

From the Editors

Issue number 11 brings new approaches to Indo-Judaic Studies.

This issue brings a study about celebrations of the holiday of Purim according to Portuguese sources. As a scholar with unique access to and familiarity with Portuguese sources, José Alberto Rodrigues da Silva Tavim brings to light materials hitherto unknown among scholars of the Cochin community.

Architect Jay A. Waronker has been studying Indian synagogues for more than a decade, and his study of the synagogue at Parur, near Cochin, opens a fresh perspective about the religious and social life of this community.

Linda Weinhouse analyzes Anita Desai's acclaimed novel, *Baumgartner's Bombay*, continuing our explorations of literary reflections on Jewish experiences in India.

Another new perspective on Indo-Judaica is archaeology, and S. Kalyanaraman analyzes the discovery of Bronze Age ingots from the Saraswati Civilization (known to some as the Indus Valley Civilization) in the harbor at Haifa, Israel.

A social psychological study of Jewish and Indian communities in England is presented by Ephraim Nissin, bringing a new disciplinary approach to these two diasporic communities.

Zvi Zohar and Nathan Katz explore a rabbinic view of practices in the pepper marts of 19th-century Malabar. The text is by the Ben Ish Hai, the last of the great rabbis of Baghdad, and it raises questions about indigenous vs. foreign views of India at the height of the colonial era.

This issue brings one new book review: Madhuri Santanam Sondhi's comparative study of philosophers Martin Buber and Basanta Kumar Malik is praised by the eminent scholar of Buber, Maurice S. Friedman.

This issue brings news of a resource for the study of Bene Israel families, an announcement about a Holocaust film festival in India organized by Navras Jaat Aafreedi as well as a brief note about the restoration of the Parur Synagogue, the same one discussed in Waronker's article.

Finally, we bring a tribute to Samuel Hallegua (z"l), the last leader of the Cochin community who passed away during the autumn of 2009, by UCLA historian Vinay Lal.