

Thesaurus Of Medieval Hebrew Poetry Complete In 4 Volumes

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the jewish poets of medieval spain combined elements of the dominant arabic islamic culture with jewish religious and literary traditions to create a rich new hebrew literature that is as richly entertaining today as it was in the twelfth century in this delight delightful book scheindlin presents the original hebrew poetry with his own melodic english translations each followed by commentary that explains its cultural context

analysing well known hebrew medieval poets from a new refreshing standpoint and focusing on less known authors and periods this book shows the maturity of the research in this field written in english and french the articles make the hebrew texts more easily available to scholars of comparative literature

a matter of geography a new perspective on medieval hebrew poetry takes a ground breaking approach to the relationships between centers of medieval hebrew poetry and their implications regarding matters of poetics it shows on the one hand how literary efforts by members of the spanish school of secular poetry from its zenith in the eleventh century to the thirteenth century helped gradually shape its predominance on the other hand it presents thirteenth century hebrew poets from iraq egypt italy and provence and charts the different strategies of these peripheral authors who had to cope with iberian fame the analysis which draws on concepts from literary and cultural theories provides close readings of many works in both the original hebrew and in most cases for the first time an english translation kfir s book makes a strong case for the craft vibrancy and richness of medieval hebrew poetry as rooted in place highly recommended for scholars of medieval hebrew poetry poetry aficionados and historians david b levy touro college in association of jewish libraries 8 4 2018

the first steps in hebrew secular poetry took place around the turn of the ninth century under the impact of contemporary arabic poetry this impact was so great that some researchers incorrectly define the hebrew poetry as a school which is distinct from the arabic school only by virtue of its hebrew language however the right way to the essence of medieval hebrew poetry is not only by revealing and describing its ties with arabic poetry but also by determining the specific characteristics by which it stubbornly distinguished itself from its arabic contemporaries this innovative critical approach is the central feature of this book

the book includes sixteen studies about medieval hebrew poetry compared with arabic poetry it is well known that since the tenth century medieval hebrew poets took arabic poetry as the ultimate paradigm in terms of prosody language purism and rhetorical devices and even in regard to poetical genres however the concept unifying all studies in this book is that a comparative examination must consider not only the identical elements in which hebrew poetry borrowed from the arabic one but also what is much more significant what hebrew poetry stubbornly set itself at a distance from arabic poetry the conclusive result of this sort of examination is that hebrew poetry combined selectively borrowed arabic poetical values with traditional ethical jewish values to create a distinctive poetical school

from the tenth century to the thirteenth the jews of spain belonged to a vibrant and relatively tolerant arabic speaking society a sophisticated culture that had a marked effect on jewish life thought artistic tastes and literary expression in this companion volume to wine women and death we see how the surrounding arabic culture influenced the new poetry that was being written for the synagogue service the hebrew poems here accompanied by elegant english translations and explanatory essays are short lyrics of the highest literary quality

the central feature of this book is an innovative critical approach which understands medieval hebrew poetry not only by revealing its ties with arabic poetry but also by determining the specific characteristics by which it stubbornly distinguished itself from arabic poetry

the first published translation of meir of norwich s poems brings a valuable medieval literary voice to prominence after more than 700 years everything we know about meir ben eliahu his name his experiences as a jew in 13th century england his love of god comes from the twenty poems in this book for more than 600 years the poems were lost only to be rediscovered in the late 1800s in the vatican library and in the case of one poem in a russian manuscript now they have been reinterpreted for today s readers

offering an edition of secular poems taken from the earliest fifteenth century manuscript this book seeks to evaluate moses dar s poetry in the light of the andalusian hebrew poetical tradition and within the context of hebrew literary activity in the muslim east

hebrew culture experienced a renewal in medieval spain that produced what is arguably the most powerful body of jewish poetry written since the bible fusing elements of east and west arabic and hebrew and the particular and the universal this verse embodies an extraordinary sensuality and intense faith that transcend the limits of language place and time peter cole s translations reveal this remarkable poetic world to english readers in all of its richness humor grace gravity and wisdom the dream of the poem traces the arc of the entire period presenting some four hundred poems by fifty four poets and including a panoramic historical introduction short biographies of each poet and extensive notes the original hebrew texts are available on the princeton university press site by far the most potent and comprehensive gathering of medieval hebrew poems ever assembled in english cole s anthology builds on what poet and translator richard howard has described as the finest labor of poetic translation that i have seen in many years and an entire revelation a body of lyric and didactic verse so intense so intelligent and so vivid that it appears to identify a whole dimension of historical consciousness previously unavailable to us the dream of the poem is howard says a crowning achievement

this multi volume work is a reprint of israel davidson s classic opus with a new introduction by piyyut scholar michael rand originally published in four volumes by the jewish theological seminary of america throughout the 1920s and 30s and reprinted in 1970 by ktav with an introduction by jefim hayyim schirmann thesaurus of mediaeval hebrew poetrycatalogues medieval hebrew poetry in over 35 000 entries spanning over 2 000 pages written at a time when genizah research was just beginning to flourish the thesaurus serves primarily as a catalogue of the medieval hebrew poetic corpus as it had been known from printed works predating the publication of genizah poetry in addition to constituting an important reference work the thesaurus represents a stage in the history of piyyut study before the publication of thousands of genizah poems forever altered the course of medieval hebrew poetry scholarship

during the eleventh and twelfth centuries andalusian jewish poets introduced philosophical theories into their devotional verse this study explores the impact of their rich intellectual and cultural life on their hebrew poems devoted to the soul

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Introduction

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