

VORWORT ZUR REIHE
FOREWORD TO THE SERIES

STUDIES IN EUROPEAN JUDAISM

Judaism played an important role in the making of Europe. In the period extending from the Arabic conquest until the expulsion from Spain, Judaism became the vector of *adab*, the Arabic *paideia*, which made possible the translation, adaptation, and interpretation of Greek sciences (medicine, astrology-astronomy, philosophy), thus mediating them anew to European cultures. In the humanist and early modern period almost forced migrations of Jews from country to country, from Mediterranean regions to northern and eastern lands, contributed to a living communication of ideas and traditions in the whole of Europe. A further factor was the direct influence of mystical (Kabbalah) traditions on Christian thought and literature, from the Renaissance until the German romanticism. In the age of emancipation and enlightenment Jews were called to take part in the *respublica*. However, their contribution to society was not always welcome and their exact place in society not always clear or established; it was also often obstructed by anti-Jewish and anti-Semitic tendencies and propaganda. The nineteenth and twentieth centuries were marked by the attempt to become citizens with equal rights and the hope for full membership in the respective wider societies. This hope was ended by the Nazis' rise to power and the tragic consequences of their racist policies for the Jews of Europe.

The Editor of *Studies in European Judaism* aims to present a wide spectrum of Jewish life (history, thought and everyday life) across Europe, Judaism in interaction with those cultures that form the background of the so-called "European culture". The series therefore intends to publish studies concerned with the contribution of Jewish culture and history to the making of Europe. Studies dealing with the interaction of Judaism, Christianity and Islam in the European discourse and their multifaceted encounters and often contradictory intentions will therefore be preferred. The series intends to touch the following areas: history of European Judaism, philosophy, liturgy,

sciences, arts, biblical exegetic traditions, commentaries to philosophical and exegetical works, and studies in Kabbalah and in the Christian reception of it.

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