

CONTENTS

Preface	vii
Chapter 1. A Quest for Historicism and the Rhetoric of Petitions	1
Chapter 2. Laughter, Fantasy, and Eroticism: From the Scroll of Esther to Esther Midrash	39
Chapter 3. Exegesis and Midrash	67
Chapter 4. Typology and Peshet in the “Letter of Aristeas”	101
Chapter 5. The Sages and the Crowd: Society behind the Culture	135
List of Works Cited	155
Index of Names and Subjects	167
Index of Scriptures and Ancient Sources	170