

KABBALAH IN ITALY
1280–1510

A SURVEY

MOSHE IDEL

Yale UNIVERSITY PRESS

NEW HAVEN & LONDON

CONTENTS

Preface	ix
Introduction	i
1. Kabbalah: Introductory Remarks	19
2. Abraham Abulafia and Ecstatic Kabbalah	30
3. Abraham Abulafia's Activity in Italy	40
4. Ecstatic Kabbalah as an Experiential Lore	52

CONTENTS

5. Abraham Abulafia's Hermeneutics	64
6. Eschatological Themes and Divine Names in Abulafia's Kabbalah	77
7. Abraham Abulafia and R. Menahem ben Benjamin: Thirteenth-Century Kabbalistic and Ashkenazi Manuscripts in Italy	89
8. R. Menahem ben Benjamin Recanati	106
9. Menahem Recanati as a Theosophical-Theurgical Kabbalist	117
10. Menahem Recanati's Hermeneutics	128
11. Ecstatic Kabbalah from the Fourteenth through Mid-Fifteenth Centuries	139
12. The Kabbalistic-Philosophical-Magical Exchanges in Italy	154
13. <i>Prisca Theologia</i> : R. Isaac Abravanel, Leone Ebreo, and R. Elijah Hayyim of Genazzano	164
14. R. Yohanan ben Yitzhaq Alemanno	177
15. Jewish Mystical Thought in Lorenzo il Magnifico's Florence	192
16. Other Mystical and Magical Literatures in Renaissance Florence	202
17. Spanish Kabbalists in Italy after the Expulsion	212
18. Two Diverging Types of Kabbalah in Late-Fifteenth-Century Italy	219
19. Jewish Kabbalah in Christian Garb	227
20. Anthropoids from the Middle Ages to Renaissance Italy	236
21. Astromagical Pneumatic Anthropoids from Medieval Spain to Renaissance Italy	269
22. The Trajectory of Eastern Kabbalah and Its Reverberations in Italy	287
Concluding Remarks	293

CONTENTS

Appendix 1. The Angel Named Righteous: From R. 'Amittai of Oria to Erfurt and Rome	315
Appendix 2. The Infant Experiment: On the Search for the First Language in Italy	324
Appendix 3. R. Yohanan Alemanno's Study Program	340
Appendix 4. Magic Temples and Cities in the Middle Ages and Renaissance: Mas'udi, Ibn Zarza, Alemanno	344
Notes	349
Bibliography	467
Index of Manuscripts	477
Index of Titles	480
Index of Names	486