1. Record Nr. UNINA9910774778703321
Autore Torollo David <1984->

Titolo Sefer ha-Pardes by Jedaiah ha-Penini : A Critical Edition with English

Translation / / David Torollo

Pubbl/distr/stampa Cambridge:,: Open Book Publishers,, 2022

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Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (ix, 184 pages)

Collana Cambridge Semitic languages and cultures, ; ; 13

Disciplina 225.95

Soggetti Hebrew literature

Hebrew literature, Medieval - History and criticism

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

Sommario/riassunto This groundbreaking new work is the first full critical edition and

English translation of the Hebrew book Sefer ha-Pardes [The Book of the Orchard], written at the end of the thirteenth century by the Provencal Jewish author Jedaiah ha-Penini. It is purportedly an example of musar: a compilation of wise epigrams and meshalim [parables] that teach moral lessons on different topics, such as the service of God, friendship, the deceitfulness of the world, medicine, logic, music, magic, and poetry. However, it is in reality a compendium of sayings that reveal the author's personal views and feelings on a variety of religious topics, secular sciences, and their practitioners. David Torollo presents a fluent and illuminating English-Hebrew parallel text based on four sixteenth-century witnesses: three manuscripts and a printed edition. A rigorous study accompanies and contextualises the Hebrew work, exploring Sefer ha-Pardes's transmission and reception in different places over time; its structure and content; its place in the intellectual environment and literary tradition of Provence; and possible lines of enquiry for future research. This essential new work offers a significant contribution to scholarship in the field of Medieval Hebrew Hispano-Provencal literature.