

List of Contributors	• xi
Acknowledgments	• xiii
Preface: Toward a Cultural History of the Jews	
by David Biale	• xvii

Part One

MEDITERRANEAN ORIGINS

Introduction

by David Biale • 3

ONE Imagining the Birth of Ancient Israel: National Metaphors in the Bible

by Ilana Pardes • 9

TWO Israel Among the Nations: Biblical Culture in the Ancient Near East

by Ronald S. Hendel • 43

THREE Hellenistic Judaism

by Erich S. Gruen • 77

FOUR Jewish Culture in Greco-Roman Palestine

by Eric M. Meyers • 135

FIVE Confronting a Christian Empire: Jewish Culture in the World of Byzantium

by Oded Irshai • 181

SIX Babylonian Rabbinic Culture

by Isaiah Gafni • 223

SEVEN Jewish Culture in the Formative Period of Islam

by Reuven Firestone • 267

Part Two

DIVERSITIES OF DIASPORA

Introduction

by David Biale • 305

- ONE Merchants and Intellectuals, Rabbis and Poets: Judeo-Arabic Culture in the Golden Age of Islam
by *Raymond P. Scheindlin* • 313
- TWO A Letter to a Wayward Teacher: The Transformations of Sephardic Culture in Christian Iberia
by *Benjamin R. Gampel* • 389
- THREE A Jewish-Christian Symbiosis: The Culture of Early Ashkenaz
by *Ivan G. Marcus* • 449
- FOUR Innovative Tradition: Jewish Culture in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth
by *Moshe Rosman* • 519
- FIVE Families and Their Fortunes: The Jews of Early Modern Italy
by *Elliott Horowitz* • 573
- SIX Bom Judesmo: The Western Sephardic Diaspora
by *Yosef Kaplan* • 639
- SEVEN Childbirth and Magic: Jewish Folklore and Material Culture
by *Shalom Sabar* • 671

Part Three

MODERN ENCOUNTERS

- Introduction
by *David Biale* • 725
- ONE Urban Visibility and Biblical Visions: Jewish Culture in Western and Central Europe in the Modern Age
by *Richard I. Cohen* • 731
- TWO A Journey Between Worlds: East European Jewish Culture from the Partitions of Poland to the Holocaust
by *David Biale* • 799
- THREE The Ottoman Diaspora: The Rise and Fall of Ladino Literary Culture
by *Aron Rodrigue* • 863
- FOUR Multicultural Visions: The Cultural Tapestry of the Jews of North Africa
by *Lucette Valensi* • 887
- FIVE Challenges to Tradition: Jewish Cultures in Yemen, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and Bukhara
by *Yosef Tobi* • 933
- SIX Religious Interplay on an African Stage: Ethiopian Jews in Christian Ethiopia
by *Hagar Salamon* • 977

SEVEN Locus and Language: Hebrew Culture in Israel, 1890–1990

by Ariel Hirschfeld • 1011

EIGHT The “Other” Israel: Folk Cultures in the Modern State of Israel

by Eli Yassif • 1063

NINE Declarations of Independence: American Jewish Culture in the
Twentieth Century

by Stephen J. Whitfield • 1099

Conclusion

by David Biale • 1147

Index • 1151