

ERFURTER SCHRIFTEN ZUR JÜDISCHEN GESCHICHTE

כתבי ההיסטוריה היהודית
של ארפורט

BAND 6 Ritual Objects in Ritual Contexts



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VOLUME 6 / BAND 6 Ritual Objects in Ritual Contexts

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Maria Stürzebecher und Claudia D. Bergmann
im Auftrag der
Landeshauptstadt Erfurt, Stadtverwaltung
Universität Erfurt



פרשת פקודי

אמר ה' אלמט עלך העולם האל חרב את רבנו וחדן את דינו והטקס את בננו
 והבישלה נבחר לכהן וליה נקטנו והפרנו למי טעורם: ברוך שמה"ה דאל
 הקראא לעבד ישראל טקס צדוקים האל המושיע:

פרשת פקודי
 אשור הוא צדק גי' וקר' מחשבות צדוקים: ביום זה לא יבדל שנה דין קורבן
 מצדק: טרופשורו ויטה לומר ויקלחו טענה זו למי: ומה בקנה ללמד
 והכבד בקש להשמיד ושטרד נחרה: והן הדיוצ אבנת אבנת וזרר טענת אדם
 לבנים: ולא זכר דרמי שאל כי בחמלתו על אב טרד אב: וטם רשע חסרת
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 להכרית זכרם: כראות טרדי טי יבא קאפ ורתי וקן נטט בחושן: לכש שקאש
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 ואסתר המן וקר' על הפץ הדין!

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לפסח
 בכה על צדק הדין

פרשת פקודי
 אומר ה' אלמתי מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו
 בדין ידא שרמא למא - להכניס החוצא והביא בכה
 לבית - מחפר הדאר - ומגד לנג - וטמנת
 לחור וטבת הדין - וטם לבת - כי מהדפיקתו

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01

Editorial

CLAUDIA D. BERGMANN AND MARIA STÜRZEBECKER

Editorial

CLAUDIA D. BERGMANN AND MARIA STÜRZEBECKER

The international conference »Ritual Objects in Ritual Contexts«, which was a cooperation between the Research Centre »Dynamics of Ritual Practices in Judaism in Pluralistic Contexts from Antiquity to the Present«, the commissioner for the UNESCO World Heritage application of the city of Erfurt, the Heidecksburg Rudolstadt, and the 27. Tage jüdischer Kultur in Thüringen, took place in Erfurt and Rudolstadt from November 6–8, 2019. Under investigation were ritual objects from both cities, which were examined in their historical and ritual contexts.

— How do ritual objects provide information about contemporary rituals, where do they fit into the genesis of a ritual, and to what extent do they provide information about local and contemporary history?

— Most of the conference presentations are now published in a revised form in this publication, after they have been thoroughly discussed, debated and – due to the conference theme – examined with the discussed object present by the conference participants, who came from different academic and geographical contexts. We also added a few articles relevant to the topic that were presented and discussed at earlier occasions.

— In Erfurt, an important ensemble of medieval artefacts from the former Jewish community has been preserved, which is unique in its power to speak of Jewish culture in Central Europe. Some of the objects, such as the Jewish wedding ring from the Erfurt treasure or the Hebrew gravestones from the former Jewish cemetery, have only been rediscovered in recent decades, while others, such as the Erfurt *Judeneid* or the Torah scrolls, have long been known to researchers. All of them are exceptional testimonies to the medieval Jewish history, and at the same time played an important role in rituals and ceremonies of the Jewish community.

— The Rudolstadt Judaica Collection is one of the most valuable cultural-historical holdings in the Thuringian State Museum Heidecksburg. Over 35 objects from the eighteenth century bear witness to the religious life of the small, local Jewish community. However, this collection has rarely been recognized so far. Stored in the magazine of Heidecksburg, it was no longer in the public consciousness after 1945. It was only after the peaceful revolution of 1989 that an academic discussion about the significance of the Judaica collection had become possible again. At the beginning of the 1990s, a first publication provided the impetus for an academic study of this valuable collection.

— The discussions during the conference showed that questions of terminology and understanding of rituals cannot be answered hastily and must be discussed further in research. Different perspectives and contextualizations contribute to the fact that the question of rituals also remains relevant in the fields of law, performance, art, literature, and so on, and necessarily require an interdisciplinary approach, as was the case at the conference »Ritual Objects in Ritual Contexts«. In addition, there are the different conditions of communication that manifest themselves in different contexts, such as whether the ritual object comes from an urban or a small-town community. The wide range of materiality (textiles, stone, wood, metal, etc.) and of actors and producers of ritual objects also shows that the topic cannot be treated and concluded without further ado. It can be positively emphasized that the presentations at the conference started out from objects and not from rituals, and only then devoted themselves to theory formation. This approach proved to be a fruitful method, although the object-focused consideration of rituals within the research landscape is still in its infancy.

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[ANDREAS LEHNERTZ](#)

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[VERA HENKELMANN](#)

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[STEVEN FINE](#)

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Filling Patterns with Lament: Medieval Jewish Husbands Mourning

[MICHAEL BROCKE](#)

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The Medieval Jewish Wedding Ring from the Erfurt Treasure: Ceremonial Object or Bride Price?

[MARIA STÜRZEBECKER](#)

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Jewish Life in Rudolstadt: On the Cultural History of a Small Residence Town

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The Mikvaoth and the Cemetery of the Jewish Community in Rudolstadt

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[NAOMI FEUCHTWANGER-SARIG](#)

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The Handwritten Notes in Books and Manuscripts of the Judaica Collection Rudolstadt

[REBECCA ULLRICH](#)

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[JUDITH FRISHMAN](#)

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Prayers of the Jewish Community in Rudolstadt for the Local Gentile Rulers

[MARTHA STELLMACHER](#)

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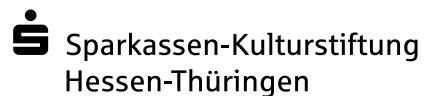
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GEFÖRDERT VOM



Das Ensemble mittelalterlicher Sachzeugnisse in Erfurt mit seiner einmaligen Repräsentanz der jüdischen Kultur in Mitteleuropa wird – erstmals begleitet von Sichtungen der bisher eher unentdeckten Rudolstädter Judaica-Sammlung – im vorliegenden sechsten Band der Erfurter Schriften zur jüdischen Geschichte in den orts- und zeitgeschichtlichen Kontext von Ritualobjekten und Ritualgeschehen gestellt.

Das ist ein spannender und sinnlich faszinierender Vorgang, der auf Neues zielt. Er gewinnt an Mehrdimensionalität durch einen ausdrücklich interdisziplinären Blickwinkel. Es ist der Versuch eines Sehens vom Objekt her. Das Konzept eines »neuen Materialismus« in den Sozial- und Geschichtswissenschaften aufgreifend, wird das besondere rituelle Objekt wahrgenommen, nicht von der Idee her, sondern als Realität. Diese Ritualobjekte thematisieren das sinnlich konkrete Dasein der Dinge im Kontext ihres pragmatischen Gebrauchs: Erfurter Hochzeitsring, hebräische Grabsteine, Torarollen, Stimmschlüssel, Gürtel, Leuchter, Gebetstafel, Misrach. Sie alle haben deshalb hohen symbolischen Wert und gleichzeitig eine einzigartige ästhetische Ausstrahlung.

Gleichwohl ist die Koexistenz der Dinge gekoppelt an ihre Einbettung in Verschriftlichung, Tradierung und Kontextualisierung. Indem der vorliegende Band aber insbesondere das jüdische Ritualobjekt in seiner Nutzung herausstellt, kann er den kulturellen Reichtum und die Identität der jüdischen Gemeinschaften feiern.

In this volume of the Erfurter Schriften zur jüdischen Geschichte, the ensemble of medieval material evidence in Erfurt, with its unique representation of Jewish culture in Central Europe, is placed in the local and contemporary historical context of ritual objects and ritual events – for the first time accompanied by insights into the hitherto rather undiscovered Rudolstadt Judaica collection.

This is an exciting and sensually fascinating process that opens up something new. It gains in multidimensionality through an explicitly interdisciplinary perspective. It is the attempt to see anew, beginning with the ritual object rather than the ritual itself. Taking up the concept of a »new materialism« in the social and historical sciences, the particular ritual object is perceived, not beginning with the idea of it, but as reality. The ritual objects discussed here address the sensually concrete existence of things in the context of their pragmatic use: the Erfurt wedding ring, Hebrew gravestones, Torah scrolls, a tuning key, belts, candleholders, a prayer tablet, a mizrach. They all have a high symbolic value and at the same time a unique aesthetic appeal.

Nevertheless, the coexistence of objects is linked to their embedding in writing, tradition, and contextualization. By emphasizing in particular the Jewish ritual object in its use, the present volume celebrates the cultural richness and identity of the Jewish communities past and present.

Die Reihe Erfurter Schriften zur jüdischen Geschichte bietet eine Plattform zur Publikation von Quellen und Forschungen zur Geschichte, Wirtschaft, Kultur und Gelehrsamkeit des städtischen Judentums in Erfurt seit dem Hochmittelalter. Die Reihe schafft zugleich einen Spielraum für neue, mehrdimensionale Interpretationsansätze.



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