

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	page ix
<i>Abbreviations and Rules of Style</i>	xi
<i>Map of Centers of Jewish Life Mentioned in this Book</i>	xii
Introduction	I
Early Codification of Jewish Law	5
Medieval Rabbinic Codification	7
Unique Features of the Codificatory Process	13
The Value of Theoretical Legal Discussions (or the Lack Thereof)	16
I Joseph Caro and His Codification of Jewish Law	21
Reception of Caro's <i>Beyt Yosef</i>	26
Historical Factors and the Acceptance of <i>Beyt Yosef</i>	29
Reception of <i>Shulhan `aruk</i>	37
Caro's Novel Rule of Decision Making	53
Other Rules for Codifying the Law	63
The Legal Landscape	70
Caro the Maimonidean	76
Caro and Legal Reasoning	83
2 A Difficult Beginning	88
The Contemporary Hebrew Publishing Industry	101
Ties That Bind	110
Multiple Introductions to <i>Yam shel Shelomoh</i>	123

3	Rabbi Solomon Luria’s Legal Methodology	131
	Pointing Out the Blunders of Others	139
	Returning to the Sources and Rethinking the Law	147
	The Ramifications of Analytical Thought:	
	Festival Observance	150
	The Role of Custom	161
	<i>Qabbalah</i> and the Place of Received Traditions	177
	The Limits of Independence	187
4	Rabbi Moses Isserles’s Responses	193
	Living on the Edge	198
	A Catch 22	202
	“And This Is What Is Customarily Done”	206
	Isserles and Luria on Custom and Tradition	222
	Legal Rationales and Inferences	229
	Consensus and Majority Rule	236
	Stringency as a Way of Dealing with Doubt	240
	Leniency in Times of Need	249
5	Codification and Legal Creativity	256
	Salting Meat	261
	Sharp Flavors	264
	Getting Personal	267
	Further Sources of Strife	271
	Conclusions	278
	Second Thoughts	279
	<i>Bibliography</i>	288
	<i>Index</i>	320