The New Middle Ages

Jews and Christians in Thirteenth-Century France
Edited By Elisheva Baumgarten and Judah D. Galinsky

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Elisheva Baumgarten is Associate Professor of Medieval History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. Her publications include Mothers and Children: Jewish Family Life in Medieval Europe and Practicing Piety in Medieval Ashkenaz: Men, Women and Everyday Religious Observance.

Judah D. Galinsky is Senior Lecturer in the Talmud Department at Bar-Ilan University, Israel. His various studies explore aspects of medieval rabbinic culture and society, mainly of Northern France and Christian Spain. His most recent study is "The Different Hebrew Versions of the 'Talmud Trial' of 1240 in Paris," in New Perspectives on Jewish-Christian Relations: In Honor of David Berger.

"This is a remarkable collection of articles which both deepen our understanding of problems long subjected to scrutiny and opens up entirely new vistas on Jewish-Christian relations in thirteenth-century France. Because the authors are so learned and so attuned to the relevant scholarship on other times and places, scholars with a wide variety of interests should return repeatedly to the collection for information and stimulation. The editors brought together an amazing group of authors - and they have not disappointed." - William Chester Jordan, Dayton-Stockton Professor of History, Princeton University, USA

"Impressive for their sound historical scholarship and their analytical acuity, the essays in this collection offer a fresh perspective on medieval life and culture. Jews and Christians in Thirteenth-Century France illuminates a particularly critical stage of transition in the interaction of hostile but interdependent religious communities." - Jeremy Cohen, Abraham and Edita Spiegel Family Foundation Professor of European Jewish History, Tel Aviv University, Israel

About the book
In light of the growing tendency to view both religious communities as intimately linked, this work seeks to examine a variety of perspectives on Jewish and Christian life in northern France during the thirteenth-century. Contributors investigate the social and cultural changes which took place in European medieval society through legal developments, religious polemic, gender, social history, perceptions of the 'other,' language, literature and art. A secondary, but no less important goal, of this collection is to break down the artificial boundaries that divide the various academic disciplines and those that separate ‘medieval studies’ from ‘Jewish studies’.

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