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# Medieval Ashkenaz

Papers in Honour of Alfred Haverkamp  
Presented at the 17th World Congress  
of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem 2017

Edited by  
Christoph Cluse and Jörg R. Müller

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Cover image: seal of the medieval Jewish community of Augsburg, 1298. The inscription reads: S[igillum] IVDEORVM AVGVSTÆ/[פורק]קהל אויש [זותם] קהל אויש [פורק]. Reproduced with permission from Fürstliche Domänenkanzlei Hohenlohe-Waldenburg.

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## Editors' Note

The present volume is yet another celebration of the far-reaching intellectual oeuvre and stimulating activity of professor Alfred Haverkamp. While previous *Festschriften* have offered selections of his own path-breaking studies, essays by some of his *circa* fifty doctoral students, or the proceedings of a colloquium that colleagues held in his honour, the present collection is the first to be almost entirely devoted to the history of the Jews in the medieval German Kingdom—i.e., in medieval Ashkenaz. Alfred Haverkamp has explored and charted this field ever since he was appointed professor of medieval history at the newly-founded university of Trier in 1970, starting out with his path-breaking research in the local city archives. The theme then never lost its attraction for him. After he had organized what appears, by all counts, the first conference of German and Israeli scholars after World War II in 1977, he became a true doyen for research in medieval Jewish history in Germany. Step by step, he strategically worked towards setting up an institute for research in Jewish history at Trier University, which was eventually founded 25 years ago in 1996 and soon afterwards renamed in honour of the late Arye Maimon (formerly Herbert Fischer, 1903–1988), the inspiring German-Israeli scholar and editor of *Germania Judaica* with whom Haverkamp (as well as his family) had always harboured a close friendship.

After fifty years of scholarly activity in the institutional setting of Trier University, Haverkamp's productivity appears undaunted. Following his 'retirement' in 2005 and after putting the final touches on a research project devoted to charity and pastoral care in Christian communities (–2008), he began to devote himself more fully to Jewish history, which according to his firm conviction was always inextricably interwoven with the history of Christian societies and communities. Time and again, Alfred Haverkamp has demonstrated his open-mindedness and readiness to pursue new questions and adopt new perspectives.

The idea to hold a conference on Jewish history in honour of Alfred Haverkamp on the occasion of his eightieth birthday (16 March 2017) thus came almost naturally. A special occasion was offering itself in connection with the upcoming 17th World Congress of Jewish Studies, to be held in Jerusalem in August 2017. Ever since setting up the Arye Maimon Institute, professor Haverkamp had made a point of taking part in this event regularly, together with current students and Institute members,

for presenting the latest research from the “Trier school” of Jewish history. The Jerusalem Congress, which takes place every four years, had long taken on the character of a family meeting, bringing together scholars of Ashkenazic Judaism from all over the world. Not least, the dialogue between historians in Germany and humanities scholars in Jerusalem represented a continuation of professor Haverkamp’s constant endeavours since the beginning of his career, of building personal and scientific bridges over the abyss created by the crimes of Nazi Germany, which had largely destroyed the German-Jewish “Wissenschaft des Judentums”. These endeavours were honoured by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem with a doctorate *honoris causa*, awarded in June 2011.

It was an obvious idea therefore to organize a strand of sessions devoted to “Medieval Ashkenaz”, that would cover diverse topics and aspects of Jewish history close to Haverkamp’s own interests, for the upcoming congress. Our initial proposal met with an overwhelmingly warm response, which in our eyes impressively documents the renown Haverkamp has attained internationally. No less than 32 colleagues, friends, students, and students of students—scholars of three generations from Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, the United States, and Israel—flocked together to present their papers in the “Medieval Ashkenaz” strand of sessions on 9 and 10 August 2017. Most of the papers given at the Jerusalem Congress in 2017 are represented in the present *Festschrift* volume. In a small number of cases participants have chosen to submit a different paper for inclusion here. Moreover, some scholars closely associated with the Arye Maimon Institute who were unable to attend the occasion have thankfully added studies of their own that fall in the same field (broadly speaking, that is: we have also accepted a contribution on the synagogues of medieval Sicily, as it reveals numerous parallels with the phenomena in Ashkenaz. Without doubt it will prove inspiring).

As this volume is finally going into print, we gratefully acknowledge the organizers of the World Congress, who went out of their way for enabling us to hold the strand of sessions on “Medieval Ashkenaz” in the wonderful atmosphere of the Mandel Building of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. We thank our friend, professor Israel J. Yuval, known both as a long-time research associate of Arye Maimon and as a close friend of the Haverkamp family, for his readiness to publish his very personal words of congratulation given on the occasion. We owe thanks to all the contributors to this volume as well as apologies, for it has taken longer to produce than expected, which they have taken with patience and in good humour. Julian Kaltwasser and Ivo Köth have assisted us in compiling the index. The series editors have kindly made an exception and passed the volume by professor Haverkamp’s own meticulous review.

Both as editors of the present volume and as long-standing members of the Arye Maimon Institute’s research team, we extend to professor Haverkamp our deeply-held appreciation and the best wishes for his future health and productivity.