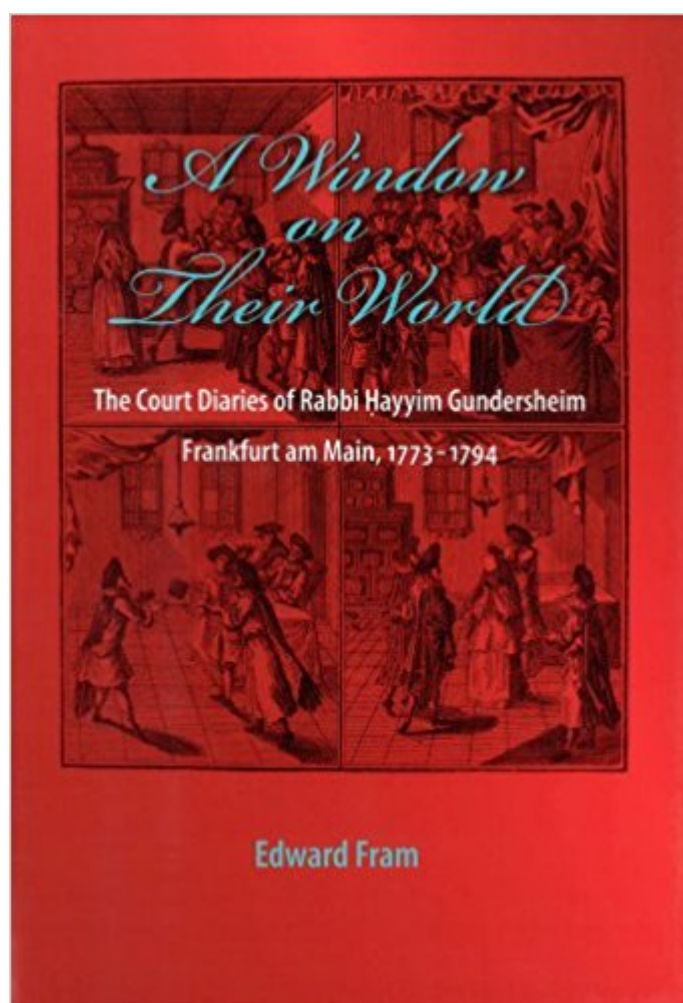


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A Window On Their World: The Court Diaries Of Rabbi Hayyim Gundersheim Frankfurt Am Main, 1773-1794 (Non-Series)



Synopsis

From a manuscript that was lost for more than half a century comes new information about one of the greatest Jewish communities of all time. The court diary of Rabbi ʿayyim Gundersheim (d. 1795), a member of the rabbinic court of late eighteenth-century Frankfurt, sheds light on daily life in the Judengasse ("Jewish lane"), home to over 3,000 people, including Meyer Amschel Rothschild, founder of the famous banking family. Familial quarrels, squabbles between neighbors, legal proceedings over business deals gone sour, real estate transactions, and other disputes brought before the rabbinic court offer a window onto the world of daily life in the Frankfurt Jewish community in the waning years of the city's ghetto. Yet, Rabbi ʿayyim Gundersheim's diary is more than just a prism through which to view daily life. *A Window on Their World* provides a transcription of over 200 cases that were brought before the rabbinic court between 1773 and 1794—records that reveal the workings of the Jewish community and the place of Jewish tradition on the eve of the Enlightenment. Edward Fram not only provides readers with an English language summary of each case, but offers indices of the names of all individuals mentioned in the diary as well as a glossary of non-Hebrew terms. Pertinent documents from the Frankfurt pinqas, or community record book, have also been provided in order to give readers a more complete picture wherever possible. Fram's introduction to the diary includes a biographical background, an outline of Jewish legal autonomy in the early modern period, and a discussion of the importance of court documents as legal and historical sources.

Book Information

Series: Non-Series

Hardcover: 656 pages

Publisher: Hebrew Union College Press; Bilingual edition (October 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0878202536

ISBN-13: 978-0878202539

Product Dimensions: 7 x 2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #4,159,429 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Law > Rules & Procedures > Court Records #1439 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Essays & Correspondence > Diaries & Journals #3286 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > History

Customer Reviews

The 18th century court diaries of Rabbi Hayyim Gundersheim of Frankfurt am Main, with an extensive historical introduction to the book as a whole, as well as introductions and synopses of each of the over 200 diary entries.

Edward Fram is associate professor of Jewish History and holds the Solly Yellin Chair in Lithuanian and Eastern European Jewry at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

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