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Michele Osherow,  
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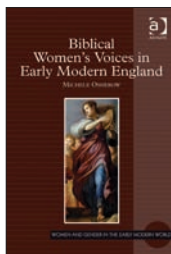
## Cultural Change Among the Jews of Early Modern Italy

Robert Bonfil, The Hebrew University, Israel

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The articles collected in this volume display Robert Bonfil's pioneering reappraisal of the economic and socio-cultural history of the Jews of Italy during the Renaissance and the early modern period, focusing on their encounter with and incorporation into the Italian society that surrounded them. Rather than thinking in terms of challenge and response, and the passive surrender of the Jews to the influence of their Christian surroundings, Bonfil's exploration of the evidence shows it mirroring their conscious choice to preserve a distinctive Jewish identity while at the same time being an integral part of the socio-economic and cultural fabric of the environment in which they lived.

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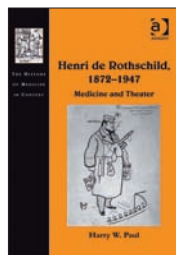
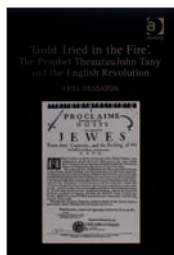
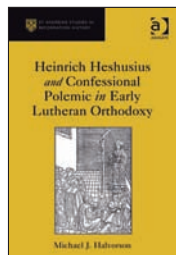
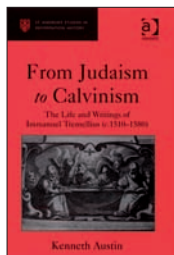
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Angi Buettner,

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Jon Stratton, Curtin University, Australia

*Holocaust Images and Picturing Catastrophe* explores the phenomenon of Holocaust transfer, analysing the widespread practice of using the Holocaust and its imagery for the representation and recording of other historical events in various media sites. Richly illustrated with concrete examples, this book traces the visual rhetoric of Holocaust imagery and its application to events other than the genocide of Jewish people.

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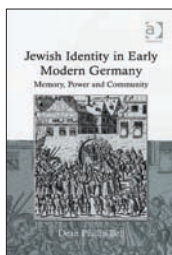
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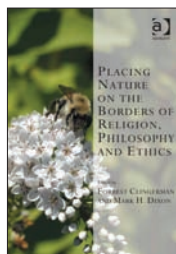
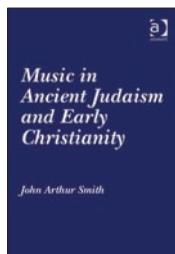
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**John Arthur Smith**

Smith presents the first full-length study of music among the ancient Israelites, the ancient Jews and the early Christians in the Mediterranean lands during the period from 1000 BCE to 400 CE. He considers the physical, religious and social setting of the music and how the music was performed. The book serves as a reliable introduction as well as being an invaluable guide through one of the most complex periods of music history.

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*Placing Nature* furthers the dialogue on religion, ethics, and the environment by exploring three interrelated concepts: to recreate, to replace and to restore. This book self-consciously reflects on the intersections of environmental philosophy, environmental theology, and religion and ecology, stressing the importance of how place interprets us and how we interpret place. This work is a unique volume in its serious engagement with theology and religious studies on the issues of ecological restoration and the meaning of place.

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## Seeing Mahler: Music and the Language of Antisemitism in Fin-de-Siècle Vienna

K.M. Knittel, The University of Texas, USA

No-one doubts that Gustav Mahler's tenure at the Vienna Court Opera from 1897–1907 was made extremely unpleasant by the antisemitic press. Unfortunately, the focus on blatant references to Jewishness has obscured the extent to which 'ordinary' attitudes about Jewish difference were prevalent and pervasive, yet subtle and covert. The context has been lost wherein such coded references to Jewishness would have been immediately recognized and understood. By painstakingly reconstructing 'the language of antisemitism', Knittel recreates what Mahler's audiences expected, saw, and heard, given the biases and beliefs of turn-of-the-century Vienna. Using newspaper reviews, cartoons and memoirs, Knittel eschews focussing on hostile discussions and overt attacks in themselves, rather revealing how and to what extent authors call attention to Mahler's Jewishness with more subtle language. What Knittel suggests, ultimately, is that much of early criticism was unease rather than 'objective' reactions to Mahler's music – a new perspective that allows for a re-evaluation of what makes his music unique, thought-provoking and valuable.

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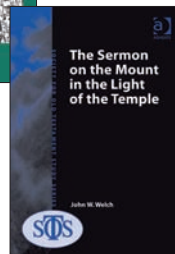
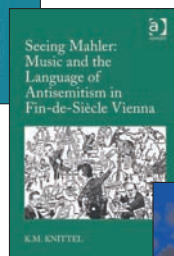
## Shimon Attie's *Writing on the Wall* History, Memory, Aesthetics

Peter Muir, Manchester Institute for Research and Innovation in Art and Design and Open University, UK

Shimon Attie's 1991–1993 installation in Berlin's Scheunenviertel district is suspended by the palimpsestic associations established between the dead of the past and their ghostly appearance in the present. In *Shimon Attie's Writing on the Wall*, Peter Muir theorizes these images both as a memorial activity and an index or habitation for history, by responding to a series of propositions arising from Walter Benjamin's Thesis "On the Concept of History."

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Mimi Levy Lipsiz

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Alexandra Nocke, Researcher in Cultural Studies,  
Exhibition Curator and Author

This investigation of Jewish spatial practices explores two groups of house symbols: ritual objects that are based on the iconology of the house, and metaphors that use the term in an ascriptive manner. The connections between architecture and gender, cultural, and Jewish studies, reveal insights into how space affects the production, maintenance and transformation of identity, as well as social interactions, gender constructions and concepts of belonging.

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