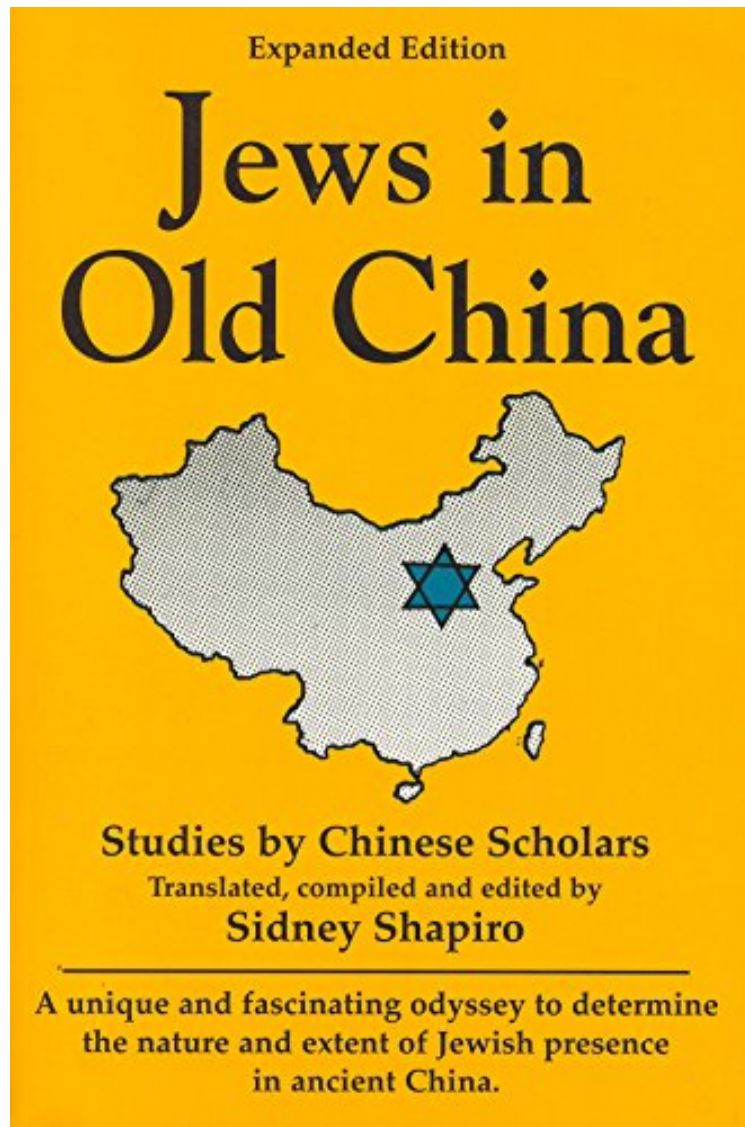


(Ebook pdf) Jews in Old China: Studies by Chinese Scholars

## Jews in Old China: Studies by Chinese Scholars

*Sidney Shapiro*

*\*Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



 Download

 Read Online

#1173362 in Books Hippocrene Books 2000-11-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .62 x 5.981, 1.09 #File Name: 0781808332240 pages | File size: 70.Mb

**Sidney Shapiro : Jews in Old China: Studies by Chinese Scholars** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Jews in Old China: Studies by Chinese Scholars*:

22 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Linguistic Archeology: Scholarly Speculation By Dr. Debra Jan Bibel With only shards of evidence and confusion and ambiguity on the meaning of ancient Chinese terms, which are most likely mutated transliterations from Persian and Arabic, Chinese ethnographic and historical scholars debate on when Jews first arrived, traded, and dwelled in China. After all, even in the West in fairly recent times, Jews were called, in English, Hebrews and Israelites. The editor and translator of this book is a long-time Chinese citizen, a Jew

himself. That Jews had resided for centuries in Kaifeng, which was a capital of China in the Middle Ages, is well known. Although the scholarly repetition of evidence and various interpretations get tiresome quickly, there are still interesting commentary and the reader soon acquires an understanding of the Silk Road and the lure of China. A chapter provides an extensive contemporary description of Kaifeng in 1147, which was aided by a huge scroll painting, and establishes the capital as a cosmopolitan and cultural center; apparently a few years later, in 1163, the first synagogue was built there. Jews among merchants and traders in the 8th century is well founded with, for instance, documents in Hebrew and Hebrew script from Dunhuang and Kotan. This book is an important contribution to Silk Road studies and Jewish history. It helps fill in some of the blanks between Roman Judea and the Renaissance, when Marco Polo observed Jews in his Chinese travels. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating! By Scott H. Irving In many ways, this is a dry subject, but with gold nuggets waiting to be found. Particularly, the revelations about the city of Bianjing, later called Kaifeng. Chinese record its great prosperity and very detailed descriptions of everything that went on in the city, throughout its history. It rose, it prospered and it decayed and was left for "dead." The follies of mercantile evolution and its escalation of greed and eventual collapse. It is also dry accounts of Jewish traders, among many foreign traders. Jews did establish a long standing presence in Kaifeng, but they too, eventually got caught up on the luxury of business and trade going on there, and married Chinese women and lost their identity, sort of. This book aids Menzies' 1434 book and his 1421 book on China and its exploits, a most remarkable empire. and not less so, the Jews, a remarkable people and legacy. You might read Kritzer's "Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean" as well. While the evidence of Jewish presence might seem dull, there is history to be gleaned, but the history of Kaifeng and its cycle of growth and decay, alone, is worth the price of this book. Its like striking a gold mine. China really was a super power in her day and now rises again in our day. We should have expected nothing less. I tip my hat to her. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Seemed So Interesting By MSE fanatic When I first read the title I thought this would be such an amazing book to read. It is indeed very interesting just not easy to read. The text seems to be a collection of articles written by scholars throughout China and the US and is hard to follow for anyone not familiar with this topic. I won't discourage anyone from buying this text just beware to sit down with pen and paper to make notes.

The accidental discovery in the 17th century of a Jewish community in the city of Kaifeng, and the findings there by Jesuit missionaries, marked the beginning of widespread interest in the subject of Jews in China. In the centuries that followed, Western Sinologists arrived in China and engaged in a variety of investigations. In the 1980s, however, Sidney Shapiro, a former New York lawyer who has lived half a century in Beijing, felt that "there was a crying need to learn what the Chinese scholars themselves have to say about the history of Jews in China." With that in mind, he compiled the remarkable fruits of research conducted by Chinese social scientists, and edited and translated them into English. *Jews in Old China* was originally published by Hippocrene Books in 1984 with considerable success. It was then translated into Hebrew and published in Israel in 1987. This newly expanded edition offers a rich exposition, according to the Chinese investigations, on the origins of these Jewish migrants—when and why they came, the routes they followed, where they settled, and descriptions of their religious and social lives under the Hans, the Mongols, and the Manchus. This book provides a wealth of information about the conflicts, contributions, adaptation and ultimate assimilation of the Jews in China. It also introduces, from the Chinese perspective, the Radanites, the great medieval Jewish mercantile traders, who provided an important link between China and the West.

Language Notes Text: English, Chinese