## AUTHORITY AND COMMUNITY

Polish Jewry in the Sixteenth Century

by

NISSON E. SHULMAN

KTAV PUBLISHING HOUSE, INC. HOBOKEN YESHIVA UNIVERSITY PRESS NEW YORK, N.Y. 1986

## **CONTENTS**

Foreword

Foreword	xi
Preface	xiii
Acknowledgments	xv
PART I	
Chapter 1	
THE LIFE OF POLISH JEWRY	3
STANDARDS AND OBSERVANCE Scoffers and Rebels 'Apostates and Informers Moral Standards	3 4 6 8
CUSTOMS Changing Customs Customs of Marriage Friday Weddings The Synagogue Kaddish Synagogue Seats Home and Family Women and Men	10 12 14 16 18 19 20 21
Chapter 2	
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS	26
IN AN ALIEN SOCIETY Milieu The Jew and the Overlord The Jew and the Burgher	26 26 27 31

Authority	and	Commu	nity
-----------	-----	-------	------

viii	Authority and Community	
The Jew and the Pea		34 36
POLITICAL STABILIT	Y	37
TRADE AND TRAVEL		39
OTHER OCCUPATION	IS	43
Chapter 3		
COMMUNITY ORGAN	NIZATION	49
Memunim (Appo	s visory Officials) aarichim (Tax Assessors and Collectors)	49 49 50 53 54 54 54 55 55
TAXES		57
Chapter 4		
THE RABBI AND THE	CANTOR	64
THE RABBI How the Rabbinate Two Types of Rabbi Tenure Community Service Limitations Income Abuses in Obtaining Other Abuses	s	64 65 66 67 68 72 73 74
THE CANTOR A Change in the Car Election Salary and Income Tenure	ntor's Position	76 76 78 79

CONTENTS	ix
Abuses in the Cantorate	79
Conflict Between Rabbi and Cantor	81
Chapter 5	
EDUCATION	82
LANGUAGE	82
LITERACY  Florenteer Education	84
Elementary Education Academy Education: Elementary	85 87
Academy Education: Advanced	87
Criticism of the System	88
	50
PART II	
Digest of Responsa	
Laws of Tzitzit, Prayer, Blessings and the Synagogue	93
Laws of the Scroll of Torah and Torah Reading	93
Laws of Sabbath and Eruvin	94
Laws of Ḥametz	94
Laws of Shofar and Lulav, and Purim and the Ninth of Av, and	
Fast Days	95
Laws of Forbidden Foods	95
Laws of Wine Forbidden Because of Libation, and Laws of Usury	97
Laws of Hallah, Bechor, and Charity	98
Laws of Niddah and Ritual Purification	98
Laws of Divorce and the Levirate Marriage	99
Laws of Marriage Contracts and Dowry	100
Laws of Marriage Laws of Aguna	100
• ,	101
The Responsa	102
Appendix A	
BENJAMIN AARON B. ABRAHAM SLONIK	177
BIOGRAPHY	177
CITIES HE STUDIED IN AND SERVED	179
HIS PERSONALITY	181

Authority	and	Commu	nity
-----------	-----	-------	------

X

HIS WORK	188
The Mas'at Binyamin	188
Other Works	190
STYLE AND STRUCTURE OF THE RESPONSA	191
DATES OF THE RESPONSA	192
HIS APPROACH TO SOURCES AND CASE HISTORIES	194
Appendix B	
HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS	197
HIS CHILDREN	197
HIS RELATIONS BY MARRIAGE	198
HIS TEACHERS AND THEIR INFLUENCE	200
HIS CONTEMPORARIES	211
Epilogue .	220
Notes	222
Bibliography	255
Index	260