditary dynasty, a series of men in a specific social structure rather than an institution or office. Alan Appelbaum draws on Jewish, Christian and pagan sources, including Roman law, which has not previously been utilized as it is here. To uncover the origins of the Patriarchate's dynastic features, the author starts by considering when and how the position and the roles of the Patriarchs began. Using comparative material about succession to high office as a framework, he then examines available sources to reconstruct the dynasty of the Patriarchs and the relationships among them Patriarch by Patriarch, providing data about actors and events as well as about the Patriarchate's dynastic structure. In the course of this examination, Appelbaum makes the first sustained inquiry in over a century into the supposed Davidic and Hillelite ancestry of the dynasty, and refutes the claim that there were two Patriarchs named Judah Nesiah. Finally, he compares the Patriarchate to other real and supposed dynasties in order to locate it among the various family arrangements of its period.

## Jewish and Christian Cosmogony in Late Antiquity

Ed. by Lance Jenott and Sarit Kattan Gribetz

Volume 155  
2013. X, 336 pages.

ISBN 9783161519932  
cloth 114,00 €

ISBN 9783161587252  
eBook PDF 114,00 €

The authors of this collection of essays explore different ways that ancient Jews and Christians understood the world's creation and how this understanding shaped their world. In this volume discussions of cosmogony are not only placed within the contexts of biblical hermeneutics and the politics of interpretation, but more broadly within the diverse realms of ancient life. The authors demonstrate how beliefs about Creation played an important role in constructing rituals, pedagogy, ethics, geography, and anthropology. A biblically-based tradition shared by Jews and Christians, the Creation story serves as a fruitful point of departure for this collection of studies about these communities, their interactions, and their overlapping and competing conceptions of the world.

Survey of contents

*Lance Jenott and Sarit Kattan Gribetz*: Introduction I. **Scripture and Interpretation** *James C. VanderKam*: Made to Order: Creation in Jubilees – *Yair Furstenberg*: The Rabbinic Ban on Ma'aseh Bereshit: Sources, Contexts and Concerns – *Geoffrey Smith*: 'When the totality went about searching...': Cosmogony and the Johanne Prologue in the Gospel of Truth – *Tuomas Rasimus*: The Archangel Michael in Ophite Creation Mythology II. **Theology and Anthropology** *Maren R. Niehoff*: The Emergence of Monotheistic Creation Theology in Hellenistic Judaism – *Christian Wildberg*: The Genesis of a Genesis: Corpus

Hermeticum, Tractate III – *Gwynn Kessler*: Constant Creation: (Pro)creation in Palestinian Rabbinic Midrashim III. **Pedagogy and Ethics** *Richard A. Layton*: Moses the Pedagogue: Procopius, Philo, and Didymus on the Pedagogy of the Creation Account – *Alex Kocak*: 'Humanity came to be according to three essential types...' Ethical Responsibility and Practice in the Valentinian Anthropogony of the Tripartite Tractate (NHC I, 5) – *Lance Jenott*: Recovering Adam's Lost Glory: Nag Hammadi Codex II in its Egyptian Monastic Environment IV. **Space and Ritual** *Naomi Koltun-Fromm*: Rock over Water: Pre-Historic Rocks and Primordial Waters from Creation to Salvation in Jerusalem – *Ophir Münz-Manor*: The Ritualization of Creation in Jewish and Christian Liturgical Texts from Late Antiquity – *Mika Ahuvia*: Darkness Upon the Abyss: Depicting Cosmogony in Late Antiquity

Hempel, Charlotte

## The Qumran Rule Texts in Context

### Collected Studies

Volume 154  
2013. XXIII, 396 pages.

ISBN 9783161527098  
cloth 139,00 €

ISBN 9783161527104  
eBook PDF 139,00 €

Ever since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls the Community Rule has been at the forefront of the scholarly imagination and is often considered a direct channel to life on the ground at Khirbet Qumran – an ancient version of 'reality television'. After the full publication of the Dead Sea Scrolls one might legitimately have expected that the complete spread of evidence would present us with most of the answers that we have been looking for. Instead, scholars increasingly recognize the significance of the Scrolls as a rich text world from a period when texts, traditions, interpretation, and scholarship laid the foundations of Western civilisation. While the literary, scribal, and textual aspects reflected in the Rule texts are becoming clearer, the social and community realities are becoming ever fuzzier. Ultimately the Scrolls present us with a complex and sophisticated collection of literature rather than a window into the inner workings of a group, let alone particular individuals. Such a scholarly trajectory mirrors the history of biblical scholarship and invites further dialogue between both fields. The studies by Charlotte Hempel gathered in this volume deal with several core Rule texts from Qumran, especially the Community Rule (S), the Rule of the Congregation (1QS<sub>a</sub>), the Damascus Document (D), and 4Q265 (Miscellaneous Rules) and uncover a complex network of literary and more murkily preserved social relationships. The author further investigates the Rule literature within the context of wisdom, law, and the scribal milieu behind the emerging scriptures. The volume ends with an exploration of the distinctive character of Qumran Cave 4, the home of the majority of Rule texts, as an eclectic collection of ancient Jewish higher learning.

»These essays are essential reading for anyone interested in the Rulebooks found at Qumran.«  
John J. Collins in *Revue de Qumran* 26 (2014), S. 483–485

»In truth, Hempel's volume is as much a commentary on the development, similarities, and differences between the Rule texts as it is an observation on the state and direction of Qumran Studies.«  
Ian Werrett in *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 46 (2015), S. 443–445

## Hekhalot Literature in Context

### Between Byzantium and Babylonia

Ed. by Ra'anan Boustan, Martha Himmelfarb and Peter Schäfer

Volume 153  
2013. XXIV, 439 pages.

ISBN 9783161525759  
cloth 144,00 €

ISBN 9783161525766  
eBook PDF 144,00 €

Over the past 30 years, scholars of early Jewish mysticism have, with increasing confidence, located the initial formation of Hekhalot literature in Byzantine Palestine and Sasanian or early Islamic Babylonia (ca. 500–900 C.E.), rather than at the time of the Mishnah, Tosefta, early Midrashim, or Palestinian Talmud (ca. 100–400 C.E.). This advance has primarily been achieved through major gains in our understanding of the dynamic and highly flexible processes of composition, redaction, and transmission that produced the Hekhalot texts as we know them today. These gains have been coupled with greater appreciation of the complex relationships between Hekhalot writings and the variegated Jewish literary culture of late antiquity, both within and beyond the boundaries of the rabbinic movement. Yet important questions remain regarding the specific cultural contexts and institutional settings out of which the various strands of Hekhalot literature emerged as well as the multiple trajectories of use and appropriation they subsequently travelled. In the present volume, an international team of experts explores—from a variety of disciplinary perspectives (e.g. linguistics, ritual and gender studies, intellectual history)—the literary formation, cultural meanings, religious functions, and textual transmission of Hekhalot literature.

### Survey of contents

Ra'anan Boustan: Introduction

#### I. The Formation of Hekhalot Literature: Linguistic, Literary, and Cultural Contexts

Noam Mizrahi: The Language of Hekhalot Literature: Preliminary Observations – Peter Schäfer: Metatron in Babylonia – Michael D. Swartz: Hekhalot and Piyyut: From Byzantium to Babylonia and Back – Alexei Sivertsev: The Emperor's Many Bodies: The Demise of Emperor Lupinus Revisited – Klaus Herrmann: Jewish Mysticism in Byzantium: The Transformation of Merkavah Mysticism in 3 Enoch – David M. Grossberg: Between 3 Enoch and Bavli Hagigah: Heresiology and Orthopraxy in the Ascent of Elisha ben Abuyah – Moulie Vidas: Hekhalot Literature, the Babylonian Academies and the tanna'im

#### II. The Transmission and Reception of Hekhalot Literature: Toward the Middle Ages

Peter Schäfer: The Hekhalot Genizah – Gideon Bohak: Observations on the Transmission of Hekhalot Literature in the Cairo Genizah – Ophir Münz-Manor: A Prolegomenon to the Study of Hekhalot Traditions in European Piyyut

#### III. Early Jewish Mysticism in Comparative Perspective: Themes and Patterns

Reimund Leicht: Major Trends in Rabbinic Cosmology – Rebecca Lesses: Women and Gender in the Hekhalot Literature – Andrei A. Orlov: »What is Below?« Mysteries of Leviathan in the Early Jewish Accounts and Mishnah Hagigah 2:1 – Michael Meerson: Rites of Passage in Magic and Mysticism – Annette Yoshiko Reed: Rethinking (Jewish-)Christian Evidence for Jewish Mysticism



Pearce, Sarah J.K.

## The Words of Moses

### Studies in the Reception of Deuteronomy in the Second Temple Period

Volume 152  
2013. XVIII, 404 pages.

ISBN 9783161507335  
cloth 154,00 €

ISBN 9783161528255  
eBook PDF 154,00 €

Recent studies highlight the character of Deuteronomy's laws of public officials (Deut. 16.18–18.22) as the first draft for a constitutional government of the future. Sarah Pearce explores what these laws meant for Jewish interpreters and their communities in the Second Temple period. Her focus is on the reception and transformation of Deuteronomy's laws on the organisation of justice (Deut. 16.18–17.13); the appointment of local judiciaries; the authority and function of the central court; and the prohibition of single testimony. The author offers a detailed commentary on these laws in sources including the Masoretic Text, the Samaritan Pentateuch, Greek Deuteronomy, the Books of Chronicles, the Temple Scroll, the Damascus Document, Philo of Alexandria, and Josephus. Her aim is to understand the ancient interpreters of Deuteronomy, first and foremost, in their own terms and their own contexts.

Himmelfarb, Martha

## Between Temple and Torah

### Essays on Priests, Scribes, and Visionaries in the Second Temple Period and Beyond

Volume 151  
2013. XII, 399 pages.

ISBN 9783161510410  
cloth 139,00 €

ISBN 9783161521393  
eBook PDF 139,00 €

This volume contains articles by Martha Himmelfarb on topics in Second Temple Judaism and the development and reception of Second Temple traditions in late antiquity and the Middle Ages. The section on »Priests, Temples, and Torah« addresses the themes of its title in texts from the Bible to the Mishnah. »Purity in the Dead Sea Scrolls« contains articles analyzing the intensification of the biblical purity laws, particularly the laws for genital discharge, in the major legal documents from the Scrolls. In »Judaism and Hellenism« the author explores the relationship between these two ancient cultures by examining the ancient and modern historiography of the Maccabean Revolt and the role of the Torah in ancient Jewish adaptations of Greek culture. The last two sections of the volume follow texts and traditions of the Second Temple period into late antiquity and the Middle Ages. The articles in »Heavenly Ascent« consider the relationship between the ascent apocalypses of the Second Temple period and later works involving heavenly ascent, particularly the hekhalot texts. In the final section, »The Pseudepigrapha and Medieval Jewish Literature,« Himmelfarb investigates evidence for knowledge of works of the Second Temple period by medieval Jews with consideration of the channels by which the works might have reached these later readers.

Herman, Geoffrey

## A Prince without a Kingdom

### The Exilarch in the Sasanian Era

Volume 150  
2012. XIX, 411 pages.

ISBN 9783161506062  
cloth 129,00 €

ISBN 9783161521386  
eBook PDF 129,00 €

The Exilarchs, professed scions of the biblical Davidic royal line, were leaders of the Jews of Babylonia in antiquity. They were said to be powerful political figures and to lead a decadent lifestyle. Their princely trappings and high-handed manner were legend. They were reported to be completely assimilated into Persian culture. Geoffrey Herman examines the evidence, culled mainly from the Talmudic and Geonic literature, subjecting the institution of the Exilarchate to literary-historical and source-critical analysis. In addition, Herman innovatively utilizes comparative sources from the fields of Iranian studies and Persian Christianity to find the truth underlying the accounts of the historical Exilarchs.

Spigel, Chad S.

## Ancient Synagogue Seating Capacities

### Methodology, Analysis and Limits

Volume 149  
2012. XII, 406 pages.

ISBN 9783161518799  
cloth 139,00 €

ISBN 9783161522796  
eBook PDF 139,00 €

After the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, the primary form of Jewish worship in Palestine shifted from offering sacrifices in Jerusalem to non-sacrificial forms of worship in local synagogue buildings. While the literary and archaeological evidence from the first few centuries CE makes this shift clear, the evidence is less clear about the extent of synagogue worship at this time. In other words, the evidence doesn't explicitly tell us whether most Jews in late-antique Palestine actually *participated* in synagogue worship. In this book, Chad Spigel suggests that it is possible to ascertain the extent of synagogue worship by determining and analyzing the seating capacities of ancient synagogue buildings. He begins by filling a lacuna in the scholarly literature with the creation of a methodology that can be used to determine the seating capacity of any ancient synagogue building. The seating capacity methodology is then applied to ancient synagogue buildings from the Roman and Byzantine Periods, thus creating a catalog of seating capacities for late-antique Palestine. The seating capacities are then analyzed in conjunction with ancient population estimates and other demographic data in an effort to better understand local Jewish worship practices. By gathering and analyzing seating capacity and demographic data for more than fifty ancient synagogue buildings, the author not only shows that the extent of synagogue worship varied from place to place,



he also provides an important resource for scholars of late-antique Judaism.

Ilan, Tal

## Lexicon of Jewish Names in Late Antiquity

### Part II: Palestine 200–650

Volume 148  
2012. XXVIII, 621 pages.

ISBN 9783161502071  
cloth 219,00 €

ISBN 9783161521379  
eBook PDF 219,00 €

Although described as volume II, this is the last volume to appear in a series of four which documents all the named Jews whose record has come down to us from Antiquity. It lists all the Jewish people we know and those we think were Jews from Palestine after 200 CE and before the Arab conquest. Most of the information in it is derived from the Palestinian Talmud and from inscriptions from Jewish cemeteries such as Beit Shearim. Unlike the previous volumes in this series, this volume also lists all the Samaritans known by name from Palestine in this period. It includes more than 3000 entries. Together with the other books in this series, a record of more than 15,000 named Jews has been collected. From this collection it is possible to learn much about the cultural phenomenon of name-giving among Jews in Antiquity and the extent of their assimilation or separateness can be assessed. The entire series is thus a very useful resource for the study of cultural and social history and its utility to scholars will certainly be long lasting. The volume also includes a substantial addendum to volume 1, which appeared in print exactly ten years ago. It includes over 500 entries that had been overlooked in the previous volume, or that have meanwhile been published. In an appendix the results of the project team's research on inscriptions in Elijah's Cave in Haifa are presented. This cave is a venerated Jewish site to this day, although its religious character in Antiquity is the subject of debate. The team was able to read 50 inscriptions found on its wall and this added more than 70 names to the present volume.

## Judaea-Palaestina, Babylon and Rome: Jews in Antiquity

Ed. by Benjamin Isaac and Yuval Shahar

Volume 147  
2012. IX, 324 pages.

ISBN 9783161516979  
cloth 99,00 €

ISBN 9783161520259  
eBook PDF 99,00 €

The present volume brings together papers by internationally renowned specialists in Jewish history in the Roman period. Most of them were read at a conference at Tel Aviv University in 2009 in honour of Aharon Oppenheimer. The volume focuses on a number of well-defined key topics in the history of the Jews both in Judea and in the diaspora: first of all the image of Jews among non-Jews and of non-Jews among Jews; questions of social and intellectual history, mostly those dealing with the transformation that took place as a result of the failed Jewish revolts against Rome and urgent issues in modern scholarship.

Studies to be mentioned here are: the relationship and cultural differences between Palestinian and Babylonian Jews; the relationship between Jews and early Christians; the evolving image of first century Judaism as projected in the early Christian sources and modern scholarship; the role of the sages in this period, conversion to Judaism, and Jewish resistance and martyrdom under Roman rule.

Many of the papers provide a new assessment of the relevant subjects in the light of changing views of social and religious history. Central to many of the papers is a focus on attitudes toward others and collective image: the Jews as seen by others; Jews looking at others and at internal groups. Another category of articles are chapters in social and intellectual history with a sensitive and controversial ideology in the background, some of them providing provocative re-assessments.

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#### The Image of Jews among Non-Jews

*Albert I. Baumgarten*: The »Outreach« Campaign of the Ancient Pharisees: There is no such thing as a Free Lunch – *Shaye J.D. Cohen*: Dancing, Clapping, Meditating: Jewish and Christian Observance of the Sabbath in Pseudo-Ignatius

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*Joshua Schwartz*: How Jewish to be Jewish? Self-Identity and Jewish Christians in First Century CE Palestine – *Günter Stemberger*: The *birkat ha-minim* and the separation of Christians and Jews – *Vered Noam*: Another Look at the Rabbinic Conception of Gentiles from the Perspective of Impurity Laws – *Richard Kalmin*: The Evil Eye in Rabbinic Literature of Late Antiquity – *Peter Schäfer*: Jesus' Origin, Birth, and Childhood according to the Toledot Yeshu and the Talmud

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Aharon Oppenheimer's Publications



## Revelation, Literature, and Community in Late Antiquity

Ed. by Philippa Townsend and Moulie Vidas

Volume 146  
2011. VIII, 368 pages.

ISBN 9783161506444  
cloth 109,00 €

ISBN 9783161518591  
eBook PDF 109,00 €

This volume stems from a conference held at Princeton University, which brought together leading scholars in the study of ancient religions. Claims to divine revelation are not simply a common trope in ancient religious texts: they often determine the structure of these texts and of the communities that produce them. The authors of the studies collected here examine the literary and social functions of revelation in late antiquity from early Christianity and rabbinic Judaism to early Islam, contributing both to our understanding of the phenomenon of revelation as well as to the study of the great transformations, interactions, and tensions typical of this important period.

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*Michael E. Pregill:* Ahab, Bar Kokhba, Muhammad, and the Lying Spirit: Prophetic Discourse before and after the Rise of Islam

*Patricia Crone:* Angels versus Humans as Messengers of God: The View of the Qur'anic Pagans

Cook, L. Stephen

### On the Question of the »Cessation of Prophecy« in Ancient Judaism

Volume 145  
2011. XI, 226 pages.

ISBN 9783161509209  
cloth 89,00 €

ISBN 9783161517730  
eBook PDF 89,00 €

Many Jewish texts from the Second Temple and rabbinic periods seem to reflect the view that Israelite prophecy ceased around the beginning of the Second Temple era. Stephen Cook examines these writings in order to identify attitudes about the status of prophets and prophecy throughout the Second Temple period, and also to address the question of whether scholars today should view prophecy as having ceased in that era. The author first presents the key passages from antiquity, along with a summary of the seminal discussions of these texts from the last 150 years. He then analyzes each of the relevant ancient bodies of Jewish literature, and isolates key streams of thought within ancient Judaism which help address the question of how prophecy's status was viewed. In a third part, he finally addresses the question of whether it is appropriate today to hold that Israelite prophecy ceased in antiquity.

Hezser, Catherine

### Jewish Travel in Antiquity

Volume 144  
2011. X, 529 pages.

ISBN 9783161508899  
cloth 154,00 €

ISBN 9783161517723  
eBook PDF 154,00 €

This book provides the first comprehensive study of Jewish travel and mobility in Hellenistic and Roman times, based on a critical analysis of Jewish, Graeco-Roman, and early Christian literary, epigraphic, and archaeological sources and a social-historical evaluation of the material. Catherine Hezser shows that certain segments of ancient Jewish society were quite mobile. Mobility seems to have increased in the later Roman period, when an extensive road system facilitated travel within the province of Syria-Palestine and the neighbouring Middle Eastern regions. Second Temple Judaism was centralized, with Jerusalem as its central space and seat of priestly authority. In post-70 rabbinic Judaism, on the other hand, connections between rabbis could be established through mutual visits and second- and third-degree contacts only. Mobility formed the basis of the establishment of a decentralized rabbinic network in Palestine and Babylonia in late antiquity. Numerous narrative and halakhic traditions indicate the importance of mobility for communication and the exchange of knowledge amongst rabbis. It is argued that the rabbis who were most mobile sat at the nodal points of the rabbinic network and elicited the largest amount of influence. They would have combined business travel with scholarly exchange. Scholars' journeys between Palestine and Babylonia are viewed within the wider context of Rome and Persia's economic and cultural

exchange in which Jews, just like Christians, may have played the role of intermediaries.

## Toledot Yeshu («The Life Story of Jesus») Revisited

A Princeton Conference

Ed. by Peter Schäfer, Michael Meerson and Yaacov Deutsch

Volume 143  
2011. VII, 316 pages.

ISBN 9783161509483  
cloth 99,00 €

ISBN 9783161517716  
eBook PDF 99,00 €

One of the most controversial books in history, *Toledot Yeshu* recounts the life story of Jesus from a negative and anti-Christian perspective. It ascribes to Jesus an illegitimate birth, a theft of the Ineffable Name of God, heretical activities, and, finally, a disgraceful death. Perhaps for centuries, the *Toledot Yeshu* circulated orally until it coalesced into various literary forms. Although the dates of these written compositions remain obscure, some early hints of a Jewish counter-history of Jesus can be found in the works of pagan and Christian authors of Late Antiquity, such as Celsus, Justin, and Tertullian. In the Middle Ages, the book became the object and tool of a most acrimonious controversy. Jews, Christians, and atheists – such as Ibn Shaprut, Luther, and Voltaire – quoted and commented on *Toledot Yeshu*, trying to disprove the beliefs of their opponents and revealing their own prejudices. Due to the offensive nature of the book, scholars have until recently paid little attention to *Toledot Yeshu*. In 2007, Peter Schäfer launched a project at Princeton University to prepare a scholarly edition with translation and commentary based on all the available manuscripts (about 150). Along with this project, Peter Schäfer, Michael Meerson, and Yaacov Deutsch organized an international conference, attended by the leading scholars of the subject, to discuss the present state of research. The conference contributions, published in this volume, mark a new stage in *Toledot Yeshu* research.

Survey of contents

*Peter Schäfer*: Introduction – *Michael Sokoloff*: The Date and Provenance of the Aramaic *Toledot Yeshu* on the Basis of Aramaic Dialectology – *Peter Schäfer*: Agobard's and Amulo's *Toledot Yeshu* – *William Horbury*: The Strasbourg Text of the *Toledot* – *Adina M. Yoffie*: Observations on the Huldreich Manuscripts of the *Toledot Yeshu* – *Michael Stanislawski*: A Preliminary Study of a Yiddish »Life of Jesus« (*Toledot Yeshu*): JTS Ms. 2211 – *Pierluigi Piovaneli*: The *Toledot Yeshu* and Christian Apocryphal Literature: The Formative Years – *Eli Yassif*: *Toledot Yeshu*: Folk-Narrative as Polemics and Self Criticism – *Philip Alexander*: The *Toledot Yeshu* in the Context of Jewish-Muslim Debate – *Sarit Kattan Gribetz*: Hanged and Crucified: The Book of Esther and *Toledot Yeshu* – *Michael Meerson*: Meaningful Nonsense: A Study of Details in *Toledot Yeshu* – *Ora Limor* and *Israel Jacob Yuval*: Judas Iscariot: Revealer of the Hidden Truth – *John Gager*: Simon Peter, Founder of Christianity or Saviour of Israel? – *Galit Hasan-Rokem*: Polymorphic Helena – *Toledot Yeshu* as a Palimpsest of Religious Narratives and Identities – *Yaacov Deutsch*: The Second Life of the Life of Jesus: Christian Reception of *Toledot Yeshu* – *Paola Tartakoff*: The *Toledot Yeshu* and Jewish-Christian Conflict in the Medieval Crown of Aragon.

Henze, Matthias

## Jewish Apocalypticism in Late First Century Israel

Reading 'Second Baruch' in Context

Volume 142  
2011. X, 448 pages.

ISBN 9783161508592  
cloth 139,00 €

ISBN 9783161514753  
eBook PDF 139,00 €

The *Syriac Apocalypse of Baruch* or *Second Baruch* is a Jewish work of the late first century C.E., written in Israel in the aftermath of the Jewish War against Rome. It is part of a larger body of post-70 C.E. Jewish literature. The authors of these works had a difficult charge. They needed to re/imagine Judaism and its central symbols, take count of a thriving Diaspora, and articulate how Jewish life was to be lived from then on, without the benefit of a temple. Written at a time of religious reconstruction and mental reorientation, *Second Baruch* occupies a unique place in the history of early Jewish thought. In this highly original work, the author of *Second Baruch* developed an apocalyptic program that was intended for post-70 C.E. Judaism at large and not for a small dissident community only. The program incorporates various theological strands, chief among them the *Deuteronomic promise* of a prosperous and long life for those keeping the Torah and the *apocalyptic promise* of a new heaven and a new earth.

In this book, Matthias Henze offers a close reading of some of the central passages in *Second Baruch*, exposes its main themes, explains the apocalyptic program it advocates, draws some parallels with other texts, Jewish and Christian, and locates *Second Baruch*'s intellectual place in the rugged terrain of post-70 C.E. Jewish literature and thought. For modern readers interested in Judaism of the late Second Temple period, in the Jewish world from which early Christianity emerged, and in the origins of rabbinic Judaism, *Second Baruch* is an invaluable source.

Ilan, Tal

## Lexicon of Jewish Names in Late Antiquity

Part IV: The Eastern Diaspora 330 BCE-650 CE

With the Collaboration of Kerstin Hünefeld

Volume 141  
2011. XXI, 465 pages.

ISBN 9783161505515  
cloth 199,00 €

ISBN 9783161514746  
eBook PDF 199,00 €

In this lexicon, Tal Ilan collects all the information on names of Jews in lands east of Palestine, in which Aramaic and Arabic was spoken, and on the people who bore them between 330 BCE, a date which marks the Hellenistic conquest of East, and 650 CE, approximately the date when the Muslim conquest of East and the southern Mediterranean basin was completed. The corpus includes names from literary sources, especially the Babylonian Talmud but those mentioned in epigraphic documents, especially incantation bowls in Aramaic, are also an important factor of the database. This lexicon is an onomasticon in as far as it is a collection of all the recorded names used by the Jews of the eastern Diaspora in the above-mentioned period. Tal Ilan discusses the provenance of the names and explains them etymologically, given the many possible sources of influence for the names at that time. In addition, she shows the division between the use of biblical names and the use of foreign names, and points out the most popular ones. This book is also a prosopography, since Ilan analyzes the identity of the persons mentioned therein. The lexicon is accompanied by a lengthy and comprehensive introduction that scrutinizes the main trends in name giving current at the time. A large part of it is devoted to the question of how one can identify a Jew in a mostly non-Jewish society.

## The Old Testament Apocrypha in the Slavonic Tradition

### Continuity and Diversity

Ed. by Lorenzo DiTommaso and Christfried Böttrich, with the assist. of Marina Swoboda

Volume 140  
2011. XIV, 486 pages.

ISBN 9783161495168  
cloth 129,00 €

ISBN 9783161514739  
eBook PDF 129,00 €

Written by an international group of expert scholars, the essays in this volume are devoted to the topic of biblical apocrypha, particularly the »Old Testament Pseudepigrapha,« within the compass of the Slavonic tradition. The authors examine ancient texts, such as 2 *Enoch* and the *Apocalypse of Abraham*, which have been preserved (sometimes uniquely) in Slavonic witnesses and versions, as well as apocryphal literature that was composed within the rich Slavonic tradition from the early Byzantine period onwards. The volume's focus is textual, historical, and literary. Many of its contributions present editions and commentaries of important texts, or discuss aspects pertaining to the manuscript evidence.

### Survey of contents

*James H. Charlesworth*: The Uniqueness and Importance of the Slavonic Pseudepigrapha – *Lorenzo DiTommaso / Christfried Böttrich*: The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha in the Slavonic Tradition – *F.I. Andersen*: The Sun in 2 *Enoch*: *The Book of the Secrets of Enoch* – *Florentina Badalanova Geller*: The *Sea of Tiberias* between Apocryphal Literature and Oral Tradition – *Christfried Böttrich*: Die »Geschichte Melchisedeks« (HistMelch) im slavischen Kulturkreis – *I.M. Gritsevskaya*: Some Problems of Textology of Indexes of Prohibited Books – *Tomislav Jovanovic*: Old Testament Apocrypha in the Serbian Manuscript Tradition – *Alexander Kulik*: Slavonic Apocrypha and Slavic Linguistics – *Basil Lourié*: Propitiatorium in the *Apocalypse of Abraham* – *Anissava Miltenova*: Slavonic *Erotapokriseis*: Sources, Transmission, Morphology of the Genre – *Liudmila Navtanovich*: The Slavonic *Apocryphon of Zorobabel* – *Andrei Orlov*: The Heirs of the Enochic Lore: »Men of Faith« in 2 *Enoch* 35:2 and *Sefer Hekhalot* 48d:10 – *Michael Pesenson*: The Sibylline Tradition in Medieval and Early Modern Slavic Culture – *Nicolae Roddy*: Slavonic Apocryphal Traditions in the Romanian Lands: Diffusion and Diffraction – *Aurelio de Santos Otero*: Die handschriftliche Überlieferung der *Apokalypse Abrahams* – *Cornelia Soldat*: *The Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs* in the Russian Tradition and the Contexts of Their Reception – *Marina Swoboda*: The Old Testament »Apocrypha« in Early Russian Drama – *Evgenij G. Vodolazkin*: Zu einer Rohfassung der Polnaja Chronograficeskaja Paleja und zum Verhältnis zwischen den verschiedenen Paleja-Redaktionen

### Zellentin, Holger Michael

## Rabbinic Parodies of Jewish and Christian Literature

Volume 139  
2011. IX, 275 pages.

ISBN 9783161506475  
cloth 109,00 €

ISBN 9783161514722  
eBook PDF 109,00 €

Holger M. Zellentin seeks to probe how far the classical rabbis took their literary playfulness in order to advance their religious and societal causes. Building on the literary approaches to rabbinic Judaism of the past decades, this work considers the rabbis' attitudes towards their Byzantine and Sassanian surroundings. The author examines how the Talmud and Midrash in Palestine and Persia repeat previous texts with comical difference, oscillating between reverence and satire. The result shows rabbinic society and its literature engaging in the great debates of their times, commenting on issues such as pedagogy, abstinence, dream interpretation, inheritance law, ritual purity, and Christian triumphalism and asceticism. In constant conversation with the Bible, the rabbis reveal themselves as capable of critically reinventing the Jewish tradition, as well as of playfully engaging a few Gospel passages favoured by their Christian interlocutors. Rabbinic parodies cast deviant insiders as tantamount to outsiders and explore the limits of acculturation within the Jewish tradition – in the Talmud, even parody itself comes under parodic scrutiny.

### Stemberger, Günter

## Judaica Minora

Teil II: Geschichte und Literatur des rabbinischen Judentums



Volume 138  
2010. IX, 787 pages.

ISBN 9783161505713  
cloth 239,00 €

ISBN 9783161514715  
eBook PDF 239,00 €

The essays in this volume deal with three areas: One part focuses on the pre-Islamic history of the Jews, the development of the rabbinic and the relationship between Jews and Christians. This is followed by texts on methodological issues, the historical value of rabbinic texts and the legacy of the apocalyptic. Ten of the essays deal with Tractate Avot, its origins and its reception, four of them with the redaction history of Sifra to Leviticus. The outline of the Midrash Wayosha segues into thematic studies of rabbinic literature. The work concludes with essays on the research history (J.J. Rabe, L. Zunz and H.L. Strack). All the essays have been given a standard form and any overlapping has been deleted if this was deemed expedient. Essays that were published in Spanish or Italian have been translated and everything has been updated to a certain extent.

#### Survey of contents

Vorwort – Die Juden in rabbinischer Zeit (1.-7. Jh.). Ein Überblick – Judenchristen – Hieronymus und die Juden seiner Zeit – Zwangstaufen von Juden im 4.-7. Jahrhundert. Mythos oder Wirklichkeit? – Die Verbindung von Juden mit Häretikern in der spätantiken römischen Gesetzgebung – Christians and Jews in Byzantine Palestine – Jewish-Christian Contacts in Galilee – Jerusalem in the Early Seventh Century: Hopes and Aspirations of Christians and Jews – Die Umformung des palästinischen Judentums nach 70: Der Aufstieg der Rabbinen – Die Ordination der Rabbinen. Idealbild oder historische Wirklichkeit? – Rabbinic Sources for Historical Study – Dating Rabbinic Traditions – Mündliche Tora in schriftlicher Form. Zur Redaktion und Weitergabe früher rabbinischer Texte – Hananiah ben Hezekiah ben Garon, the Eighteen Decrees and the Outbreak of the War against Rome – Narrative Baraitot in the Yerushalmi – Das Fortleben der Apokalyptik in der rabbinischen Literatur – Münchhausen und die Apokalyptik. Baba Batra 73a-75b als literarische Einheit – Mishna Avot. Frühe Weisheitsschrift, pharisäisches Erbe oder spätrabbinische Bildung? – Die innerrabbinische Überlieferung von Mishna Avot – »Moses received Torah...« (M. Avot 1,1) – Rabbinic Conceptions of Revelation – »Schaff dir einen Lehrer, erwirb dir einen Kollegen« (mAv 1,6). Lernen als Tradition und Gemeinschaft – Die aramäischen Sprüche Hillels im Traktat Avot – »Ich habe nichts Besseres für den Menschen gefunden als Schweigen« (mAv 1,17) – »Wenn du betest, mache dein Gebet nicht zu einer festen Sache« (mAv 2,13). Zur Bedeutung des Gebets im frühen Rabbinat – Das Leben als Geschäft (mAv 3,16) – »Wende und wende sie« (mAvot 5,22) – Verdienst und Lohn – Kernbegriffe rabbinischer Frömmigkeit? Überlegungen zu Mishna Avot – Sages, Scribes, and Seers in Rabbinic Judaism – Levitikus in Sifra – Zur Redaktionsgeschichte von Sifra – Sifra. Tosefta. Yerushalmi. Zur Redaktion und frühen Rezeption von Sifra – Zu Eigenart und Redaktion von Sifra Behuqqotai – Midrasch Wa-yosha – Quellen und Tendenzen einer mittelalterlichen Erzählung – Samael und Uzza. Zur Rolle der Dämonen im späten Midrasch – Reaktionen auf die Tempelzerstörung in der rabbinischen Literatur – Der Krieg in der Mishna und in den halakhischen Midraschim – The Derashah in Rabbinic Times – Die Mishna-Übersetzung von Johann Jacob Rabe – Leopold Zunz. Pioneer of Midrash Research – H. L. Stracks Beitrag zur Erforschung der rabbinischen Literatur – Rabbinische Forschung im deutschen Sprachbereich nach 1945

## Sefer Shimmush Tehillim – Buch vom magischen Gebrauch der Psalmen

Edition, Übersetzung und Kommentar

Hrsg. v. Bill Rebiger

Volume 137  
2010. IX, 359 pages.

ISBN 9783161497742  
cloth 119,00 €

ISBN 9783161514708  
eBook PDF 119,00 €

*Sefer Shimmush Tehillim* (the Book of the Magical Use of Psalms) is a popular Jewish manual in which biblical psalms are assigned magical purposes. Its redaction began in the area of Egypt and Palestine in late antiquity, and its complex history resulted finally in the first printing (Sabbioneta 1551) and in the Sephardic recension. Bill Rebiger has edited manuscripts from the Middle Ages and early modern times as well as the first printing from a synoptic perspective. He has also translated the first printing and the Sephardic recension into German. In the commentary, he discusses the relationship between the text of a psalm and its magical use as well as the relationship between the different recensions, the history of text and tradition, magical parallels and the ritualistic aspect of its magical practices. A general introduction, including the history of research, as well as various indexes complete this volume.

Cohen, Shaye J.D.

## The Significance of Yavneh and Other Essays in Jewish Hellenism

Volume 136  
2010. XV, 614 pages.

ISBN 9783161503757  
cloth 184,00 €

ISBN 9783161514692  
eBook PDF 184,00 €

This volume collects thirty essays by Shaye J.D. Cohen. First published between 1980 and 2006, these essays deal with a wide variety of themes and texts: Jewish Hellenism; Josephus; the Synagogue; Conversion to Judaism; Blood and Impurity; the boundary between Judaism and Christianity. What unites them is their philological orientation. Many of these essays are close studies of obscure passages in Jewish and Christian texts. The essays are united too by their common assumption that the ancient world was a single cultural continuum; that ancient Judaism, in all its expressions and varieties, was a Hellenism; and that texts written in Hebrew share a world of discourse with those written in Greek. Many of these essays are well-known and have been much discussed in contemporary scholarship. Among these are: »The Significance of Yavneh« (the title essay), »Patriarchs and Scholars,« »Masada: Literary Tradition, Archaeological Remains, and the Credibility of Josephus,« »Epigraphical Rabbis,« »The Conversion of Antoninus,« »Menstruants and the Sacred in Judaism and Christianity,« and »A Brief History of Jewish Circumcision Blood.«

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## The Talmud in Its Iranian Context

Ed. by Carol Bakhos and Rahim Shayegan

Volume 135  
2010. XVIII, 270 pages.

ISBN 9783161501876  
cloth 89,00 €

ISBN 9783161514685  
eBook PDF 89,00 €

Scholars of rabbinics and Iranists are increasingly turning to the orbit of Iranian civilization in order to explore the extent to which the Babylonian Talmud was exposed to the theological and liturgical discourse of the Zoroastrian religion, as well as Sasanian legal practices. Here possibly for the first time, scholars within these fields are brought together in concert to examine the interaction between Jewish and Iranian cultures in terms of legal exegesis, literature, and religious thought. The implications of this groundbreaking effort are vastly significant for Jewish and Iranian Studies.

#### With contributions by:

*Yaakov Elman, David Goodblatt, Geoffrey Herman, Richard Kalmin, Maria Macuch, Jason Sion Mokhtarian, Shai Secunda, Shaul Shaked, Prods Oktor Skjærvø, Yuhán Sohrab-Dinshaw Vevaina*

Salzer, Dorothea M.

## Die Magie der Anspielung

Form und Funktion der biblischen Anspielungen in den magischen Texten der Kairoer Geniza

Volume 134  
2010. XIII, 527 pages.

ISBN 9783161500466  
cloth 139,00 €

ISBN 9783161514678  
eBook PDF 139,00 €

Dorothea M. Salzer studies the use of biblical quotations and allusions in the Hebrew and Aramaic magical texts which were found among the manuscripts from the Cairo Geniza. Although allusions to the Hebrew Bible are extant and important in almost all of these magical texts, they have never before been subjected to a thorough and comprehensive analysis. Against the backdrop of the theory of intertextuality, Dorothea Salzer describes how the authors of these texts used biblical quotations and other allusions for magical and rhetorical purposes. She explains the significance of these allusions for understanding the structure and meaning of the medieval magical texts.

The appendix lists the biblical quotations/allusions referred to in the analysed texts which all date from the 10th to the 16th century..

Stemberger, Günter

## Judaica Minora

Teil I: Biblische Traditionen im rabbinischen Judentum

Volume 133  
2010. VIII, 560 pages.

ISBN 9783161504037  
cloth 169,00 €

ISBN 9783161514661  
eBook PDF 169,00 €

This collection of essays focuses on the rabbinic understanding of the Torah as well as issues concerning the canon and hermeneutics. It contains articles on the rabbinic interpretation of biblical texts, including the Books of the Maccabees and the Book of Judith as well as studies of the portrayal of biblical themes in the synagogues. Several texts deal with the currents in Palestinian Judaism at the end of the period of the Second Temple, the question of a possible unity in mainstream Judaism and the origins of Christianity. Three of the essays describe the rabbinic concept of the priesthood and of the heavenly liturgy after the destruction of the Second Temple. The last part deals with the similarities and the differences in the Jewish and the Christian interpretation of the Bible, the polemics resulting from the rivalry surrounding the Bible text as well as the question of what Jewish and New Testament scholars can learn from one another.

## Sefer ha-Razim I und II – Das Buch der Geheimnisse I und II

Band 2: Einleitung, Übersetzung und Kommentar

Hrsg. v. Bill Rebigier u. Peter Schäfer in Zus.-Arb. m. Evelyn Burkhardt u. Dorothea M. Salzer

Volume 132  
2009. XII, 334 pages.

ISBN 9783161499562  
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Two macroforms dating back to late antiquity are known under the Hebrew title *Sefer ha-Razim* (The Book of Secrets). Both are closely related in their history of tradition and redaction. *Sefer ha-Razim I* is a magical manual consisting of an introduction and seven chapters composed according to the cosmological scheme of seven heavens. *Sefer ha-Razim II* consists mainly of angelical lists of names corresponding to the twelve months that are used for magical purposes. Whereas the first volume, which has already been published, provided the texts of the edition, the second volume contains an introduction, the German translation and a German commentary on both *Sefer ha-Razim* titles.

Baumgarten, Albert

### Elias Bickerman as a Historian of the Jews

A Twentieth Century Tale

Volume 131  
2010. X, 377 pages.

ISBN 9783161501715  
cloth 109,00 €

ISBN 9783161514647  
eBook PDF 109,00 €

This biography of Elias Bickerman (1897–1981), one of the foremost historians of Graeco-Roman antiquity active in the twentieth century, focuses on his role as a historian of the Jews. Bickerman had an extraordinary life. He was born in Kishinev and grew up in St. Petersburg. He arrived in Berlin in 1922, where he pursued an academic career (Doctorate, 1926; Habilitation, 1930). With the rise of the Nazis, he moved to Paris in 1933, then to the USA in 1942. He died in Tel Aviv and was buried in Jerusalem.

Albert Baumgarten explores the connections between Bickerman's life and his scholarly work on the Jews in its different cultural and academic contexts (Russian, German, French, and American). He argues that Bickerman intended to create a usable Jewish past. He further shows that Bickerman conceived the ancient Jewish encounter with Hellenism and the modern Jewish entry into European civilization in light of each other. He demonstrates that Bickerman argued that there were some ancient Jews who were wrong in the way they tried to bridge the gap between Judaism and Hellenism, while there were other ancient Jews who found the right solution. He illustrates the contemporary significance of these conclusions concerning the past for Bickerman himself and for other Jews of his time. Bickerman saw the circumstances of his life as a series of unfortunate dislocations. This book emphasizes the intellectual and academic benefit Bickerman derived from his life experience in the twentieth century.

### Jewish Identities in Antiquity

Studies in Memory of Menahem Stern

Ed. by Lee I. Levine and Daniel R. Schwartz

Volume 130  
2009. XXV, 442 pages.

ISBN 9783161500305  
cloth 119,00 €

ISBN 9783161514630  
eBook PDF 119,00 €

*Jewish Identities in Antiquity: Studies in Memory of Menahem Stern* pays homage to one of the greatest scholars of ancient Jewish history in the twentieth century. Its theme stems from the recognition that Jewish life and society in the thousand-year period from Alexander's conquest in the fourth century BCE to the Arab conquest in the seventh century CE underwent countless changes, both sudden and gradual. As a result, numerous facets of Jewish life in antiquity were drastically altered as well as many aspects of Jewish identity. The articles in this volume encompass political, social, cultural and religious issues in both literary and archaeological sources.

Survey of contents

*Daniel R. Schwartz*: Menahem Stern (1924–1989): His Place in Historical Scholarship – *Lee I. Levine*: Jewish Identities in Antiquity: An Introductory Essay – *Doron Mendels*: Memory and Memories: The Attitude of 1–2 Maccabees toward Hellenization and Hellenism – *Oren Tal*: Hellenism in Transition from Empire to Kingdom: Changes in the Material Culture of Hellenistic Palestine – *David Goodblatt*: »The Israelites who reside in Judah« (Judith 4:1): On the Conflicted Identities of the Hasmonean State – *Uriel Rappaport*: The Connection between Hasmonean Judaea and the Diaspora – *Erich S. Gruen*: Kinship Relations and Jewish Identity – *Sylvie Honigman*: Jewish Communities of Hellenistic Egypt: Different Responses to Different Environments – *Joseph Geiger*: The Jew and the Other: Doubtful and Multiple Identities in the Roman Empire – *Albert I. Baumgarten*: How Experiments End – *Isaiah M. Gafni*: Symposium: In the Wake of the Destruction: Was Rabbinic Judaism Normative? – *Hillel I. Newman*: The Normativity of Rabbinic Judaism: Obstacles on the Path to a New Consensus – *Zeev Safrai and Chana Safrai*: To What Extent Did the Rabbis Determine Public Norms? The Internal Evidence – *David Levine*: Between Leadership and Marginality: Models for Evaluating the Role of the Rabbis in the Early Centuries CE – *Moshe David Herr*: The Identity of the Jewish People before and after the Destruction of the Second Temple: Continuity or Change? – *Steven D. Fraade*: The Temple as a Marker of Jewish Identity Before and After 70 CE: The Role of the Holy Vessels in Rabbinic Memory and Imagination – *Lee I. Levine*: Forum: Was There a Crisis in Jewish Settlement in the Eastern Galilee of Late Antiquity? – *Uzi Leibner*: Settlement Patterns in the Eastern Galilee: Implications Regarding the Transformation of Rabbinic Culture in Late Antiquity – *Jodi Magness*: Did Galilee Experience a Settlement Crisis in the Mid-Fourth Century? – *Uzi Leibner*: The Settlement Crisis in the Eastern Galilee during the Late Roman and Early Byzantine Periods: Response to Jodi Magness – *Tessa Rajak*: The Greek Bible Translations among Jews in the Second Century CE – *Isaiah M. Gafni*: How Babylonia Became »Zion«: Shifting Identities in Late Antiquity – *Adiel Schremer*: The Christianization of the Roman Empire and Rabbinic Literature – *Zeev Weiss*: Between Rome and Byzantium: Pagan Motifs in Synagogue Art and Their Place in the Judaea-Christian Controversy – *Oded Irshai*: Jewish Violence in the Fourth Century CE – Fantasy and Reality: Behind the



Pummer, Reinhard

## The Samaritans in Flavius Josephus

Volume 129  
2009. XVIII, 356 pages.

ISBN 9783161501067  
cloth 119,00 €

ISBN 9783161514623  
eBook PDF 119,00 €

The first-century C.E. Jewish historian Flavius Josephus is our main source of information for the early history of the Samaritans, a community closely related to Judaism whose development as an independent religion is commonly dated in the Hellenistic-Roman period. Josephus' two main works, *Jewish War* and *Jewish Antiquities*, contain a number of passages that purport to describe the origin, character and actions of the Samaritans. In composing his histories, Josephus drew on different sources, some identifiable others unknown to us. Contemporary Josephus research has shown that he did so not as a mere compiler but as a creative writer who selected and quoted his sources carefully and deliberately and employed them to express his personal views. Rather than trying to isolate and identify Josephus' authorities and to determine the meaning these texts had in their original setting, Reinhard Pummer examines what Josephus himself intended to convey to his audience when he depicted the Samaritans in the way he did. He attempts to combine composition criticism and historical research and argues that the differences in Josephus' portrayal of the Samaritans in *War* on the one hand and in *Antiquities* on the other are due to the different aims the historian pursued in the two works.

Avidov, Avi

## Not Reckoned among Nations

### The Origins of the So-Called »Jewish Question« in Roman Antiquity

Volume 128  
2009. XII, 226 pages.

ISBN 9783161500213  
cloth 89,00 €

ISBN 9783161514616  
eBook PDF 89,00 €

As in the modern era, in Roman antiquity too the so-called »Jewish question« was essentially that of the integration of diaspora Jews into their host societies. Social integration varies, however, in accordance with the organizational principles upon which various societies are established. The thrust of the present study is that in order to understand the marginal position of the Jews within the Roman empire, the mechanisms governing the integration of Roman imperial society at large need first be fleshed out. A general model of social integration of multi-cultural societies is, accordingly, first presented and thereafter serves as the point of departure for an enquiry into the causes of the mal-integration of the Jews in the Roman empire.

Leibner, Uzi

## Settlement and History in Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine Galilee

### An Archaeological Survey of the Eastern Galilee

Volume 127  
2009. XII, 471 pages.

ISBN 9783161498718  
cloth 129,00 €

ISBN 9783161514609  
eBook PDF

Uzi Leibner aims to provide the most accurate picture possible of the nature and history of the rural settlement in the Lower Galilee during Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods when this region played an important role in the development of both Judaism and Christianity.

In an attempt to draw a historical reconstruction based on systematic data, a test case area in the »heart« of ancient Galilee was chosen for this research. Uzi Leibner used two distinct disciplines: the study of the relevant historical sources and the advanced archaeological field survey. Greek, Latin, Hebrew and Aramaic sources concerning settlements in the region were translated and discussed. Some fifty archaeological sites from the periods under discussion were identified and surveyed. The analysis of the finds enabled the author to draw a detailed portrait of settlement – including periods of construction, abandonment, prosperity and decline in each site and in the region as a whole. This book sheds new light on major historical issues such as the origins of the Galilean Jewry in the Second Temple Period, the First Jewish Revolt and its outcomes, the Jews of Galilee under Christian regime, demography, economy, continuity and decline.

Ilan, Tal

## Lexicon of Jewish Names in Late Antiquity

### Part III: The Western Diaspora, 330 BCE – 650 CE

#### in collaboration with Thomas Ziem

Volume 126  
2008. XXVI, 770 pages.

ISBN 9783161496738  
cloth 219,00 €

ISBN 9783161514593  
eBook PDF 219,00 €

In this lexicon, Tal Ilan collects all the information on names of Jews in lands west of Palestine, in which Greek and Latin was spoken, and on the people who bore them between 330 BCE, a date which marks the Hellenistic conquest of East, and 650 CE, approximately the date when the Muslim conquest of East and the southern Mediterranean basin was completed. The corpus includes names from literary sources, but those mentioned in epigraphic and papyrological documents form the vast majority of the database. This lexicon is an onomasticon in as far as it is a collection of all the recorded names used by the Jews of the western Diaspora in the above-mentioned period. Tal Ilan discusses the provenance of the names and explains them etymologically, given the many possible sources of influence for the names at that time. In addition she shows the division between the use of biblical names and the use of Greek, Latin and other foreign names, and points out the most popular names. This book is also a prosopography since Ilan analyzes the identity of the persons mentioned therein.

The lexicon is accompanied by a lengthy and comprehensive introduction that scrutinizes the main trends in name giving current at the time. A large part of it is devoted to the question of how one can identify a Jew in a mostly non-Jewish society.

## Sefer ha-Razim I und II – Das Buch der Geheimnisse I und II

### Band 1: Edition

Hrsg. v. Bill Rebiger u. Peter Schäfer, in Zus.-Arb. m. Evelyn Burkhardt, Gottfried Reeg u. Henrik Wels

Volume 125  
2009. XI, 261 pages.

ISBN 9783161497810  
cloth 169,00 €

ISBN 9783161514586  
eBook PDF 169,00 €

Two macroforms dating back to late antiquity are known under the Hebrew title *Sefer ha-Razim* (The Book of Secrets). Both are closely related in their history of tradition and redaction. *Sefer ha-Razim I* is a magical manual consisting of an introduction and seven chapters composed according to the cosmological scheme of seven heavens. *Sefer ha-Razim II* consists mainly of angelical lists of names corresponding to the twelve months that are used for magical purposes. Both texts were repeatedly redacted and translated and widely received in Judaism as well as in Christianity. The present edition considers this rather complex history of redaction and reception by presenting the different versions synoptically. This is the first publication of *Sefer ha-Razim II*. A translation of the standard version of both macroforms into German as well as a detailed commentary are included.

Gußmann, Oliver

## Das Priesterverständnis des Flavius Josephus

Volume 124  
2008. XIV, 514 pages.

ISBN 9783161495625  
cloth 154,00 €

ISBN 9783161514579  
eBook PDF 154,00 €

The ancient Jewish historian Flavius Josephus served as a priest of the Herodian temple of Jerusalem. He was not a member of one of the different religious parties of the Jewish community before the Jewish War (70 CE), but he ascribed his own origins to the old Hasmonean high priestly family. Oliver Gußmann presents Josephus' understanding of the priesthood by dealing with genealogy, priesthood and prophecy, theocracy, the architecture of the Second Temple and the symbolism of the high priestly vestments. This book is a contribution to the research on Josephus and the priesthood of ancient Judaism in the first century CE. There is an English translation of the summary.

## Antiquity in Antiquity

### Jewish and Christian Pasts in the Greco-Roman World

Ed. by Gregg Gardner and Kevin Osterloh

Volume 123  
2008. VIII, 475 pages.

ISBN 9783161494116  
cloth 129,00 €

ISBN 9783161514562  
eBook PDF 129,00 €

Leading scholars in early Christianity, Judaic studies, classics, history and archaeology explore the ways that memories were retrieved, reconstituted and put to use by Jews, Christians and their pagan neighbours in late antiquity, from the third century B.C.E. to the seventh century C.E.

Survey of contents

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Jewish, Pagan, and Christian Antiquities in the Greco-Roman World

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Rocca, Samuel

## Herod's Judaea

### A Mediterranean State in the Classical World

Volume 122  
2008. XI, 445 pages.

ISBN 9783161497179  
cloth 139,00 €

ISBN 9783161514555  
eBook PDF 139,00 €

Samuel Rocca presents an in – depth analysis of Herodian society. The most important facet of this analysis was the relationship between Herod as ruler and the Jewish subjects over whom he ruled. Yet to understand the relationship between Herod and his subjects, between ruler and ruled, it is necessary, as part of the general background, to undertake a general analysis of Herodian Judaea and its relationship with the classical world, beginning with Augustan Rome, which was then the center of power, and followed by the main centers within the Mediterranean basin and the Hellenistic East. The author contends that Herod, though a Jewish ruler, regarded both Alexander the Great-the embodiment of the Hellenistic ruler-and Augustus as ideal models who were worthy of imitation. These models of inspiration influenced the shape of society in Herodian Judaea as a whole. In fact, Herod pushed Judaea towards major Hellenization, albeit with many elements more akin to Rome. This trend of Hellenization was present well before the Herodian period but intensified under Herod's rule. It seems that one of the reasons for the intensification of this trend was King Herod's domination of Judaeen society, which allowed him to dictate socio-cultural trends to a greater extent than Augustus was able to do in Rome. Samuel Rocca deals with Herod as the head of Jewish society in Judaea, and hence this study is first and foremost a study of Herodian society. Thus he analyzes the Herodian ideology of rule, the court, the army, the administration, the economy, the ruling political bodies, the city as a microcosm, the religion, and the burial customs. This book anchors Herodian Judaea as firmly as possible within the surrounding Mediterranean world and therefore within the realities of Hellenistic Roman civilization in order to better understand its multi-faceted dimensions as part of the surrounding contemporary world, and not simply as an entity belonging to a biblical – New Testament reality.

Tov, Emanuel

## Hebrew Bible, Greek Bible, and Qumran

### Collected Essays

Volume 121  
2008. XXXII, 458 pages.

ISBN 9783161495465  
cloth 139,00 €

ISBN 9783161514548  
eBook PDF 139,00 €

Subdivided into three segments (Hebrew Bible, Greek Bible, Qumran), this updated and revised collection of essays represents the work of Emanuel Tov in the past seventeen years. He focuses on various aspects of the textual analysis of the Hebrew and Greek Bible, as well as the Qumran biblical manuscripts in Hebrew and Greek. Further he takes a special interest in the orthography of biblical manuscripts, the nature of the early Masoretic Text, the nature of the Qumran biblical texts and their importance for our understanding of the history of the biblical text, the editions of the Hebrew Bible, and the use of computers in biblical studies. The author also focuses on the interaction between textual and literary criticism and the question of the original text or texts of the Hebrew Bible. His special interests in the Qumran scrolls include the nature of the Qumran corpus, their scribal background, the contents of the various caves, and the number of the compositions and copies found at Qumran. His interest in the Septuagint translation evolves around its text-critical value, the Greek texts from the Judean Desert, and translation technique.

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5. The Text of Isaiah at Qumran
6. Rewritten Bible Compositions and Biblical Manuscripts, with Special Attention Paid to the Samaritan Pentateuch
7. The Rewritten Book of Joshua as Found at Qumran and Masada
8. The Textual Basis of Modern Translations of the Hebrew Bible
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26. The Septuagint and the Deuteronomists
27. The Special Character of the Texts Found in Qumran Cave 11
28. The Number of Manuscripts and Compositions Found at Qumran

Teppler, Yaakov Yanki

## Birkat haMinim

Jews and Christians in Conflict in the Ancient World

Transl. by Susan Weingarten

Volume 120  
2007. X, 413 pages.

ISBN 9783161493508  
cloth 119,00 €

ISBN 9783161514531  
eBook PDF 119,00 €

One of the intriguing questions in the study of the period of the re-formation of Judaism after the destruction of the Second Temple is the identity of a group which appears in hundreds of Talmudic sources from those days – the *minim*. It is clear that most of these sources reflect different facets of the polemic between Judaism and Christianity, which were both engaged in establishing their identities. This book concentrates mainly on the second century CE, and includes two basic questions: the question of the earliest text of the twelfth blessing of the central Jewish prayer composed at that time, Birkat haMinim; and the question of the identity of those *minim* who are cursed in this blessing. In the first section of the book, Yaakov Yanki Teppler analyzes the blessing itself. In the second section, which concerns the question of its principal objects, he sets out on a quest for the characterization of the *minim*, using all the hundreds of sources which deal with them. Having united these two sections in one framework, a proposal is made as to the identity of the *minim*. This proposal should provide a coherent basis for further research on this subject, laying a firm foundation for understanding the processes of separation between Judaism and Christianity in this stormy and fascinating period.

## Heresy and Identity in Late Antiquity

Ed. by Eduard Iricinschi and Holger Michael Zellentin

Volume 119  
2008. VIII, 407 pages.

ISBN 9783161491221  
cloth 84,00 €

ISBN 9783161514524  
eBook PDF 84,00 €

The authors of the essays collected here explore the ways in which late antique groups defined their own socio-political borders and created secure in-group identities by means of discourses on »heresy« and »heretics.« A wider definition of »heresy« and »heretics« as real or constructed »internal opposition« and »internal enemies« leads to a new understanding of ancient sources as well as to new comparative possibilities. Some of the contributing authors look at the social setting of heresiology, and examine how it served to regulate interaction between communities. Others consider the different functions of »heresy«-making discourse as a simultaneous process of describing and disqualifying groups of perceived dissenters. Combining presentations from various fields, the authors reconsider the phenomenon of 'heresy' in late antiquity in the broadest possible scope. They focus on examples of the ways in which late antique groups defined themselves as righteous, in the process of describing imagined communities as vicious. They analyze cases in which authors or groups sought to present dangerous encounters by describing the »other« in highly conventionalized terms established through heresiological traditions and the creation of clichés and stock characters. The authors also examine cases in which heresy-making discourses effectively »push with the left and bring in with the right,« as the Babylonian Talmud has it, inasmuch as the proclamation of a radical divorce from 'heretics' allowed for the domestication of their ideas and practices.

Survey of contents

*Content:*

*Eduard Iricinschi and Holger Zellentin:* Introduction. From Heresy to Heresiology: Recent Trends in Scholarship and the Contribution of This Volume – *Karen L. King:* Social and Theological Effects of Heresiological Discourse – *William E. Arnal:* Doxa, Heresy, and Self-Construction. The Pauline Ekklesiai and the Boundaries of Urban Identities – *Averil Cameron:* The Violence of Orthodoxy – *Yannis Papadopyannakis:* Defining Orthodoxy in Pseudo-Justin's »Quaestiones et responsiones ad orthodoxos« – *Caroline Humfress:* Citizens and Heretics: Late Roman Lawyers on Christian Heresy – *Richard Lim:* The Nomen Manichaeorum and Its Uses in Late Antiquity – *Annette Yoshiko Reed:* Heresiology and the (Jewish-)Christian Novel: Narrativized Polemics in the Pseudo-Clementine Homilies – *Kevin Lee Osterloh:* Judea, Rome and the Hellenistic Oikoumenē: Emulation and the Reinvention of Communal Identity – *Phillippa Townsend:* Who Were the First Christians? – *John G. Gager:* Where Does Luke's Anti-Judaism Come from? – *Holger Zellentin:* Margin of Error: Bavli Shabbat 116a-b as Polemics, Apology, and Heresiology – *Burton L. Visotzky:* Goys 'Я'n't Us: Rabbinic Anti-Gentile Polemic in Yerushalmi Berachot 9:1 – *Eduard Iricinschi:* If You Got It, Flaunt It: Religious Advertising in the Gospel of Philip – *Gregg Gardner:* Astrology in the Talmud: An Analysis of Bavli Shabbat 156 – *Israel Jacob Yuval:* The Other in Us: Liturgica, Poetica, Polemica

Brodsky, David

## A Bride without a Blessing

A Study in the Redaction and Content of Massekhet Kallah and Its Gemara

Volume 118  
2006. XVIII, 551 pages.

ISBN 9783161490194  
cloth 149,00 €

ISBN 9783161587290  
eBook PDF 149,00 €

David Brodsky uses form and source criticism to date Massekhet Kallah and the first two chapters of Kallah Rabbati – which form a commentary on Massekhet Kallah – to the mid-amoraic period (circa late third and early fifth centuries CE respectively), and to locate their redaction in Babylonia. This makes these two sources the only known rabbinic texts whose final redaction took place in Babylonia during the amoraic period, and establishes them as the closest extant relatives of the Babylonian Talmud. Parallels between these two sources and the Babylonian Talmud elucidate the nature of oral transmission and of the redactional processes of Babylonian rabbinic material during this critical period, and, thereby, of the Babylonian Talmud itself. In addition, the author deciphers Massekhet Kallah's peculiar asceticism: a concern with men's inappropriate use of or interactions with their wives, charity, vows, and even with the group's own transmitted traditions. Massekhet Kallah fears the physical and at times cosmic effects of such inappropriate behavior. Brodsky finds that these items were all deemed consecrated, removed from the realm of normal interaction. To have mundane interaction with them was a powerful and dangerous act. Brodsky explores the fascinating gender and theological implications of this unique asceticism.

Netzer, Ehud

## The Architecture of Herod, the Great Builder

With the Assistance of Rachel Laureys-Chachy

Volume 117  
2006. XIV, 443 pages.

ISBN 9783161485701  
cloth 154,00 €

ISBN 9783161587559  
eBook PDF 154,00 €

Herod the Great was one of the famous builders of the classical world. Judaea, his kingdom, a crossroads between the Eastern Mediterranean countries, Mesopotamia, Arabia, and Egypt, symbolizes the transition between the Hellenistic and Early Roman periods as well as the climax of the Second Temple period, which witnessed the emergence of many religious and spiritual movements including Christianity. Beyond the influence of the matured Hellenistic architecture, the developing Roman architecture, and the local building activity of his predecessors, the Hasmonaeans, Herod's buildings benefited from his analytical mind, creative imagination, and deep understanding of the process of building and planning. The consequences are outstanding structures such as Masada's Northern Palace and Herodium's cylindrical palatial fortress, and the peak of his achievements are Caesarea Maritima with its deepwater harbor and the rebuilding of Jerusalem's Temple Mount.

Having an architectural as well as an archaeological background, Ehud Netzer is able to highlight Herod's personal involvement and contributions in his building projects. This book presents, in many aspects, the first comprehensive synthesis of Herod's enterprises from archaeological and, mainly, architectural viewpoints.

## Avot de-Rabbi Natan

Synoptische Edition beider Versionen.

Hrsg. v. Hans-Jürgen Becker in Zus.-Arb. m. Christoph Berner

Volume 116  
2006. XXVII, 409 pages.

ISBN 9783161488870  
cloth 334,00 €

ISBN 9783161587504  
eBook PDF 334,00 €

This comprehensive edition of both versions of Avot de-Rabbi Natan is the successor to the Salomon Schechter edition, published in 1887 and out-of-date for some time now. It is based on considerably expanded textual evidence and places the text witnesses next to each other without changing their versions or judging them. For the first time, these synopses permit an overview of the complete direct handwritten evidence and make it possible to recognize the lack of uniformity in the tradition. Avot de-Rabbi Natan A is presented in a large, double-paged synopsis with two appendices, the Avot de-Rabbi Natan B synopsis is shorter due to the fact that there are less manuscripts. Lists of parallels and a user-friendly reference system enable problem-free comparisons.

Ilan, Tal

## Silencing the Queen

The Literary Histories of Shelamzion and Other Jewish Women

Volume 115  
2006. XV, 315 pages.

ISBN 9783161488795  
cloth 114,00 €

ISBN 9783161587092  
eBook PDF 114,00 €

Tal Ilan explores the way historical documents from antiquity are reworked and edited in a long process that ends in silencing the women originally mentioned in them. Many methods are used to produce this end result: elimination of women or their words, denigration of the women and their role or unification of several significant women into one. These methods and others are illuminated in this book, as it uses the example of the Jewish queen Shelamzion Alexandra (76–67 BCE) for its starting point. Queen Shelamzion was the only legitimate Jewish queen in history. Yet all the documents in which she is mentioned (Josephus, Qumran scrolls, rabbinic literature etc.) have been reworked so as to minimize her significance and distort the picture we may receive of her. Tal Ilan follows the ways this was done and in doing so she encounters similar patterns in which other Jewish women in antiquity were silenced, censored and edited out.

## Creation and Composition

### The Contribution of the Bavli Redactors (Stammaim) to the Aggada

Ed. by Jeffrey L. Rubenstein

Volume 114  
2005. VIII, 458 pages.

ISBN 9783161486920  
cloth 149,00 €

ISBN 9783161586910  
eBook PDF 149,00 €

The contributors to this book analyze how the redactors of the Talmud transformed and reworked earlier aggadic (non-legal) traditions. Critical study of the Babylonian Talmud is founded on the distinction between two literary strata: traditions attributed to named sages (the Amoraim, c. 200–450 CE) and *setam hatalmud*, the unattributed or anonymous material. The conclusion of modern scholars is that the anonymous stratum postdates the Amoraic stratum and should be attributed to the Talmudic redactors, also known as Stammaim (c. 450–700 CE.) The contribution of the Stammaim to the aggadic (non-legal) portions of the Talmud – to midrash, narratives, ethics and theology – has received minimal scholarly attention. The articles in this book demonstrate that the Stammaim made a profound contribution to the aggadic portions of the Babylonian Talmud and illustrate the processes by which they created and composed many aggadic traditions.

Reichman, Ronen

## Abduktives Denken und talmudische Argumentation

### Eine rechtstheoretische Annäherung an eine zentrale Interpretationsfigur im babylonischen Talmud

Volume 113  
2006. XIII, 292 pages.

ISBN 9783161487705  
cloth 109,00 €

ISBN 9783161586934  
eBook PDF 109,00 €

Ronen Reichman focuses on a typically Talmudic interpretive methodology, revealing the argumentation figure which is called an »oqimta«, an abductive procedure in the Talmudic tradition. Abduction generally refers to a logical operation in which new explanatory hypotheses are formed. In abduction, an inference is made from the effect to the cause, from the consequences to the antecedents, a conclusion is drawn from a »result« by way of a »rule« to the »case«. The abductive way of thinking in the context of Talmudic legal hermeneutics provides integrated normative correctness controls in the interpretation of the existing legal traditions. The abductive argumentation examines the sense of the transmitted adjudication from the perspective of its normative acceptability.

Boustan, Ra'anan S.

## From Martyr to Mystic

### Rabbinic Martyrology and the Making of Merkavah Mysticism

Volume 112  
2005. XXII, 376 pages.

ISBN 9783161487538  
cloth 119,00 €

ISBN 9783161586903  
eBook PDF 119,00 €

Ra'anan S. Boustan traces the historical emergence of the specific form of 'mystical' discourse found in *Heikhalot Rabbati*. He argues that the creators of *Heikhalot Rabbati* sought to fashion a myth of origins for their distinctive brand of heavenly ascent practice by radically reworking the narrative framework of the widely disseminated post-talmudic martyrology *The Story of the Ten Martyrs*. *Heikhalot Rabbati* not only renders redundant the notion of atoning self-sacrifice that is central to the martyrology, but also ascribes to the Heikhalot visionary the intercessory function of the martyr – here achieved bloodlessly through heavenly ascent and liturgical performance. *Heikhalot Rabbati* emerged as a part of a broader effort to fashion a distinct social identity for the Heikhalot visionary. In parsing the complex relationship between rabbinic martyrology and Heikhalot literature, the author illuminates how the figures of the rabbinic martyr and the Merkavah mystic came to play parallel, yet competing, roles within the highly influential conceptions of history that were bequeathed to medieval Jewish communities by late antique Judaism.

Miller, Stuart

## Sages and Commoners in Late Antique 'Erez Israel

### A Philological Inquiry into Local Traditions in Talmud Yerushalmi

Volume 111  
2006. XIII, 554 pages.

ISBN 9783161485671  
cloth 149,00 €

ISBN 9783161587597  
eBook PDF 149,00 €

Stuart S. Miller addresses a number of issues in the history of talmudic Palestine that are at the center of contemporary scholarly debate about the role rabbis played in society. In sharp contrast to recent claims that the rabbis were a relatively small and insular group with little influence, this book demonstrates that their movement was both more expansive and diffuse than a mere counting of named rabbis suggests. It also underscores some of the dynamics that allowed rabbinic circles to spread their teachings and to ultimately consolidate into an effective and productive movement. Many overlooked terms and passages in which rabbis and the members of their circles appear in the Talmud Yerushalmi are investigated, and special attention is given to the identity of persons who are collectively referred to after their places of residence (»Tiberians,« »Sepphoreans,« »Southerners,« etc.) While the results confirm the insular nature of the interests of the rabbis, they also point to the definition and coherence that this insularity provided their movement. Therein lies the secret of the »success« of rabbinic Judaism, which never depended upon sheer numbers but rather on the internal strength and sense of purpose of rabbinic circles. Subjects that are considered include: rabbinic »households,« the identity of the *'ammei ha-'arez* and their relationship to the rabbis, village sages and their connection to urban rabbis, and the venue of rabbinic »teachings,« »instructions,« »expositions,« »pronouncements,« and stories.



DiTommaso, Lorenzo

## The Dead Sea 'New Jerusalem' Text

### Contents and Contexts

Volume 110  
2005. XV, 228 pages.

ISBN 9783161487996  
cloth 94,00 €

ISBN 9783161587542  
eBook PDF 94,00 €

This volume is the first study of the Aramaic Dead Sea *New Jerusalem* text conducted in light of the complete extent of the preserved manuscript copies and with full reference to previous reconstructions. In addition to presenting an edition of the Cave Four copies (4Q554, 4Q554a, 4Q555), Lorenzo DiTommaso discusses the genre of the *NJ*, the order of its material, and its antecedents and parallels in ancient urban design. He suggests that its New Jerusalem is not a heavenly city and that categories of earthly and heavenly Jerusalems perhaps impose an inappropriate taxonomy on the various ancient Jewish and Christian expressions of the New Jerusalem. The author demonstrates that the *NJ* shares virtually no points of contact with the *Temple Scroll*, and that neither text is likely dependent on the other. He also argues that the New Jerusalem of the *NJ* is neither an eschatological focus of pilgrimage nor a mustering point for the final battle, that the text's eschatological horizon is established by a review of history and anticipates a time when once-hostile nations are humbled, and that it was conceivably composed in the first third of the second century BCE, shortly before the Maccabean revolt.

Hauptman, Judith

## Rereading the Mishnah

### A New Approach to Ancient Jewish Texts

Volume 109  
2005. XIII, 285 pages.

ISBN 9783161487132  
cloth 104,00 €

ISBN 9783161587573  
eBook PDF 104,00 €

Judith Hauptman argues that the Tosefta, a collection dating from approximately the same time period as the Mishnah and authored by the same rabbis, is not later than the Mishnah, as its name suggests, but earlier. The Redactor of the Mishnah drew upon an old Mishnah and its associated supplement, the Tosefta, when composing his work. He reshaped, reorganized and abbreviated these materials in order to make them accord with his own legislative outlook. It is possible to compare the earlier and the later texts and to determine, case by case, the agenda of the Redactor. According to the author's theory it is also possible to trace the evolution of Jewish law, practice, and ideas. When the Mishnah is seen as later than the Tosefta, it becomes clear that the Redactor inserted numerous mnemonic devices into his work to assist in transmission. The synoptic gospels may have undergone a similar kind of editing.

Oppenheimer, Aharon

## Between Rome and Babylon

### Studies in Jewish Leadership and Society

Ed. by Nili Oppenheimer

Volume 108  
2005. XV, 499 pages.

ISBN 9783161485145  
cloth 154,00 €

ISBN 9783161586972  
eBook PDF 154,00 €

*Between Rome and Babylon* includes over thirty papers by Aharon Oppenheimer about Jewish life in Palestine and Babylonia in the period of the Mishnah and the Talmud (1st-4th centuries), dealing with leadership and society, political and military activity, relations with the authorities and historical geography. The collection is organized around three inter-connected themes: 1 Roman Palestine and its Environs; 2 The Bar Kokhba Revolt; 3 Babylonia Judaica. About two-thirds of the papers were originally published in Hebrew. They have been selected and edited for this collection, and translated for the first time into English or German. The rest of the papers originally appeared in various different languages and contexts, and they too have been selected and edited to fit the three themes. Cross-references have been added, as well as detailed indices. The aim of the papers is to cast light on Jewish history by extracting methodically historical meaning from Talmudic sources, taking into account when they were written, where they were edited, and how far they can be presumed authentic; and by looking at them in combination with Greek, Roman, Persian and Arabic written sources as well as relevant archaeological finds.

Orlov, Andrei A.

## The Enoch-Metatron Tradition

Volume 107  
2005. XII, 383 pages.

ISBN 9783161485442  
cloth 119,00 €

ISBN 9783161586873  
eBook PDF 119,00 €

Andrei A. Orlov examines the tradition about the seventh antediluvian patriarch Enoch, tracing its development from its roots in the Mesopotamian lore to the Second Temple apocalyptic texts and later rabbinic and Hekhalot materials where Enoch is often identified as the supreme angel Metatron. The first part of the book explores the imagery of the celestial roles and titles of the seventh antediluvian hero in Mesopotamian, Enochic and Hekhalot materials. The analysis of the celestial roles and titles shows that the transition from the figure of patriarch Enoch to the figure of angel Metatron occurred already in the Second Temple Enochic materials, namely, in *2 (Slavonic) Enoch*, a Jewish work, traditionally dated to the first century CE. The second part of the book demonstrates that mediatorial polemics with the traditions of the exalted patriarchs and prophets played an important role in facilitating the transition from Enoch to Metatron in the Second Temple period.



Dochhorn, Jan

## Die Apokalypse des Mose

Text, Übersetzung, Kommentar

Volume 106  
2005. XIV, 657 pages.

ISBN 9783161482557  
cloth 139,00 €

ISBN 9783161586965  
eBook PDF 139,00 €

The Apocalypse of Moses is a story about the life of Adam and Eve after they had been driven out of paradise. This work provides the text of the Apocalypse of Moses along with a comprehensive apparatus of textual criticism, a German translation and a commentary which reveals the narrative structures and focuses on the question of the relationship between the biblical stories about Adam and Eve and those in the Apocalypse of Moses. Whose idea was it to tell these stories, which at times strike us as quite bizarre, when the canonical text was available? Jan Dochhorn proves the Jewish origins of the Apocalypse of Moses and shows that it is based almost throughout on exegetical observations of the Hebrew bible text.

Ehrlich, Uri

## The Nonverbal Language of Prayer

A New Approach of Jewish Liturgy

Transl. by Dena Ordan

Volume 105  
2004. XI, 303 pages.

ISBN 9783161481505  
cloth 109,00 €

ISBN 9783161587337  
eBook PDF 109,00 €

Uri Ehrlich addresses a relatively neglected but central component of the act of prayer: its nonverbal aspects, represented by such features as the worshiper's gestures, attire and shoes, and vocal expression. In the first part of this book, the author engages in a two-tiered examination of nine nonverbal elements integral to the rabbinic Amidah prayer: a detailed historical-geographical consideration of their development, followed by an analysis of each gesture's signification, the crux of this study. Of all the possible models, it was the realm of interpersonal communication which had the strongest impact on this consideration of the rabbinic Amidah gesture system. The concluding chapters explore the broader rabbinic conception of prayer embodied in these nonverbal modes of expression. Unlike mainstream prayer studies, which concentrate on the textual and spoken facets of prayer, the holistic approach taken here views prayer as a complex of verbal, physical, spiritual and other attributes.

Hayman, A. Peter

## Sefer Yesira

Edition, Translation and Text-Critical Commentary

Volume 104  
unrevised e-book edition 2020;  
Original edition 2004 2004.  
IX, 206 pages.

ISBN 9783161587955  
eBook PDF 84,00 €

Sefer Yesira is a short, enigmatic text which has fascinated scholars since it first emerged into the light of day in the early tenth century. It was initially understood to be a philosophical text which had descended by oral tradition from Abraham himself. Consequently it was commented on by many of the major figures in the Jewish world in the early medieval period. Subsequently it was understood as a mystical text and became a crucial influence on the medieval mystical movement (the Kabbalah). More than seventy kabbalistic commentaries on it are known. It continued to be of interest to Christian kabbalists at the time of the Renaissance and to scholars of Judaism and mysticism to the present day. Peter Hayman's study provides the first comprehensive critical edition of this text. The texts of the earliest manuscripts of the three main recensions of Sefer Yesira (the Short, Long and Saadyan Recensions) are printed in synoptic columns with a critical apparatus, drawn from nineteen selected manuscripts, at the bottom of each column. There is an English translation of each of the recensions followed by a commentary discussing the variant readings of the manuscripts and the text of Sefer Yesira presupposed in the earliest commentaries on it. Both in the introduction and the commentary an attempt is made to reconstruct an early form of the text from which the later recensions have developed. There are four appendices setting out what parts of the text are attested in each of the manuscripts and in what order, a hypothetical reconstructed text and the text of the tenth century Vatican scroll of Sefer Yesira with the probable added material underlined. The introduction concludes with an attempt to outline how the text grew into the form which has come down to us from the medieval period.

## Geniza-Fragmente zu Avot de-Rabbi Natan

Hrsg. v. Hans-Jürgen Becker. In Zus.-Arb. m. Christoph Berner, Wolfram Drews u. Ulrike Kämpf

Volume 103  
2004. VII, 343 pages.  
ISBN 9783161483257  
cloth 274,00 €  
ISBN 9783161587610  
eBook PDF 274,00 €

Avot de-Rabbi Nathan is one of the most important sources for the history of Judaism in late antiquity and could in fact be the most informative documentation of early rabbinic theology and ethics. This monograph contains a complete edition of all the Genizah fragments of Avot de-Rabbi Nathan. The volume includes facsimiles, transcriptions, text comparisons and critical analyses which shed new light on the ongoing debate about editorial processes in rabbinic literature.

Volume 102  
2004. XV, 284 pages.  
ISBN 9783161481888  
cloth 99,00 €  
ISBN 9783161587009  
eBook PDF 99,00 €

## Inscriptiones Judaicae Orientis

Volume III: Syria and Cyprus

Ed. by David Noy and Hanswulf Bloedhorn

Volume 101  
2004. XVI, 397 pages.  
ISBN 9783161481895  
cloth 109,00 €  
ISBN 9783161587016  
eBook PDF 109,00 €

Noy, David / Panayotov, Alexander / Bloedhorn, H.

## Inscriptiones Judaicae Orientis

Volume I: Eastern Europe

Ed. by David Noy, Alexander Panayotov and Hanswulf Bloedhorn

Volume 100  
unrevised e-book edition 2020;  
Original edition 2003 2003.  
XX, 313 pages.

ISBN 9783161587948  
eBook PDF 109,00 €

## The Bar Kokhba War Reconsidered

New Perspectives on the Second Jewish Revolt against Rome

Ed. by Peter Schäfer

The Second Jewish Revolt against the Roman dominion (132–135 CE) considerably changed the political and cultural landscape of Jewish Palestine. Judaea was almost completely devastated, and Jewish life shifted from Judaea to the Galilee. The Roman victory, however, was won at great cost.

The last decade has seen some stunning developments in research on the Bar Kokhba War. In particular, recent archaeological findings provide new material for evaluation. This volume is based on a conference which took place in November 2001 at Princeton University and gathers a distinguished array of scholars working at the forefront of research on the Bar Kokhba period. It appraises the state of the subject in light of the present scholarly discussion and evaluates the historical importance of this major event and its repercussions for the subsequent history of the Jews in Roman Palestine. A concluding essay investigates the use of Bar Kokhba's image in modern Israeli culture.

Survey of contents

*Peter Schäfer: Preface – Peter Schäfer: Bar Kokhba and the Rabbis – Martin Goodman: Trajan and the Origins of the Bar Kokhba War – Yoram Tsafrir: Numismatics and the Foundation of Aelia Capitolina: A Critical Review – Benjamin Isaac: Roman Religious Policy and the Bar Kokhba War – Aharon Oppenheimer: The Ban of Circumcision as a Cause of the Revolt: A Reconsideration – Ra'anan Abusch: Negotiating Difference: Genital Mutilation in Roman Slave Law and the History of the Bar Kokhba Revolt – Hanan Eshel: The Dates Used during the Bar Kokhba Revolt – Menahem Mor: The Geographical Scope of the Bar Kokhba Revolt – Hannah M. Cotton: The Bar Kokhba Revolt and the Documents from the Judaean Desert: Nabataean Participation in the Revolt (P. Yadin 52) – Werner Eck: Hadrian, the Bar Kokhba Revolt, and the Epigraphic Transmission – Glen W. Bowersock: The Tel Shalem Arch and P. Nahal Hever/Seiyal 8 – Amos Kloner and Boaz Zissu: Hiding Complexes in Judaea: An Archaeological and Geographical Update on the Area of the Bar Kokhba Revolt – Yuval Shahar: The Underground Hideouts in Galilee and their Historical Meaning – Yaron Z. Eliav: The Urban Layout of Aelia Capitolina: A New View from the Perspective of the Temple Mount – Yael Zerubavel: Bar Kokhba's Image in Modern Israeli Culture*

## Inscriptiones Judaicae Orientis

Band II: Kleinasien

Hrsg. v. Walter Ameling

Volume 99  
2004. XVIII, 650 pages.

ISBN 9783161481963  
cloth 129,00 €

ISBN 9783161587191  
eBook PDF 129,00 €

Walter Ameling collects all known Jewish inscriptions from the Graeco-Roman period (up to c.700 CE) in Asia Minor. The book provides the mainly Greek texts of the inscriptions with German translations together with full bibliographies, discussions and indexes.

Shahar, Yuval

## Josephus Geographicus

### The Classical Context of Geography in Josephus

Volume 98  
2004. IX, 305 pages.

ISBN 9783161482564  
cloth 104,00 €

ISBN 9783161587528  
eBook PDF 104,00 €

Why did ancient historians include geographical descriptions in their historical works? How does the spatial description fulfill its goal? In this book, Yuval Shahar discusses these two questions, showing that the answers depend on the particular historian and the genre in which he is writing. He analyzes and compares the presentation of geographical space in the writings of Herodotus, Thucydides, Polybius and Strabo, with selected illustrations from early Latin historiography. It is clear from this that Flavius Josephus consciously and definitively follows the generic approach of Polybius and Strabo. Moreover, Josephus' descriptions of parts of the Land of Israel are structured in the same way as the descriptions in Strabo's *Geography*, and reflect a hidden dialogue between Josephus and Strabo.

Awareness of these generic characteristics enables a new reading of some of Josephus' most famous descriptions, such as Jotapata, Gamala and Masada, and establishes his credibility.

## Rabbinic Law in its Roman and Near Eastern Context

Ed. by Catherine Hezser

Volume 97  
2003. VIII, 310 pages.

ISBN 9783161480713  
cloth 94,00 €

ISBN 9783161586828  
eBook PDF 94,00 €

Ancient Palestinian and Babylonian rabbinic literature developed in a context of constant exposure to and challenge by the dominant Graeco-Roman and Babylonian cultures. Rabbinic legal thinking is unlikely to have constituted an exception in this regard. Yet the positivistic search for influences is increasingly seen as inappropriate in recent scholarship. What is much more important is to investigate the ways in which rabbinic legal thinking participated in ancient Graeco-Roman and Near Eastern legal thinking, to determine which legal topics and forms were shared, where similar conclusions were reached, and where differences can be discerned. In this way the boundaries between ancient Jewish and non-Jewish legal traditions become increasingly blurred.

The contributions to this volume, which is the outcome of an interdisciplinary conference held at Trinity College Dublin in March 2002, address a variety of issues. Both internal and external aspects of legal texts are investigated, documentary texts are discussed alongside literary texts, and the Graeco-Roman context of Palestinian legal traditions is supplemented by the Sasanian context of Babylonian halakhah. In addition, the general legal situation in the Roman Empire at large and Roman Palestine in particular is elucidated.

Survey of contents

*Catherine Hezser*: Introduction – *Anne Fitzpatrick-McKinley*: Ezra, Nehemiah, and Some Early Greek Lawgivers – *Hannah Cotton*: 'Diplomatics' or External Aspects of the Legal Documents from the Judean Desert: Prolegomena – *Jill Harries*: Creating Legal Space: Settling Disputes in the Roman Empire – *Natalie B. Dohrman*: The Boundaries of the Law and the Problem of Jurisdiction in an Early Palestinian Midrash – *Leib Moscovitz*: Legal Fictions in Rabbinic Law and Roman Law: Some Comparative Observations – *Catherine Hezser*: Slaves and Slavery in Rabbinic and Roman Law – *Hayim Lapin*: Maintenance of Wives and Children in Early Rabbinic and Documentary Texts from Roman Palestine – *Bernard S. Jackson*: Problems in the Development of the Ketubah Payment: The Shimon ben Shetach Tradition – *Yaakov Elman*: Marriage and Marital Property in Rabbinic and Sasanian Law – *Ranon Katzoff*: Children of Inter marriage: Roman and Jewish Conceptions

Wandrey, Irina

## »Das Buch des Gewandes« und »Das Buch des Aufrechten«

### Dokumente eines magischen spätantiken Rituals, ediert, kommentiert und übersetzt

Volume 96  
2004. XII, 354 pages.

ISBN 9783161481154  
cloth 119,00 €

ISBN 9783161587139  
eBook PDF 119,00 €

For the first time in this book and in the German translation, Irina Wandrey makes two Hebrew texts available which contain significant proof of the fact that magic traditions which began in late antiquity continued up into the Middle Ages. The ritual of dressing in the name of God, which is described in the *Book of the Garment* and examined in the *Book of the Righteous*, is comparable to the initiation rites which were common in the first two centuries AD and which served to deify those taking part or to give them the divine power of an adept. *Systasis* rites for obtaining a heavenly assessor, initiation rites into mysteries as well as Christian baptism in the name of Jesus can be used here as correlatives. At the end of the book there is a commentary section on the connection of both texts to the history of religion.

Becker, Adam H. / Reed, Annette Yoshiko

## The Ways that Never Parted

Jews and Christians in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages

Ed. by Adam H. Becker and Annette Y. Reed

Volume 95  
2003. VIII, 410 pages.

ISBN 9783161479663  
cloth 79,00 €

ISBN 9783161586958  
eBook PDF 79,00 €

Traditional scholarship on the history of Jewish/Christian relations has been largely based on the assumption that Judaism and Christianity were shaped by a definitive 'Parting of the Ways'. According to this model, the two religions institutionalized their differences by the second century and, thereafter, developed in relative isolation from one another, interacting mainly through polemical conflict and mutual misperception.

This volume grows out of a joint Princeton-Oxford project dedicated to exploring the limits of the traditional model and to charting new directions for future research. Drawing on the expertise of scholars of both Jewish Studies and Patristics, it offers an interdisciplinary perspective on the interaction between Jews and Christians between the Bar Kokhba Revolt and the rise of Islam. The contributors question the conventional wisdom concerning the formation of religious identity, the interpenetration of Jewish and Christian traditions, the fate of 'Jewish-Christianity', and the nature of religious polemics in Late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages.

By moving beyond traditional assumptions about the essential differences between Judaism and Christianity, this volume thus attempts to open the way for a more nuanced understanding of the history of these two religions and the constantly changing yet always meaningful relationship between them.

Visotzky, Burton L.

## Golden Bells and Pomegranates

Studies in Midrash Leviticus Rabbah

Volume 94  
2003. VII, 206 pages.

ISBN 9783161479915  
cloth 79,00 €

ISBN 9783161587474  
eBook PDF 79,00 €

Burton L. Visotzky surveys the scholarly literature on Midrash Leviticus Rabbah, a 5th century rabbinic anthology. He presents the findings of his own research that Leviticus Rabbah is a quasi-encyclopedic miscellany of rabbinic thought and commentaries on Torah and its study. He outlines the content of Leviticus Rabbah, its novel elements of style, structure, and redaction. The results of this analysis place the text at a turning point in rabbinic literature. The author undertakes to survey and synthesize the broad areas necessary to understand Leviticus Rabbah, while at the same time offering detailed studies of both structure and content. Its attitudes – and so, rabbinic attitudes – on topics like theology, angelology, anthropology, women, the poor, and the Other are also commented on.

## The Talmud Yerushalmi and Graeco-Roman Culture III

Ed. by Peter Schäfer

Volume 93  
2002. XVII, 486 pages.

ISBN 9783161478529  
cloth 139,00 €

ISBN 9783161587511  
eBook PDF 139,00 €

This third volume, which offers further insights into the most important source of late antique Judaism, the Talmud Yerushalmi, in relation to its cultural context, marks another step in a research project on the Talmud Yerushalmi initiated by the Institute of Jewish Studies at the Free University (Berlin) in 1994 and concluded by a conference held at Princeton University in November 2001. This volume focuses on a wide range of topics such as gender studies, aspects of everyday life, Roman festivals, magic etc., hereby reflecting on the methodological problems inherent in intercultural studies. Thus, this collection of articles could also serve as a model for similar enterprises in other studies of Judaism in various cultural contexts.

*From reviews of the previous volumes:*

»This collection reflects the state of contemporary scholarship and its struggle to understand and thoughtfully reconstruct Jewish culture in late antique Palestine. It belongs in all specialized Judaica libraries and in research libraries that collect deeply in classical civilization.«

Steven Fine in *Religious Studies Review* 3 (1999) vol. 25, p. 331f.

Survey of contents

Preface – *Hans-Jürgen Becker*: The Magic of the Name and Palestinian Rabbinic Literature – *Gideon Bohak*: The Hellenization of Biblical History in Rabbinic Literature – *Daniel Boyarin*: Shattering the Logos; or, the Talmuds and the Genealogy of Indeterminacy – *Yaron Z. Eliav*: Viewing the Sculptural Environment; Shaping the Second Commandment – *Steven Fraade*: Priests, Kings, and Patriarchs: Yerushalmi Sanhedrin in its Exegetical and Cultural Settings – *Shamma Friedman*: The Further Adventures of Rav Kahana: Between Babylonia and Palestine – *Fritz Graf*: Roman Festivals in Syria Palestina – *Christine Hayes*: Genealogy, Illegitimacy, and Personal Status: The Yerushalmi in Comparative Perspective – *Catherine Hezser*: The Social Status of Slaves in the Talmud Yerushalmi and in Graeco-Roman Society – *Martha Himmelfarb*: The Mother of the Messiah in the Talmud Yerushalmi and Sefer Zerubbabel – *Tal Ilan*: »Stolen Water is Sweet«: Women and their Stories between Bavli and Yerushalmi – *Richard Kalmin*: Jewish Sources of the Second Temple Period in Rabbinic Compilations of Late Antiquity – *David Kraemer*: Concerning the Theological Assumptions of the Yerushalmi – *Hayim Lapin*: Institutionalization, Amoraim, and Yerushalmi Sebi'it – *Andreas Lehnardt*: The Samaritans (Kutim) in the Talmud Yerushalmi: Constructs of »Rabbinic Mind« or Reflections of Social Reality? – *Jeffrey L. Rubenstein*: Some Structural Patterns of Yerushalmi Sugyot – *Michael L. Satlow*: Fictional Woman: A Study in Stereotypes – *Peter Schäfer*: Jews and Gentiles in Yerushalmi Avodah Zarah – *Seth Schwartz*: Rabbinization in the Sixth Century



Pummer, Reinhard

## Early Christian Authors on Samaritans and Samaritanism

Texts, Translations and Commentary

Volume 92  
2002. XIV, 518 pages.

ISBN 9783161478314  
cloth 154,00 €

ISBN 9783161587351  
eBook PDF 154,00 €

Samaritanism is an outgrowth of Early Judaism that has survived until today. Its origin as a separate religious entity can be traced back to the 2nd/1st centuries B.C.E. Samaritans were found not only in their core-area in and around Shechem-Neapolis (modern Nablus) and on neighboring Mount Gerizim, but also in other parts of Palestine as well as in various other Mediterranean countries. Oppression at the hand of Jews, Christians and Muslims decimated the Samaritan population and obliterated all Samaritan manuscripts written prior to the 10th/11th centuries C.E. For the early period of Samaritanism we must therefore rely on Christian authors. Reinhard Pummer edits Christian Greek and Latin texts about Samaritans and their beliefs and practices, dating from the second century C.E. to the Arab conquests. The passages are quoted in their original language and translated into English. In addition, they are commented on and analyzed in view of their significance for our knowledge of Samaritanism within the wider framework of early Judaism and Christianity.

Ilan, Tal

## Lexicon of Jewish Names in Late Antiquity

Part I: Palestine 330 BCE – 200 CE

Volume 91  
unrevised e-book edition 2020;  
Original edition 2002 2002.  
XXVI, 484 pages.

ISBN 9783161587931  
eBook PDF 174,00 €

In this lexicon Tal Ilan collects all the information on names of Jews in Palestine and the people who bore them between 330 BCE, a date which marks the Hellenistic conquest of Palestine, and 200 CE, the date usually assigned to the close of the mishnaic period, and the early Roman Empire. Thereby she includes names from literary sources as well as those found in epigraphic and papyrological documents. It is an onomasticon in as far as it is a collection of all the recorded names used by the Jews of Palestine in the above-mentioned period. Tal Ilan discusses the provenance of the names and explains them etymologically, given the many possible sources of influence for the names at that time. In addition she shows the division between the use of biblical names and the use of Greek and other foreign names. She analyzes the identity of the persons and the choice of name and points out the most popular names at the time. The lexicon is accompanied by a lengthy and comprehensive introduction that scrutinizes the main trends in name giving current at the time. It provides immediate information on all known persons of Jewish extraction from Palestine during the Hellenistic and Early Roman Period.

Sivertsev, Alexei

## Private Households and Public Politics in 3rd-5th Century Jewish Palestine

Volume 90  
2002. VIII, 279 pages.

ISBN 9783161477805  
cloth 94,00 €

ISBN 9783161587535  
eBook PDF 94,00 €

Alexei Sivertsev examines the nature of the Jewish aristocratic households and their public functions during the later Roman and Byzantine periods (third to fifth centuries C.E.). The author first discusses the nature of the Jewish patriarchate during the third century C.E. He argues that the family of patriarchs (*nesi'im*) is best understood as a local city-based aristocratic clan. It emerged, along with other contemporary clans, as a result of the gradual conversion of the national aristocracy of the once independent Judean state into the municipal aristocracy of the Roman province of Palaestina in the course of the first to second centuries C.E.

In the second part of this book Alexei Sivertsev addresses the specific public functions performed by Jewish aristocratic clans, such as judicial, religious, administrative and legislative. He also demonstrates the continuity that existed in this respect between the Second Commonwealth aristocratic clans and those of the rabbinic period. Finally, the third part of this study deals with the process leading to the integration of the local native aristocracies of the Roman Near East into the centralized administrative system created by the Emperors, starting with Constantine the Great. This process is analyzed specifically regarding the example of the Jewish ruling elite. The main question in this section is the degree to which the local administrative apparatus of the newly created Byzantine bureaucracy developed out of the traditional and clan-based public institutions which had existed locally throughout the Roman period.

Moscovitz, Leib

## Talmudic Reasoning

From Casuistics to Conceptualization

Volume 89  
2002. XIII, 403 pages.

ISBN 9783161477263  
cloth 114,00 €

ISBN 9783161587375  
eBook PDF 114,00 €

The development of explicit legal concepts and principles in rabbinic literature reflects rabbinic legal thought at its most creative and sophisticated, as many of these concepts and principles deal with abstract, metaphysical entities. In this study Leib Moscovitz systematically surveys the development and impact of abstraction and conceptualization in the various legal corpora of rabbinic literature, illustrating the critical and unique role that conceptualization plays in talmudic reasoning. He demonstrates how the analysis of rabbinic conceptualization can shed light on numerous important aspects of rabbinic scholarship, such as the character and development of rabbinic legal thought, techniques of rabbinic legal exegesis, rabbinic jurisprudence, and various philological and historical issues in rabbinics, such as the chronology of the anonymous stratum of the Babylonian Talmud. Rabbinic conceptualization, though unique in many respects, shares certain features with cognate disciplines, and this study utilizes these disciplines (mainly jurisprudence, cognitive psychology, and philosophy) to illuminate rabbinic conceptualization wherever relevant. The themes addressed in this study include the use of casuistics, generalization, and implicit conceptualization in the earlier strata of rabbinic literature, classification and legal definition,



legal fictions, legal explanation, analogy and association, and the development and use of explicit legal concepts and principles in the later strata of rabbinic literature.

Knittel, Thomas

## Das griechische »Leben Adams und Evas«

### Studien zu einer narrativen Anthropologie im frühen Judentum

Volume 88  
2002. XIV, 349 pages.

ISBN 9783161477126  
cloth 119,00 €

ISBN 9783161587030  
eBook PDF 119,00 €

The Greek text on 'The Life of Adam and Eve,' an important source of our knowledge of early Judaism, has caused considerable controversy due not only to its date and its origin but also to its uniformity. Thomas Knittel deals with the theological interpretation of this text, paying particular attention to the parallels in the history of tradition. He begins with information on the handwritten manuscript of the text and then goes on to prove that there are good reasons for regarding this as a uniform work written by one author. After providing several preliminary remarks related to his method, the author reconstructs, translates, analyzes and interprets selected sections of the text.

Lehnardt, Andreas

## Qaddish

### Untersuchungen zur Entstehung und Rezeption eines rabbinischen Gebetes

Volume 87  
2002. XIV, 386 pages.

ISBN 9783161477232  
cloth 109,00 €

ISBN 9783161586842  
eBook PDF 109,00 €

The kaddish prayer is, in addition to the shema' and the shemoneh esreh, one of the central prayers of rabbinic Judaism. Andreas Lehnardt's study provides a comprehensive description of the early development and the history of the reception of this prayer in its various versions. He focuses on the textual, linguistic and formal analysis of the prayer, dealing with the oldest obtainable textual proof of the kaddish (for example from the Cairo Genizah), the earliest references to the prayer in rabbinic literature (Targum, Talmud and Midrash) as well as allusions to kaddish in Hekhalot literature and in the wide range of geonic *responsa* literature. At the end of the volume there is a detailed index of manuscripts and literature.

Niehoff, Maren R.

## Philo on Jewish Identity and Culture

Volume 86  
unrevised e-book edition 2020;  
Original edition 2001 2001.  
XVII, 319 pages.

ISBN 9783161587641  
eBook PDF 99,00 €

This book is the first systematic enquiry into the ways Philo saw himself as a Jew and perceived of Jewish culture in the multi-ethnic environment of first century Alexandria. Applying the theories of ethnicity and culture developed by Frederik Barth and Clifford Geertz, the book gives emphasis to the nature and dynamics of social constructs which shaped Philo's discourse and religion. Particular attention is in this context paid to his construction of others. Furthermore, Rome is for the first time taken into account as a political, cultural and religious factor which exercised an all-encompassing influence. Philo's writings are thus interpreted with a view to the question how he negotiated not two, but three main traditions, namely the Jewish, the Roman and the Greek, and how his positions integrated him into the contemporary Roman discourse. Philo's views on these matters have important implications beyond his own figure and the Jewish community. They are crucial for a better understanding of the Hellenistic world which was in the first century to a large extent characterized by the encounter between the Greek East and the Roman West. Philo's construction of Jewish identity and culture is moreover indispensable for a proper appreciation of early Christian writers who lived in the same world and confronted very similar issues.

Lapin, Hayim

## Economy, Geography, and Provincial History in Later Roman Palestine

Volume 85  
2001. X, 227 pages.

ISBN 9783161475887  
cloth 79,00 €

ISBN 9783161587245  
eBook PDF 79,00 €

Hayim Lapin examines the economic geography of fourth-century Roman Galilee. Drawing on literary and archaeological material for the distribution of cities, villages, roads and other features of trade and marketing, and making use of the central-place theory, the author attempts to reconstruct models of the regional economy of northern Palestine, and to examine the degree of economic integration in the region. As a contribution to the historiography of Jews and Palestine in antiquity, Hayim Lapin argues that the economic, social and cultural landscape inhabited by residents of fourth-century Palestine was in many ways shaped by its Roman provincial administrative setting and political economy. Thus key aspects of the history of later Roman Palestine, and particularly of Jews, need to be reexamined.

Survey of contents

**Central Places in Theory and Practice:** Description of Central-Place Models – Some Implications of Theoretical Landscapes – Markets and Hierarchy in Later Roman Palestine. **Landscape, Archaeology, and Settlement Pattern:** Describing the Data – Five *Archaeological Survey of Israel* Regions – The Data as a Whole – Regional Integration? **Reconstructions of an Economic**

**Landscape in Northern Palestine:** Large Settlements and the Roman Road System – Proposed Reconstruction of an Upper Tier – Settlement Distribution and Rural Marketing – Models of a Lower Tier – From Theoretical Landscape to Historical Region. **Aspects of the Geography of Marketing in Palestinian Literature:** Aspects of a Geography of Marketing – Aspects of a Marketing System – Conclusions. **Toward a Regional History of Northern Palestine in Late Antiquity:** Political and Administrative – Economic – Cultural – Toward a Regional History. **Bibliography. Index of Sources:** Rabbinic Texts, Hebrew Bible, New Testament – Classical and Patristic Texts – Papyri and Inscriptions. **Index of Authors. Index of Subjects**

Leonhardt, Jutta

## Jewish Worship in Philo von Alexandria

Volume 84  
2001. XIV, 347 pages.

ISBN 9783161475979  
cloth 94,00 €

ISBN 9783161587085  
eBook PDF 94,00 €

As a knowledgeable contemporary of the later Second Temple, Philo of Alexandria's approach to worship and his view of the essence of Jewish worship are of particular interest to the study of that period. Jutta Leonhardt discusses his views on the Jewish festivals, especially the Sabbath, on prayer, psalms, hymns, praise and thanksgiving, and on Temple offerings, sacrifices and purification rites. These aspects are presented with their parallels in Jewish and pagan traditions and in Greek and Hellenistic philosophy. Jewish worship in Philo has never been studied as a coherent whole before. Only individual aspects of worship, such as prayer of petition, or thanksgiving, or Philo has been used in studies on Second Temple Judaism as a quarry for general examples of acts of worship.

Philo accepted and participated in Jewish worship, and even knew about details of various Jewish traditions of his time. His writings, however, do not refer to them directly and cannot easily be used to reconstruct Jewish rituals of his time. His main aim is to discuss the rites as collected in the Mosaic Torah, since these are binding for all Jews. These laws are frequently presented using the terminology of pagan cults and interpreted with recourse to Greek philosophy. In this philosophical description of actual rites there are parallels to Plato's references to religion in the ideal state in the *Nomoi*. Philo presents Judaism as the ultimate Hellenistic cult, which combines the various aspects of the different pagan cults in a sublime and perfect form to represent mankind and the universe in the worship of the one God who created the world.

Volume 83  
2001. V, 371 pages.

ISBN 9783161564956  
eBook PDF 219,00 €

## Synopse zum Talmud Yerushalmi

Band II/5–12: Ordnung Mo'ed

Hrsg. v. Peter Schäfer, Hans-Jürgen Becker, in Zus.-Arb. mit Gottfried Reeg u.a.

## Synopse zum Talmud Yerushalmi

Band II/1–4: Ordnung Mo'ed

Hrsg. v. Peter Schäfer, Hans-Jürgen Becker, in Zus.-Arb. mit Gottfried Reeg u.a.

Volume 82  
2001. X, 218 pages.

ISBN 9783161564949  
eBook PDF 204,00 €

These are the two final volumes of the synoptic edition of the Talmud Yerushalmi, begun in 1991. They cover the most important textual witnesses of Order Mo'ed: the famous 'Leiden' manuscript together with the editio princeps 'Venice', the printed edition 'Constantinopel', the book cover fragments of Darmstadt and Trier as well as the Yerushalmi collections in Yalqut Shim'oni and En Ya'aqov. In addition, for the tractate Sheqalim, the texts of the Oxford, Parma and Munich manuscripts, the London Sirillo version and the first edition of the Bavli are presented.

Hezser, Catherine

## Jewish Literacy in Roman Palestine

Volume 81  
2001. IX, 557 pages.

ISBN 9783161475269  
cloth 149,00 €

ISBN 9783161587580  
eBook PDF 149,00 €

Since Judaism has always been seen as the quintessential 'religion of the book', a high literacy rate amongst ancient Jews has usually been taken for granted. Catherine Hezser presents the first critical analysis of the various aspects of ancient Jewish literacy on the basis of all of the literary, epigraphic, and papyrological material published so far. Thereby she takes into consideration the analogies in Graeco-Roman culture and models and theories developed in the social sciences. Rather than trying to determine the exact literacy rate amongst ancient Jews, she examines the various types, social contexts, and functions of writing and the relationship between writing and oral forms of discourse. Following recent social-anthropological approaches to literacy, the guiding question is: who used what type of writing for which purpose? First Catherine Hezser examines the conditions which would enable or prevent the spread of literacy, such as education and schools, the availability and costs of writing materials, religious interest in writing and books, the existence of archives and libraries, and the question of multilingualism. Afterwards she looks at the different types of writing, such as letters, documents, miscellaneous notes, inscriptions and graffiti, and literary and magical texts until she finally draws conclusions about the ways in which the various sectors of the populace were able to participate in a literate society.

Crown, Alan D.

## Samaritan Scribes and Manuscripts

Volume 80  
2001. XIII, 555 pages.

ISBN 9783161474903  
cloth 139,00 €

ISBN 9783161587436  
eBook PDF 139,00 €

»This book aims to provide the critical tools to help scholars in their use of Samaritan manuscripts. The basic codicological tools is a series of complementary data-bases compiled from typological studies of the physical properties of manuscripts. Each typology is in effect a diachronic profile created by painstaking comparison and analysis of the physical properties of manuscripts of known provenance and/or date. Using these typologies or diachronic profiles it is possible to evaluate the chronology of the physical characteristics of any manuscript – the quire or gathering structure, ink, ruling, spacing of the text on the folio, sewing of the sections ... Naturally, the more information available about the physical properties of any manuscript the better the chance of making correlations between the typologies of different properties.

The basic rule in palaeography and codicology is that the researcher works on an inductive basis from as wide a sample as possible of dated manuscripts. It is hoped that in the studies in this volume, evidence has been provided which will serve as a guide both to the appearance and the nature of Samaritan manuscripts and to the evaluative process that one would employ in examining them for codicological purposes. The reader should be able to apply the criteria provided here to the evaluation of whatever data can be retrieved from any undated Samaritan manuscripts with which he is confronted.«  
*Alan D. Crown in the preface*

Survey of contents

Preface – Abbreviations and Symbols

Samaritan Literature and its Manuscripts – The Codicology of Samaritan

Manuscripts – Paper in Samaritan Manuscripts – Prices of Samaritan Manuscripts – Samaritan Majuscule Palaeography – Samaritan Minuscule Palaeography -

Problems in Epigraphy and Palaeography – Samaritan manuscripts and Cast Type – Samaritan Bindings – An Index of Samaritan Scribes – The Rate of Writing of Samaritan Scribes . Columnar Writing and the Samaritan Masorah

## The Talmud Yerushalmi and Graeco-Roman Culture II

Ed. by Peter Schäfer u. Catherine Hezser

Volume 79  
2000. IX, 291 pages.

ISBN 9783161472442  
cloth 99,00 €

ISBN 9783161587481  
eBook PDF 99,00 €

This volume continues the studies on the most important source of late antique Judaism, the Talmud Yerushalmi, in relation to its cultural context. The text of the Talmud is juxtaposed to archaeological findings, Roman law, and contemporary classical authors. The attitude of the Rabbis towards main aspects of urban society in the Mediterranean region of late antiquity is discussed. Hereby Rabbinic Judaism is seen as integrated in the cultural currents prevalent in the eastern part of the Roman Empire.

*From reviews of the first volume:*

»The essays in this volume do not seek to establish a global approach to the task, or any general methodological principles. Caution is everywhere apparent. ... This is an excellent beginning, and more is promised. It would be good if this initiative prompted more Talmudic scholars to take the Greek background of Palestinian rabbinism seriously, and finally put paid to the tendency to consider it as in some way separated from or in conflict with late antique Hellenism.«  
N.R.M. De Lange in *Bulletin of Judaeo-Greek Studies* Winter 1998/99, no. 23, p. 24

Survey of contents

Preface – *Martin Goodman*: Palestinian Rabbis and the Conversion of Constantine to Christianity – *Catherine Hezser*: The

(In)Significance of Jerusalem in the Talmud Yerushalmi – *Hayim Lapin*: Rabbis and Cities. Some Aspects of the Rabbinic Movement in its Graeco-Roman Environment – *Giuseppe Veltri*: Römische Religion an der Peripherie des Reiches. Ein

Kapitel rabbinischer Rhetorik – *Martin Jacobs*: Pagane Tempel in Palästina; rabbinische Aussagen im Vergleich mit archäologischen Funden – *Catherine Hezser*: Interfaces Between Rabbinic Literature and Graeco-Roman Philosophy – *Catherine Hezser*: Rabbis and Other Friends. Friendship in the Talmud Yerushalmi and in Graeco-Roman Literature – *Aharon Oppenheimer*: The Attempt Of Hananiah, Son of Rabbi Joshua's Brother, to Intercalate the Year in Babylonia. A Comparison of the Traditions in the Jerusalem and Babylonian Talmuds

Doering, Lutz

## Schabbat

### Sabbathalacha und -praxis im antiken Judentum und Urchristentum

Volume 78  
1999. XVI, 678 pages.

ISBN 9783161472022  
cloth 119,00 €

ISBN 9783161587603  
eBook PDF 119,00 €

The sabbath is important as a Jewish 'identity marker'. Lutz Doering investigates sabbath law and practice in Second Temple Judaism and Early Christianity from the Elephantine ostraca until the second Jewish revolt. All available sources and traditions for that period pertinent to the issue are analyzed and compared with one another. What emerges is a multiform picture of sabbath law and practice. Not only common traditions and lines of development but also divergent halakhic viewpoints can be recognized. Though the sabbath was shared by virtually all Jews in antiquity, its details were sometimes shaped in different manners.

Frick, Peter

## Divine Providence in Philo of Alexandria



Volume 77  
1999. XIII, 220 pages.

ISBN 9783161471414  
cloth 89,00 €

ISBN 9783161586996  
eBook PDF 89,00 €

In his study Peter Frick starts with the examination of the theocentric structure of Philo's thought as outlined in the important passage *De Opificio Mundi* 171–2 where Philo correlates the idea of providence with his concept of God and the theory of creation. On this basis, any adequate understanding of providence in Philo must begin with the correlation between the formal aspects of the Philonic concept of God, especially the idea of God's transcendence, and Philo's conceptualization of the idea of providence in light of these formal aspects. In particular, the issue is how Philo can predicate that God is provident in nature, although God cannot be apprehended in his essence. Moreover, Philo explains the immanence of God in the cosmos in terms of the Logos and the divine powers, one of which he specifically characterizes as the providential power. Both the aspects of divine transcendence and immanence cohere in Philo's theory of creation. He conceives of the role of providence in cosmological matters as being responsible for the design, administration and continuous existence of the created universe. Two further issues, the questions of astral fatalism and theodicy, are critically important for a thorough understanding of Philo's conception of divine providence. Philo rejects the assumption implied in astral fatalism that the stars are transcendent divinities and thus have causal powers over human affairs. And he rejects astral fatalism because it renders absurd the notion of moral responsibility. Concerning the question of theodicy, Philo proceeds from the Platonic premise that God is not the cause for evil in any way. For him, the existence of moral evil exonerates God and his providence as the cause for evil and anchors the blame in the person.

Ilan, Tal

## Integrating Jewish Women into Second Temple History

Volume 76  
unrevised e-book edition 2020;  
Original edition 1999 1999.  
XIII, 296 pages.

ISBN 9783161587917  
eBook PDF 94,00 €

Most studies about women, Jewish and other, are usually confined to the domestic sphere: the home, the family, the bed. Yet women were present at all historical events, and it is not only their presence but also their significance for these events which should be recognized. All the sources seem to militate against an approach which assumes the presence of women at public events. When dealing with politics, war and religion they ignore women; when dealing with women, they confine themselves to their prescribed region of the home.

In this book Tal Ilan seeks to discover women in public places and at the main events of Second Temple Judaism. The primary principle guiding her work is that if by chance women are mentioned in sources, they should not be treated as a means for explaining the event but rather as an end in themselves. Thus sources showing women as remote or obscure turn out to yield much relevant material.

Tal Ilan investigates women's association with the Pharisees and other sects, and analyses women's role in the writings of Josephus, Ben Sira and other important sources. Furthermore she presents us with new insights into famous women: Shelamzion Alexandra, Beruriah, Berenice and others. Special space is devoted to the importance of the Judaeian Desert Documents for women's history.

Gibson, E. Leigh

## The Jewish Manumission Inscriptions of the Bosphorus Kingdom

Volume 75  
1999. X, 201 pages.

ISBN 9783161470417  
cloth 74,00 €

ISBN 9783161587320  
eBook PDF 74,00 €

E. Leigh Gibson analyses a little-known group of Greek inscriptions that record the manumission of slaves in synagogues located on the hellenized north shore of the Black Sea in the first three centuries of the common era. Through a comparison of this corpus with manumission inscriptions from elsewhere in the Greco-Roman world and an analysis of Greco-Roman Judaism's own interaction with slavery, she assesses the degree to which the Black Sea Jewish community adopted classical traditions of manumissions. In so doing, she tests the often-repeated assumption that these Jewish communities developed idiosyncratic slave practices under the influence of biblical injunctions regarding Israelite ownership of slaves. More generally, she reconsiders the extent of Jewish isolation from or interaction with Greco-Roman culture.

Against the backdrop of Greek manumission inscriptions, the Jewish manumissions of the Bosphorus Kingdom are unremarkable; they follow the basic outlines of Greek manumission formulae. A review of Greco-Roman Jewish sources demonstrates that biblical precepts on slaveholding were not implemented, even if they were still admired. One element of the manumissions, the ongoing obligation required of the slaves, is somewhat enigmatic and possibly indicates that the Bosphorus Jewish community indeed had distinctive manumission practices. These obligations have been commonly interpreted as requiring the slave to participate in the religious life of the community as a condition of his manumission and possibly his concurrent conversion. A close analysis of the clause reveals a more straightforward interpretation: the obligation was a kind of paramone clause, a common feature of Greek manumission inscriptions.

E. Leigh Gibson demonstrates that the Jews of this region incorporated Greek manumission practices into their communal life. The execution of private legal contract with the community of Jews as witness in turn suggests that the wider Bosphorus community extended respect and recognition to its local Jewish community.

Pucci Ben Zeev, Miriam

## Jewish Rights in the Roman World

### The Greek and Roman Documents Quoted by Josephus Flavius

Volume 74  
unrevised e-book edition 2020;  
Original edition 1998 1998.  
XVI, 520 pages.

ISBN 9783161587900  
eBook PDF 109,00 €

Miriam Pucci Ben Zeev presents the Greek texts, accompanied by translation and philological and historical annotation, of the Greek and Roman documents dealing with the Jewish rights quoted by Josephus Flavius. These documents are of utmost importance for the definition of the rights enjoyed by the Jews, both in Judea and in the diaspora, in the first century BCE and in the first century CE. They also shed light on the relationship between Palestinian Jewish leadership and diaspora communities, and on the complex and often otherwise unattested relations between the Jews and the Greeks in diaspora communities such as those of Asia Minor, Egypt, Cyrenaica and Dora on the Palestinian coast.

The problem is that of assessing the historical value of these documents, which has often been challenged in view of Josephus' apologetic purposes and in view of the textual corruptions, fragmentary state and chronological mistakes they

display. Their legal value and their meaning in the context of Roman policy towards the Jews, too, are a matter of controversy in contemporary scholarship. Did the Jews' rights have a permanent validity in the historical period under consideration? Did they apply to all the Jews or only to the specific communities mentioned in the documents? Are we allowed to consider the Jewish rights as privileges vis-à-vis those enjoyed by other peoples living under Roman government?

This is the first attempt to answer these questions by viewing Josephus' documents in their historical context, comparing both their formal features and their content with those of contemporary inscriptions and papyri. This comparative evidence related to the rights bestowed by the Romans upon other peoples is relevant not only for the possible authenticity of Josephus' documents, but also for our understanding of their legal and chronological value, and allow us to determine how 'special' the Jewish rights may be regarded.

Goldberg, Arnold

## Rabbinische Texte als Gegenstand der Auslegung

Gesammelte Studien II

Hrsg. v. Margarete Schlüter u. Peter Schäfer

Volume 73  
1999. VIII, 463 pages.

ISBN 9783161470424  
cloth 169,00 €

ISBN 9783161587344  
eBook PDF 169,00 €

This volume, the second of two in the *Collected Essays*, contains nineteen selected articles on rabbinic texts as exegesis of Scripture, written by Arnold Goldberg between 1974 and 1990. The central theme of many of these articles is the development of an adequate method for research into literary forms and their functions, such as the *mashal* or the diverse compositional forms of the rabbinic homily.

## Magische Texte aus der Kairoer Geniza

Band 3

Hrsg. v. Peter Schäfer, Shaul Shaked, in Zus.-Arb. m. Reimund Leicht, Bill Rebigier u.a.

Volume 72  
unrevised e-book edition 2020;  
Original edition 1999 1999.  
IX, 501 pages.

ISBN 9783161587566  
eBook PDF 129,00 €

The present volume is the third part of an edition together with a German translation and commentary of Hebrew and Aramaic magic texts from the Cairo Genizah. The detailed analysis attempts to elucidate the deep and complex interrelations between Greco-Roman magic from Late Antiquity, Arabic tradition and medieval Jewish magic.

Volume 71  
unrevised e-book edition 2020;  
Original edition 1998 1998.  
VIII, 690 pages.

ISBN 9783161587894  
eBook PDF 99,00 €

## The Talmud Yerushalmi and Graeco-Roman Culture I

Ed. by Peter Schäfer

Volume 70  
1999. X, 219 pages.

ISBN 9783161468674  
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Becker, Hans-Jürgen

## Die großen rabbinischen Sammelwerke Palästinas

Zur literarischen Genese von Talmud Yerushalmi und Midrash Bereshit Rabba

Volume 69  
1998. XIV, 286 pages.

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Spilsbury, Paul

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Volume 68  
1998. XIII, 279 pages.

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Reichman, Ronen

## Mishna und Sifra

Ein literarkritischer Vergleich paralleler Überlieferungen

Volume 67  
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ISBN 9783161468681  
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## Synopse zum Talmud Yerushalmi

Band III: Ordnung Nashim

Hrsg. v. Peter Schäfer, Hans-Jürgen Becker, in Zus.-Arb. mit Gottfried Reeg u.a.

Volume 66  
1997. IX, 557 pages.

ISBN 9783161467974  
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ISBN 9783161587283  
eBook PDF 139,00 €

Hezser, Catherine

## The Social Structure of the Rabbinic Movement in Roman Palestine

Volume 65  
unrevised e-book edition 2020;  
Original edition 1997 1997.  
IX, 342 pages.

ISBN 9783161587467  
eBook PDF 124,00 €

## Studies in the Book of Jubilees

Ed. by Matthias Albani, Jörg Frey and Armin Lange

Volume 64  
1997. XI, 458 pages.

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ISBN 9783161587498  
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## Magische Texte aus der Kairoer Geniza

Band 2

Hrsg. v. Peter Schäfer, Shaul Shaked, in Zus.-Arb. m. Reimund Leicht, Giuseppe Veltri u.a.

Volume 63  
unrevised e-book edition 2020;  
Original edition 1997 1997.  
XVI, 289 pages.

ISBN 9783161587887  
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Stuckenbruck, Loren T.

## The Book of Giants from Qumran

Texts, Translation, and Commentary



Volume 62  
1997. XIII, 370 pages.  
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ISBN 9783161586897  
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Veltri, Giuseppe

## Magie und Halakha

Ansätze zu einem empirischen Wissenschaftsbegriff im spätantiken und frühmittelalterlichen Judentum

Volume 61  
1997. XXIII, 457 pages.  
ISBN 9783161466335  
cloth 169,00 €  
ISBN 9783161586989  
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Goldberg, Arnold

## Mystik und Theologie des rabbinischen Judentums

Gesammelte Studien I

Hrsg. v. Margarete Schlüter u. Peter Schäfer

Volume 60  
unrevised e-book edition 2020;  
Original edition 1997 1997.  
XII, 230 pages.

Cansdale, Lena

## Qumran and the Essenes

A Re-Evaluation of the Evidence

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Volume 59  
1997. XV, 255 pages.

Houtman, Alberdina

## Mishnah und Tosefta

A Synoptic Comparison of the Tractates Berakhot and Shebiit

ISBN 9783161466380  
cloth 119,00 €  
ISBN 9783161587061  
eBook PDF 119,00 €

Volume 58  
unrevised e-book edition 2020;  
Original edition 1998 1998.  
XVI, 500 pages.

## Origen's Hexapla and Fragments

Papers presented at the Rich seminar on the Hexapla, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, 25th  
July – 3rd August 1994

Ed. by Alison Salvesen

ISBN 9783161587863  
eBook PDF 124,00 €

Volume 57  
1996. XXI, 329 pages.

Sysling, Harry

## Tehiyat Ha-Metim

The Resurrection of the Dead in the Palestinian Targums of the Pentateuch and Parallel Traditions in  
Classical Rabbinic Literature

ISBN 9783161465833  
cloth 139,00 €  
ISBN 9783161587405  
eBook PDF 139,00 €

Krauss, Samuel

## The Jewish-Christian Controversy

From the earliest times to 1789. Vol. 1: History

Ed. and rev. by William Horbury

Volume 56  
1996; unrevised student edition 2008.  
XIV, 310 pages.

ISBN 9783161496431  
sewn paper 59,00 €

Samuel Krauss (1866–1948), formerly Rector of the Israelitisch-theologische Lehranstalt in Vienna, was one of the last great representatives of the Wissenschaft des Judentums. His substantial studies of the Jews in the Graeco-Roman world continue to be used as reference books.

This volume forms a handbook to the history of Jewish-Christian controversy, from Christian origins to the eighteenth century. It seeks to introduce both Christian and Jewish apologetic and polemic. Substantial chapters deal with the ancient world, including the Byzantine empire, and with the mediaeval and early modern periods. The still relatively inaccessible literature of mediaeval and later Jewish polemic is catalogued and discussed. The unpublished original work by Samuel Krauss has been edited, revised and updated. The supplementary material which is incorporated throughout introduces newer work and areas of study, with special attention to bibliography.

This volume, complete in itself, offers full and detailed guidance to the subject and to its study in modern times.

»This is a rich, highly useful guide to the documentary sources and scholarly literature bearing on the Jewish-Christian controversy from ancient to early modern times ... one can heartily recommend this book to specialist and generalist alike ... Historians of the Jewish-Christian debate would do well to keep it within close reach of their desks and to emphasize its importance to their students.«

Jeremy Cohen in *The Jewish Quarterly Review* (1999), pages 409–410

»The Krauss/Horbury volume under review with its updated bibliography and many supplementary remarks is ... an extremely valuable reference book and main research tool ... »

Hanne Trautner-Kromann in *Frankfurter Judaistische Beiträge* (1999), S. 174–175

Volume 56  
unrevised e-book edition 2020;  
Original edition 1996 1996.  
XIV, 310 pages.

ISBN 9783161587856  
eBook PDF 99,00 €

Krauss, Samuel

## The Jewish-Christian Controversy

From the earliest times to 1789. Vol.1: History

Hrsg. u. bearb. v. Horbury, William

Volume 55  
1996. XIV, 664 pages.

ISBN 9783161465321  
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Avemarie, Friedrich

## Tora und Leben

Untersuchungen zur Heilsbedeutung der Tora in der frühen rabbinischen Literatur

Volume 54  
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Original edition 1996 1996.  
XV, 383 pages.

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Ego, Beate

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Volume 53  
1996. XI, 316 pages.

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Die Erforschung des Bar Kokhba-Aufstandes, des zweiten großen Krieges der Juden Palästinas gegen Rom (132–135 n.Chr.), hat in den letzten zehn Jahren gewaltige Fortschritte gemacht, nicht zuletzt dank neuer archäologischer Funde. Der Band geht auf eine Konferenz an der Universität Princeton im November 2001 zurück, bei der die international führenden Erforscher der Bar Kokhba-Periode ihre neuesten Arbeitsergebnisse vorlegten. Er bietet somit den aktuellen Diskussionsstand über den Aufstand selbst (Vorgeschichte, Gründe, Verlauf) sowie über seine Nachwirkungen für die weitere Geschichte der Juden im römischen Palästina. Ein abschließender Beitrag untersucht das Bild Bar Kokhbas in der modernen israelischen Kultur.

