

## Preface

These two volumes—the English volume and the Hebrew volume—are the sequel to the two volumes that were published in 2011. On October 15–24, 2012, a research workshop dedicated to North African Jewry was held in the framework of the Program in Judaic Studies at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut in the USA. This workshop was the result of cooperation between Yale’s Program in Judaic Studies, the Judaica Collection at the Yale University Library and the Center for the Study of Jewish Languages and Literatures of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Thirteen scholars from the United States, France and Israel took part in this workshop.

The researchers worked on documents and manuscripts from the four North African countries—Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya—which are housed in the North African collection of the Yale University Library’s Judaica Collection. Each day of the workshop was opened by a lecture of one participant. The scholars lectured on their research in the field of North African Jewish studies unrelated to the Yale collection.

I approached Prof. Steven D. Fraade, chair of Yale University’s Program in Judaic Studies, and suggested that we once again publish two volumes based on the workshop. I thank him and his colleagues for having agreed to my suggestion and for arranging the necessary funding to cover the publication of these volumes.

The English volume presents twelve studies based on lectures delivered at the meeting. Unfortunately, for personal reasons, the thirteenth lecturer was unable to prepare his lecture for publication. The first article is based on the opening address on the last day of the workshop. The remaining studies follow in alphabetical order.

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The Hebrew volume is almost entirely based on documents from the Yale collection that the researchers studied at the workshop and continued to work on following their return home. This volume contains only nine studies. The remaining participants have not yet completed their research on the documents that they studied. They will presumably publish their studies later and in other forums. I wish to state that Ariel Shaveh studied a manuscript of Rashi's commentary to the Pentateuch which is in the collection and which came from North Africa, but is of Yemenite provenance. It may have been brought there by an emissary from the Jewish communities in the land of Israel who sold it to a learned man in Tripoli, Libya. In order not to deviate from the volume's character, he submitted an article based on a different study which fits in with the subject matter of the book.

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I wish to express my thanks to the faculty and staff of the Program in Judaic Studies of Yale University and to its chair, Prof. Fraade. I thank Prof. Fraade for making research into North African Jewry part of the program at Yale, for his decision to publish these two volumes and for agreeing to be my partner in editing them. I wish to extend special thanks to Dr. Nanette Stahl, curator of the Judaica Collection at the Yale University Library, for the acquisition of North African documents and manuscripts for the collection and for her assistance in organizing the workshop. I also thank the faithful librarian Julie Cohen, who greatly assisted the workshop's participants and made the manuscripts available for preparing the studies.

I wish to extend thanks to Liza Mohar, coordinator of the Publication Section of the Academy of the Hebrew Language, who produced the books; to Shirley Zauer, copyeditor of the English volume, and to Smadar Cohen, copyeditor of the Hebrew volume. I thank Adam Parker who prepared the English index and Dr. Esther Haber who prepared the Hebrew one. Finally, special thanks to Hai Sabar, the general manager of Magnes Press at The Hebrew University, for accepting the book for distribution.

Moshe Bar-Asher

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