

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

MEIR BAR ILAN is Professor of Jewish History and Talmud at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. He has written books and papers on social history (especially regarding women and children), liturgy and mysticism, in addition to two papers on the Jews in India. He is spending the current academic year at the Institute for Judaistik in Vienna, Austria.

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BARBARA C. JOHNSON is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Coordinator of Jewish Studies at Ithaca College. She has been engaged in research on the Cochin Jews of India and Israel for almost 30 years. In addition to her many published articles on the community, she co-authored with Ruby Daniel the book *Ruby of Cochin: An Indian Jewish Woman Remembers* (JPS, 1995). She is working with Prof. Scaria Zacharia on a volume of Malayalam Jewish song translations, to be published with an accompanying compact disk.

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KENNETH X. ROBBINS, M.D., has published many articles on Indian art history, culture, medicine, religion, philately, and numismatics. He has documented his collection about Indian Princely States with 300 slides available from the American Committee for Southern Asian Art through the University of Michigan, as well as by curating nine exhibitions. He also collects all items relating to Jews in and of India.

OREN BARUCH STIER is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Florida International University in Miami, and Associate Director for Judaic Studies in FIU's Institute for Judaic and Near Eastern Studies. A specialist in Jewish cultural studies, Stier is presently completing a book entitled *Memory Matters: Contemporary Holocaust Memorial Culture*. He has published articles on Jewish and Holocaust memory in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* and *Prooftexts* and has lectured widely on the topic. Stier's other research interests include contemporary Hasidism and South African Jewry.

SHALVA WEIL is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Education at Ben Gurion University in the Negev, and Senior Researcher at the NCJW Research Institute for Innovation in Education at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She has specialized in research on the Jews of India for more than 25 years. Her publications include articles on religious leadership and secular authority, names and languages between the Bene Israel, symmetry between Cochin Jews and Cnanite Christians in South India, double conversion among the "Children of Menasseh," and reviews of books on the Baghdadi Jews. Dr. Weil is the founding Chairperson (with Zubin Mehta as President) of the Israel-India Cultural Association. She is on the editorial board of several Indian scientific journals and is the General Editor of the World Heritage Hindu-Judaic Series.

BRIAN WEINSTEIN, Professor of Political Science, Emeritus, at Howard University in Washington, D.C., studies the role of Jewish traders, particularly in the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean Sea areas. He recently published "Biblical Evidence of Trade Between India and the Land of Israel: A Historical Analysis" in *The Indian Historical Review*.