

Preface

The Seventh CISMOR Annual Conference on Jewish Studies was held this year earlier than usual, in June 2013. As in previous years, this time too we had the honor of welcoming to Doshisha University some distinguished scholars, as well as some aspiring ones, from both Japan and abroad, who introduced the fruits of their studies to their colleagues, to our students, and to the general public.

The focus of this year's conference was on Jewish creativity in the Middle Ages, in relation to Christian and Muslim environment and thought, and it can be considered a second step, in terms of historical order, following our Fifth Conference, which was held in 2011 and focused on Judaism and Christianity in antiquity and early Middle Ages. Thus we have also maintained the tradition of the CISMOR conferences, to focus not only on one of the three Abrahamic religions, but also on its relations with the other two, especially their mutual influences expressed through their respective writings.

The public lecture and workshop on the first day of the conference introduced the participants to the complicated relations between Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe. The second day, which likewise included a lecture to the public, as well as three workshops, was dedicated to Judaism's greatest sage of the Middle Ages, Moses Maimonides, and his fruitful relations with Muslim science and philosophy.

The topic of Medieval Judaism and its contacts with Christianity and Islam was supported by CISMOR's project of young scholars, in the framework of which Doshisha University's School of Theology and CISMOR cooperated with Leo Baeck College, with which Prof. Marc Saperstein and Dr. Daniel Davies are affiliated, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, with which Prof. Warren Zev Harvey is affiliated. In this framework two symposiums were organized in Jerusalem and a joint workshop in London during 2012-2013; all papers read in these academic meetings are being published this year by CISMOR. The topic of Maimonides as the theme of the second day of the conference was chosen as part of the research subject of one of the young scholars, Ms. Aiko Kanda, who helped in planning the program of that day.

Unlike previous years, the conference this year was conducted entirely in English, with no papers or comments presented in Japanese. All the papers and main responses delivered at the conference are therefore presented here in English, after being edited for publication by their respective authors.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all those who helped in the organization of the conference and the production of this volume. We are especially grateful to the CISMOR staff, Ms. Tokiko Ikeda and Ms. Naho Kawazura, for their constant dedication.

We wish and hope to be able to keep up the tradition of annual CISMOR conferences on Jewish Studies in the years to come.

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Editors
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