

Gershom Scholem's
Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism
50 Years After

Proceedings of the Sixth
International Conference on
the History of Jewish Mysticism

edited by
Peter Schäfer and Joseph Dan



J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck) Tübingen

Contents

Introduction by the Editors	1
-----------------------------------	---

I. Opening Lecture

R.J. ZWI WERBLOWSKY Messianismus und Mystik	15
--	----

II. Merkavah Mysticism and Jewish Gnosticism

ITHAMAR GRUENWALD Reflections on the Nature and Origins of Jewish Mysticism	25
MICHAEL FISHBANE Response	49
PETER SCHÄFER Merkavah Mysticism and Magic	59
PHILIP S. ALEXANDER Response	79

III. Hasidism in Medieval Germany

JOSEPH DAN Ashkenazi Hasidim, 1941–1991: Was there Really a Hasidic Movement in Medieval Germany?	87
IVAN G. MARCUS The Historical Meaning of <i>Hasidei Ashkenaz</i> : Fact, Fiction or Cultural Self-Image?	103

IV. Abraham Abulafia and the Prophetic Kabbalah

MOSHE IDEL The Contribution of Abraham Abulafia's Kabbalah to the Understanding of Jewish Mysticism	117
RONALD KIENER From <i>Ba'al ha-Zohar</i> to Prophet to Ecstatic: The Vicissitudes of Abulafia in Contemporary Scholarship	145

V. Hug Ha-'Iyyun – The Circle of Contemplation

MARK VERMAN

The Evolution of the Circle of Contemplation 163

VI. Zohar

DANIEL C. MATT

“New-Ancient Words”: The Aura of Secrecy in the Zohar 181

ELLIOT R. WOLFSON

Forms of Visionary Ascent as Ecstatic Experience in the Zoharic Literature 209

VII. Isaac Luria and the Safed School of the Kabbalah

YORAM JACOBSON

The Aspect of the “Feminine” in the Lurianic Kabbalah 239

RONIT MEROZ

Faithful Transmission versus Innovation: Luria and his Disciples . . 257

VIII. Sabbatai Zevi and Jacob Frank

R.J. ZWI WERBLOWSKY

Novum Pascha Novae Legis Phase Vetus Terminat 277

HILLEL LEVINE

Frankism as Worldly Messianism 283

IX. Hasidism

RACHEL ELIOR

Hasidism – Historical Continuity and Spiritual Change 303

MOSHE HALLAMISH

Response 325

KARL E. GRÖZINGER

Response 327