

Contents

PREFACE

INTRODUCTION

ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

Section One: Midrash and Targum

CHAPTER 1: THE HALAKHIC MIDRASHIM by <i>Menahem I. Kahana</i>	3
CHAPTER 2: AGGADIC MIDRASH by <i>Marc Hirshman</i>	107
CHAPTER 3: THE WORKS OF AGGADIC MIDRASH AND THE ESTHER MIDRASHIM by <i>Myron B. Lerner</i>	133
CHAPTER 4: SEDER OLAM by <i>Chaim Milikowsky</i>	231
Appendix: The Scroll of Antiochos and the Scroll of Fasts (by <i>Zeev Safrai</i>)	238
CHAPTER 5: THE TARGUMS AS PART OF RABBINIC LITERATURE by <i>Zeev Safrai</i>	243

Section Two: Liturgy, Poetry, Mysticism

CHAPTER 6: PRAYERS AND BERAKHOT by <i>Joseph Tabory</i>	281
CHAPTER 7: THE PASSOVER HAGGADA by <i>Joseph Tabory</i>	327
CHAPTER 8: MEGILLAT TAANIT – THE SCROLL OF FASTING by <i>Vered Noam</i>	339

CHAPTER 9: PIYYUT by <i>Ezra Fleischer</i>	363
CHAPTER 10: 'SYRIAC FOR DIRGES, HEBREW FOR SPEECH' – ANCIENT JEWISH POETRY IN ARAMAIC AND HEBREW by <i>Joseph Yahalom</i>	375
CHAPTER 11: MYSTICAL TEXTS by <i>Michael D. Swartz</i>	393

Section Three: Contracts, Inscriptions, Ancient Science

CHAPTER 12: CONTRACTS: RABBINIC LITERATURE AND ANCIENT JEWISH DOCUMENTS by <i>Mordechai A. Friedman</i>	423
CHAPTER 13: JEWISH INSCRIPTIONS AND THEIR USE by <i>Jonathan J. Price and Haggai Misgav</i>	461
CHAPTER 14: MEDICAL INTEREST IN ANCIENT RABBINIC LITERATURE by <i>Samuel S. Kottak</i>	485
CHAPTER 15: GEOGRAPHY AND COSMOGRAPHY IN TALMUDIC LITERATURE by <i>Zeev Safrai</i>	497
CHAPTER 16: BIOLOGY IN RABBINIC LITERATURE: FACT AND FOLKLORE by <i>Abraham Ofir Shemesh</i>	509
CHAPTER 17: THE SAGES AND THE OCCULT by <i>Yuval Harari</i>	521

Section Four: The Languages of Rabbinic Literature

CHAPTER 18: MISHNAIC HEBREW: AN INTRODUCTORY SURVEY by <i>Moshe Bar-Asher</i>	567
CHAPTER 19: THE ARAMAIC OF THE TALMUDIC PERIOD by <i>Yohanan Breuer</i>	597

CHAPTER 20: RABBINIC KNOWLEDGE OF GREEK
by *Daniel Sperber* 627

ABBREVIATIONS 641

CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY 645

INDICES 711