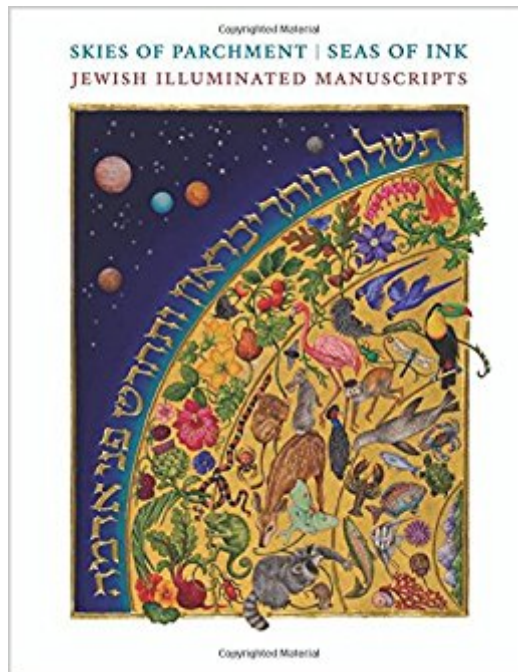




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Skies Of Parchment, Seas Of Ink: Jewish Illuminated Manuscripts



Synopsis

The love of books in the Jewish tradition extends back over many centuries, and the ways of interpreting those books are as myriad as the traditions themselves. *Skies of Parchment, Seas of Ink* offers the first full survey of Jewish illuminated manuscripts, ranging from their origins in the Middle Ages to the present day. Featuring some of the most beautiful examples of Jewish art of all time—including hand-illustrated versions of the Bible, the Haggadah, the prayer book, marriage documents, and other beloved Jewish texts—the book introduces readers to the history of these manuscripts and their interpretation. Edited by Marc Michael Epstein with contributions from leading experts, this sumptuous volume features a lively and informative text, showing how Jewish aesthetic tastes and iconography overlapped with and diverged from those of Christianity, Islam, and other traditions. Featured manuscripts were commissioned by Jews and produced by Jews and non-Jews over many centuries, and represent Eastern and Western perspectives and the views of both pietistic and liberal communities across the Diaspora, including Europe, Israel, the Middle East, and Africa. Magnificently illustrated with pages from hundreds of manuscripts, many previously unpublished or rarely seen, *Skies of Parchment, Seas of Ink* offers surprising new perspectives on Jewish life, presenting the books of the People of the Book as never before.

Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press (April 13, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691165246

ISBN-13: 978-0691165240

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 1.2 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #335,946 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #118 in [Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > Themes > Religious](#) #138 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Calligraphy](#) #459 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Books & Reading > General](#)

Customer Reviews

Winner of the 2015 National Jewish Book Award in Visual Arts, Jewish Book Council
Finalist for the

2015 National Jewish Book Award in Scholarship (Nahum M. Sarna Memorial Award), Jewish Book Council Honorable Mention for the 2016 PROSE Award in Art History & Criticism, Association of American Publishers

"The gorgeously illustrated volume *Skies of Parchment, Seas of Ink: Jewish Illuminated Manuscripts*, edited by Marc Epstein, should challenge almost all assumptions about Jewish identity, difference, or art. Its twelve instructive chapters and 287 full-color images survey a stunning array of illustrated books made for Jews from the twelfth to the twenty-first centuries."--Sara Lipton, *New York Review of Books*

"It is gratifying to welcome a book that celebrates Jewish manuscript illumination with such erudition and passion."--Ilana Tahan, *Times Literary Supplement*

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dust. If that's what you are looking for, stop here. Don't buy this. THIS is a book that folks pick up and look through, comment on the beautiful illustrations, and read through. Once, I had a guest try to leave with it. I know, I know, why is this so interesting? I'm no expert, but my 1-question survey to visitors to my house "Um. why are you reading my coffee table book?" has resulted in answers that point to the colorful illustrations and well-written concise stories. A few say it makes you want to find out why these pages from history look the way they do without needing a Masters degree to understand. Teens say its written the way textbooks SHOULD be written so that everyone would enjoy and learn from them. Um...wow!

A gorgeous book! According to the preface, the book had been in "development hell" for a very long time. Given today's modern print technology, it was totally worth the wait. A delight for those interested in the scribal arts and/or Judaica.

Excellent presentation of the art of Hebrew / Jewish Illumination. Text, commentary & photos a spiritual & scholarly delight.

Beautiful and information book.

Beautifully illustrated; excellent and insightful essays.

Beautiful illustrations and photographs. Nicely written.

Literally a Wonderful and sumptuous book. Just noticed error on page 21 which identifies Figure 23 as opening page of book of Joshua ... it is in fact opening page of book of Isaiah, Mordecai

best and most comprehensive book on this subject

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