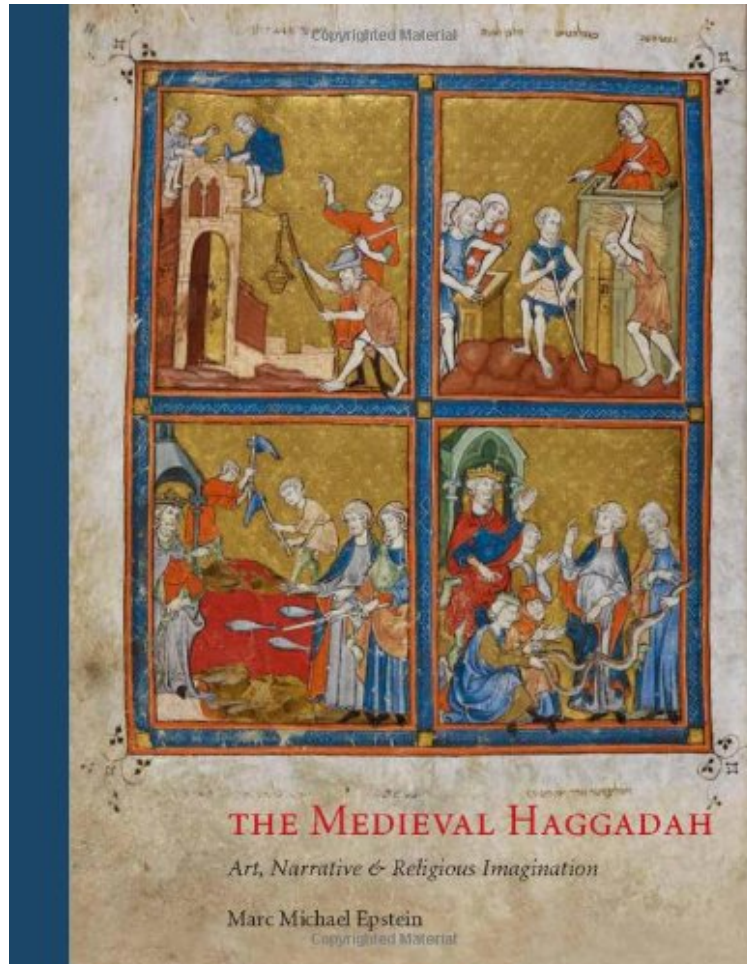


The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative, and Religious Imagination

Marc Michael Epstein

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Marc Michael Epstein : The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative, and Religious Imagination before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative, and Religious Imagination:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Intelligent and Deep
By Seth H. Rosenzweig I heard Professor Epstein lecture at the Skirball Center in Los Angeles, and he was terrific, so when I got home, I bought the book, sight unseen, and I have to say, it, too, is wonderful--not only beautifully illustrated but also fascinating on many levels, touching on themes of loss, freedom, the role of women in Judaism, and the role of art in the world. He even delves into the cross-pollination between the Jewish and Christian traditions in Medieval religious art. As I said, fascinating stuff, intelligent and deep.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Creative and Illuminating
By Stacy Leeman Epstein writes a book with humor, thoughtfulness, and clarity. This book is truly stunning in it's format but also in content. Epstein asks difficult questions, poses creative answers and makes the reader think. This book has

implications and ideas that relate to many of us. It's audience should include more than just Medievalists. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. gorgeous book By Karen A. S. this is a beautiful book, with amazing reproductions of pages of four early illustrated haggadot. the commentary is interesting and readable.

In this beautifully illustrated book, historian Marc Michael Epstein explores four magnificent and enigmatic illuminated haggadot—manuscripts created for use at home services on Passover. They include the earliest known surviving illuminated haggadah: the Birds' Head Haggadah, made in Mainz around 1300, in which many of the faces on the human figures depicted throughout are replaced with those of birds. Also presented is the Golden Haggadah from Barcelona, c. 1320-30, along with two Spanish "siblings," the Rylands Haggadah and its purported Brother, made between 1330 and 1340, which share similar iconography and style. Though the importance of these manuscripts is universally acknowledged, Epstein examines them with fresh and creative eyes, offering insightful solutions to long-unresolved questions concerning the meaning of the art contained within them. In addition, he uses these treasured volumes as a springboard to address broader issues in the study of Jewish thought and culture.

Shows with remarkable sophistication and an acute visual sense how [medieval haggadot] 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. -Gabriel Josipovici "BOOKS OF THE YEAR" Times of London About the Author Marc Michael Epstein is professor of religion at Vassar College.