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FOREWORD

For four years between 1982 and 1986 the Jewish Music Research Centre hosted research seminars devoted to the Jewish oral traditions. Organized in collaboration with the *Language Traditions Project* of the Hebrew University, these seminars were directed by Frank Alvarez-Pereyre.

Researchers in different fields (linguistics, musicology, literature and folklore) met and worked together week after week. They dealt with shared material that they approached with their own tools and research habits in the attempt to achieve results of an interdisciplinary type.

Several topics were chosen: biblical and post-biblical cantillation; aspects of the Judeo-Spanish folksong; specific rituals of the Hassidic communities. After four years of work, several studies were completed, the majority of which are to be found in the present volume.

The volume also contains an article devoted to the Yemenite musical traditions, a topic that occupied another research group headed by S. Arom and U. Sharvit, between 1981 and 1986.

This volume represents one of the numerous outcomes of continued collaboration between the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and more specifically between the Jewish Music Research Centre and the Laboratoire de langues et civilisations à tradition orale (LACITO).

It is our pleasure to thank the Director of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique P. Papon and Mrs. J.M.C. Thomas, Director of LACITO, both of whom authorized S. Arom and afterwards F. Alvarez-Pereyre to stay in Jerusalem for long periods, thus enabling bilateral cooperation to be established on solid and longlasting grounds.

Israel Adler

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