PERSPECTIVES ON JEWISH THOUGHT AND MYSTICISM

Proceedings of the International Conference held by The Institute of Jewish Studies, University College London, 1994, in Celebration of its Fortieth Anniversary. Dedicated to the memory and academic legacy of its Founder ALEXANDER ALTMANN

EDITED BY

ALFRED L. IVRY ELLIOT R. WOLFSON ALLAN ARKUSH





Australia • Canada • China • France • Germany • India • Japan Luxembourg • Malaysia • The Netherlands • Russia • Singapore Switzerland • Thailand

Contents

.

•

Preface Alfred L. Iv	ry	xiii
List of Con	tributors	xix
	I: Introductory Essays	
Chapter 1	Bibliography of the Published Writings of Alexander Altmann Manfred Altman	1
Chapter 2	History of the Institute of Jewish Studies During its First 40 Years 1954–1994 The Editors	21
Chapter 3	Jewish Scholarship as a Vocation Paul Mendes-Flohr	33
	II: Medieval Jewish Philosophy	
Chapter 4	Rabbi Simlai's Saying and Beliefs Concerning God Arthur Hyman	49
Chapter 5	The Logical and Scientific Premises of Maimonides' Thought Alfred L. Ivry	63
Chapter 6	Maimonides on Women: Formless Matter or Potential Prophet? Abraham Melamed	99
Chapter 7	On the Limited-Omniscience Interpretation of Gersonides' Theory of Divine Knowledge Charles H. Manekin	135

•

Contents

Chapter 8	Gersonides on the Mode of Communicating Knowledge of the Future to the Dreamer and Clairvoyant Sara Klein-Braslavy	171
Chapter 9	Some Observations on <i>Ma'aseh Nissim</i> by R. Nissim of Marseilles Howard Kreisel	201
Chapter 10	Prophecy and Perception in Isaac Abravanel Seymour Feldman	223
Chapter 11	Les lettres hébraïques, leur existence idéale et matérielle Colette Sirat	237
	III: Medieval Jewish Mysticism	
Chapter 12	Samael and the Problem of Jewish Gnosticism Joseph Dan	257
Chapter 13	Some Remarks on Rabbi Moses Cordovero's Shemu'ah be-'Inyan ha-Gilgul Bracha Sack	277
Chapter 14	Abulafia's Secrets of the <i>Guide</i> : A Linguistic Turn Moshe Idel	289
Chapter 15	Mystical Rationalization of the Commandments in the Prophetic Kabbalah of Abraham Abulafia	331
	Elliot R. Wolfson	
Chapter 16	Contemporary Habad and the Paradox of Redemption Naftali Loewenthal	381
	IV: Modern Jewish Thought	
Chapter 17	Mendelssohn's Heavenly Politics Warren Zev Harvey	403
Chapter 18	Kant's View of Mendelssohn Allan Arkush	413

x

	Contents	xi
Chapter 19	Maimonides and Mendelssohn on the Origins of Idolatry, the Election of Israel, and the Oral Law Lawrence Kaplan	423
Chapter 20	Ideological Differences Over the Status of the Kehilla: The Jewish Community in the Age of Emancipation Jacob Katz	457
Chapter 21	Moses Mendelssohn and European Enlightenment Eva J. Engel	471
Chapter 22	Alexander Altmann as`a Theologian David Novak	483
Index		499

•

.