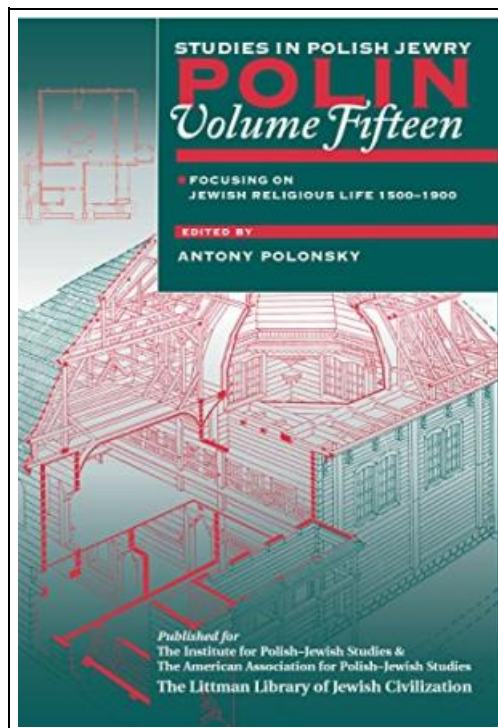


Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry



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Reviews

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POLIN: STUDIES IN POLISH JEWRY



The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry, Antony Polonsky, This volume highlights new research on Jewish spiritual and religious life in Poland before modern political ideas, above all nationalism and socialism, began to transform the Jewish world. The collection as a whole represents a welcome new trend towards a more rigorous approach to the study of Jewish religious life and writings and covers a range of topics. Three articles deal with rabbinic writing and publishing in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and a fourth presents accounts of Purim festivities at that time. The eighteenth-century studies focus on popular Jewish spirituality and Polish attitudes to Jewish spirituality. Four articles deal with the Frankist movement, the main topics being Frankist propaganda; non-Christian Frankists; Jonathan Eibeschuetz and the Frankists; and the influence of Frankism on Polish culture. There are four articles on hasidism-on the tsadik and the ba'al shem; the childhood of tsadikim in hasidic legends; the fall of the Seer of Lublin; and the hasidism of Gur-and one about influences on Nahman Krochmal. Four of the contributors to the core section on Jewish spiritual and religious life are Polish, representatives of a new generation of Judaic scholars there. Three are working in Germany, where Jewish studies is likewise re-establishing itself. Other contributors are leading scholars from universities in Canada, Israel, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Some are themselves religious, others are secular; taken together, their contributions further the study of Jewish religious traditions on the Polish lands, a topic central to an understanding of Jewish society and history in Poland but one which has long been considered marginal by the academic world. As in earlier volumes of Polin, substantial space is given to new research in other areas...



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