A note of thanks ----- V

Abbreviations, transliteration and translation ----- IX

1 Introduction — 1

- 1.1 Topics and structure 1
- 1.2 The aims of this book ---- 2
- 1.3 The current state of research 6
- 1.4 Methodological approaches ---- 17

2 The historical context — 21

- 2.1 Zarfat 21
- 2.2 Jews in the regnum Teutonicum ---- 25
- 2.3 Contacts between Zarfat and Ashkenaz ---- 30
- 2.4 Italy ----- 32

3 The SeMaK as a book ----- 35

- 3.1 Works preceding the SeMak ---- 35
- 3.2 Isaac of Corbeil's intention ----- 37
- 3.3 How the SeMaK was received 39
- 3.4 The contents and structure of the SeMaK ----- 41

4 The manuscripts in their entirety — 45

- 4.1 Overview: number, geographic distribution and distribution over time 45
- 4.2 How the manuscripts changed: from the North French Hebrew Miscellany to the Zurich SeMaK — 47
- 4.3 The visual presentation of *SeMaK* manuscripts 55

5 The scribes ----- 61

- 5.1 Production conditions and technical aspects ----- 61
- 5.2 Scribes and patrons ---- 65
- 5.3 Producing manuscripts for personal use and how this shaped individual copies ----- 69

6 Five manuscripts in detail ---- 73

- 6.1 Copenhagen, KB, Cod. Hebr. Add. 6, Ashkenaz ----- 73





- 6.3 Oxford, BOD, Opp. 339, Ingolstadt 1347 ---- 96
- 6.4 London, BL, Add. 18684, Nuremberg (?), 1391/92 ---- 106
- 6.5 Oxford, BOD, Arch. Seld. A51, Northern Italy 151
- 7 Conclusion ---- 181

Appendix: Overview of manuscripts featuring the SeMaK ----- 185

Bibliography ---- 203

List of the manuscripts mentioned in this study ---- 217

Figures — 223

Index ----- 227