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JEWES AND BLACKS IN THE EARLY MODERN WORLD

This book offers the first in-depth treatment of Jewish images of and behavior toward Blacks during the period of peak Jewish involvement in Atlantic slaveholding. Based on a wide range of sources in several languages, many previously unexplored and unpublished in English, it addresses some basic scholarly questions: What do primary sources tell us about relations between early modern Blacks and Jews? What do Jewish sources, textual and archival, convey about Blacks? To what degree did Jewish behavior toward slaves take shape under the influence of Jewish law? What does the Jewish legal tradition say about slavery and behavior toward slaves? Is there a connection between Jewish textual attitudes toward Blacks and Jewish behavior toward them? If so, how do the two inform each other? Attempting to move beyond interethnic polemics, the book constructs a cultural and social portrait of Jews – mostly Sephardic – amid a larger socioeconomic context, one from which Jews differed little, their religious Otherness notwithstanding.

Jonathan Schorsch is Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies, Department of Religion, at Columbia University. He has published articles in a variety of academic and general journals, and he is the Jewish Book Editor for *Tikkun* magazine.

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JONATHAN SCHORSCH
Columbia University



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Abbreviations

| | |
|--------------|---|
| <i>AHR</i> | <i>American Historical Review</i> |
| AJA | American Jewish Archives (Cincinnati, OH) |
| <i>AJH</i> | <i>American Jewish History</i> |
| AJHS | American Jewish Historical Society (Waltham, MA) |
| ANTT | Arquivo Nacional de Torre do Tombo (Lisbon) |
| b. | <i>ben</i> / son of |
| B.T. | Babylonian Talmud |
| CAHJP | Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (Jerusalem) |
| <i>EJ</i> | <i>Encyclopedia Judaica</i> |
| GAA | GemeenteArchief Amsterdam |
| <i>HAHR</i> | <i>Hispanic American Historical Review</i> |
| <i>JQR</i> | <i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i> |
| J.T. | Jerusalem Talmud |
| NA | Notarial Archive |
| <i>NWIG</i> | <i>Nieuwe West-Indische Gids</i> |
| <i>PAJHS</i> | <i>Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society</i> |
| R. | Rabbi |
| SR | <i>Studia Rosenthaliana</i> |
| <i>TJHSE</i> | <i>Transactions of the Jewish Historical Society of England</i> |
| <i>WIG</i> | <i>West-Indische Gids</i> |