

## ***The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative, and Religious Imagination***

Marc Michael Epstein

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### **Excerpts from Reviews**

"A dazzling analysis. . . . The Medieval Haggadah shows with remarkable sophistication and an acute visual sense how those who commissioned, produced the blueprint for, and illuminated four medieval haggadot, or books for use at the Passover ceremony, did much more than illustrate the story of the Exodus, creating, rather, complex statements about the role and place of Jews in the society of the time, as well as producing remarkable works of art....Sophisticated a scholar and as acute a reader of images....[Epstein] moves smoothly between large theoretical issues and minute detail..... Splendid in his demonstration of the way in which large human concerns can be articulated through images, reminiscent of the mixture of humanity, learning and perception that has characterized the greatest of medieval art historians, Meyer Schapiro....One could not ask for more."—**Gabriel Josipovici, *The Times Literary Supplement (Books of the Year)***

"This is an outstanding study of the medieval Haggadah . . . a work all academic libraries should purchase."—**S.T. Katz, *Choice***

"Historian Marc Michael Epstein explores four illuminated haggadot . . . Though the importance of these manuscripts is universally acknowledged, Epstein examines them with solutions to long-unresolved questions concerning the meaning of the art contained within them."—**Shofar**

"[A] sumptuously produced, scholarly book."—**Simon Rocker, *Jewish Chronicle***

"A serious book, with careful observations, robust opinions, and footnotes forged by years of reading and thinking about Jewish medieval imagery, manuscript illumination, and its historiography. Publication of Epstein's book offers more proof that Jewish art history, so long in its infancy, has finally come of age."—**Julie Harris, *H-Judaic***

"Ambitious and far reaching, Epstein's work has reframed the discipline of Hebrew manuscript studies—the repeated references to his scholarship in the essays of other contributors attest to his influence."—**Nina Rowe, *H-net Reviews in Art History***

"An impressive amount of background knowledge and interpretation free of ideological prejudice that sheds light on old problems... An outstanding contribution to the study of Hebrew manuscripts and Jewish-Christian relationships in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries."—**Karl-Georg Pfandtner, *Burlington Magazine***

"Profoundly interesting. . . . An outstanding and valuable contribution to the study of Jewish visual culture."—**Ilana Tahan, *Studies in Iconography***

"Transformative. . . . The Medieval Haggadah opens a breathtaking window into the creativity, complexity, and dynamism of medieval haggadot and stakes a powerful claim for their agency in both the enactment of Passover and the expression of specifically Jewish self-identity."— **Pamela A. Patton, *Speculum***

"An original and important piece of research." — **Sara Offenberg, *Jewish History***