

## REVIEWS OF TITLES FOR ADULTS

Jesus was a Jew who celebrated Passover. The two temporalities clashed many times in the medieval period, even when Jews were not present such as in England after the expulsion of the Jews from that country. All these episodes are a result of the triumphalist narrative that claimed that Christianity had superseded Judaism and that the Jews had to be rescued from their blindness of this fact by force if necessary.

Krummel makes a convincing case using these and other sources that *Anno Domini* time still silences minority temporalities, even when it appears not to be doing so as the other calendars are allowed to be observed, such as in our modern era. This is, as she rightly points out, the CE system is essentially the *Anno Domini* under a different guise that is claimed to be shared by all, even though it is still tied to the Christian religion. She posits in the end that it may eventually be possible to create a universal sacred calendar, although how this would be accomplished remains to be seen.

This book is recommended for academic libraries which are looking to increase their holdings on medieval Jewish and Christian history, manuscript studies, and other related subjects.

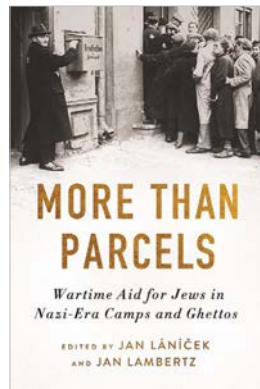
**Eli Lieberman,**

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Jan Láníček and Jan Lambertz, editors. *More than Parcels: Wartime Aid for Jews in Nazi-Era Camps and Ghettos*. Detroit: Wayne State UP, 2022. 380 pp. \$92.99 (9780814349236) HC; \$39.99 (9780814349229) PBK.

During World War Two, thousands of care packages were sent to Jews trapped inside Europe. This diverse and scholarly compilation of essays covers the wide range of humanitarian efforts, proving that “packages provided a bridge between Jews under Nazi occupation, in the USSR, and around the world, thereby demonstrating ongoing networks of association, despite the war.” The essays, arranged by regions and regimes, discuss the arrangement of shipments to the ghettos and camps, as well as the enormous obstacle course rescuers had to navigate: bureaucracy, corrupt or anti-Semitic governments, inefficient systems and infrastructure, and constant terror. Lacking global basis or cohesiveness, actions were chiefly conducted through private individuals, like Michael Wichert, who negotiated directly with Nazi officials; and charities and organizations, predominantly Jewish ones like the Joint, but also non-denominational organizations, such as the Red Cross, which in 1944 was treated to a sham tour of Theresienstadt. Often the recipient was no longer alive; many packages that did successfully arrive ended up pilfered. Efforts were further impeded by Allied embargos: the U.S.



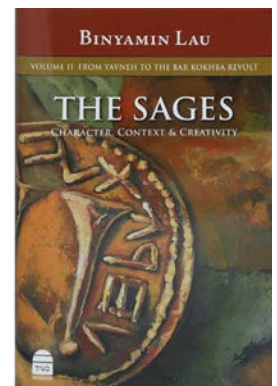
government, following December 1941, preferred economic sanctions on Germany over saving lives. Tragically, the Jews, as “civilians,” did not fall under the rubric of protection granted to soldiers under the Geneva Convention. Nevertheless, although they failed to stem the Nazi policy of starvation, the packages, and their senders, provided psychological uplift and empowerment. Access to imported items affected class status within the camps and ghettos, enabling trade and bartering. Noted are the participation of neutral nations, particularly Sweden, which served as a major conduit, and the solidarity of families and communities who provided food, medicine, and clothing to the Transnistria camp in Romania, or to Jewish inmates in Vichy, France. Some essays describe the postwar aftermath including distributions to refugee or DP camps. Fascinating and insightful, this book manages to draw on a seemingly mundane item to reveal much about that dreadful era. This is an essential purchase for Holocaust collections.

**Hallie Cantor,**

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Lau, Binyamin. *The Sages: Character, Context, & Creativity*. Jerusalem: Maggid, 2022. Volume V: The Yeshivot of Babylonia and Israel. 302 pp. \$24.95 (9781592644025) HC.

In *The Sages, Volume V*, Binyamin Lau continues where he left off in *Volume IV*. Doing a massive historic sweep of Rabbis of yore, Lau gets into the little details of the lives based on where and how they are quoted in the Talmud. Rather than go in a strict birth order, or order of appearance in the Talmud, Lau has chosen to go with a very neat geographical order. Starting with Southern Babylonia, visiting the sages of Northern Babylonia, and ending with the sages in the land of Israel.



The book is a relatively easy read, something that can be read in long stretches or in short bursts. Not requiring that the reader had read the first four volumes makes it even more accessible. At times, it is a bit heavy on the quote blocks, but the casual tone of the book makes it a joy. When diving into each sage, Lau makes them approachable and so eminently human.

For any library with the first four volumes, this latest volume is an easy addition. For libraries without any volumes of *The Sages*, this newest volume makes a compelling case to buy the entire set. Perhaps a bit on the lighter side for the most serious historians, it could fit well in any school, synagogue, personal, or academic library.

**Andrew Lillien,**

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