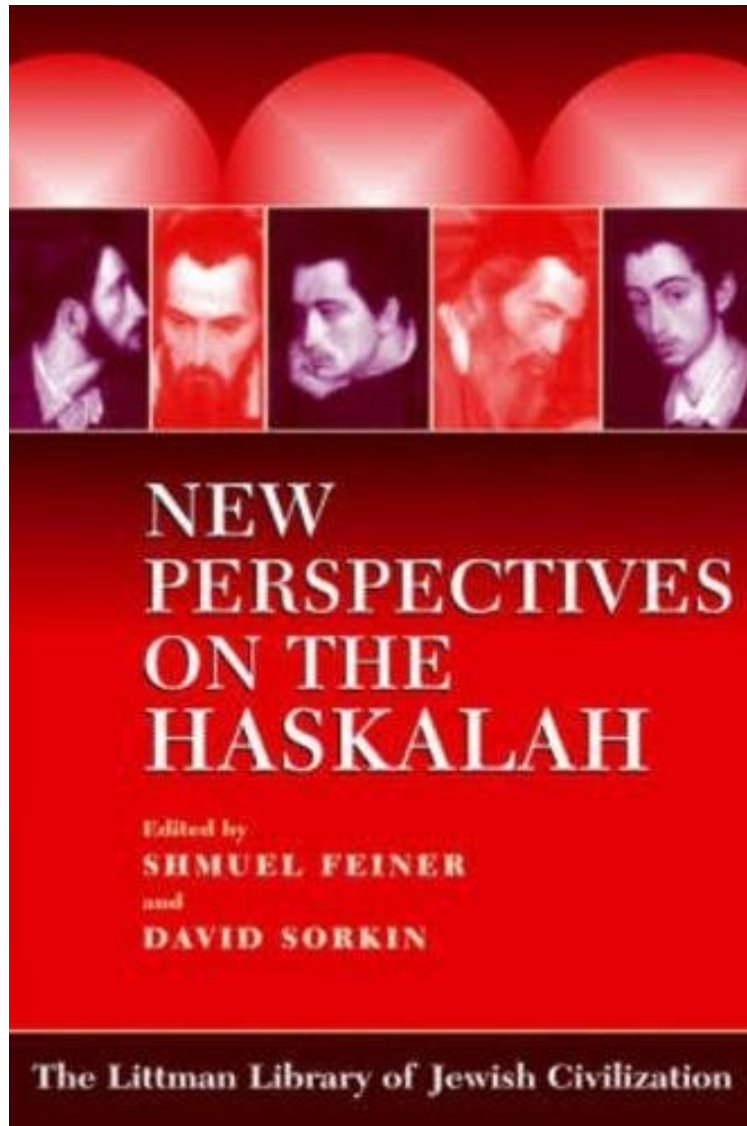


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Shmuel Feiner

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Shmuel Feiner : New Perspectives on the Haskalah (Littman Library of Jewish Civilization) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised New Perspectives on the Haskalah (Littman Library of Jewish Civilization):

This volume, written by a range of scholars in history and literature, offers a new understanding of one of the central cultural and ideological movements among Jews in modern times. Disengaging the Haskalah from the questions of modernization or emancipation that have hitherto dominated the scholarship, the contributors put the Haskalah under a microscope in order to restore detail and texture to the individuals, ideas, and activities that were its makers in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In particular, they replace simple dichotomies with nuanced distinctions, presenting the relationship between 'tradition' and Haskalah as a spectrum of closely linked cultural options rather than a fateful choice between old and new or good and evil. The essays address major and minor figures; ask whether there was such an entity as an 'early Haskalah', or a Haskalah movement in England, look at key issues such as the relationship of the Haskalah to Orthodoxy and hasidism, and also treat such neglected subjects as the position of women. *New Perspectives on the Haskalah* will interest all students of modern Jewish history, literature, and culture.

'Offers many new perspectives on the movement. It includes unique and original studies ... The authors are acknowledged experts in their fields ... a valuable addition to any library collection dealing with modern Judaism and is an important update to any collection dealing with European Jewish culture and religion.' Shaul Stampfer, *Religious Studies* 'This volume will leave its mark on the research of Haskalah. The authors' passion for the field and their erudition are evident in each and every page.' Lev Hakak, *Shofar* About the Author Shmuel Feiner is Associate Professor of Modern Jewish History at Bar Ilan University, and responsible for the Samuel Braun Chair for the History of the Jews in Prussia. He is the author of *Haskalah and History: The Emergence of a Modern Jewish Consciousness*, published in Hebrew in 1995 and in translation by the Littman Library (2001), and of *I. E. Kovner, Sefer Hamatsref: An Unknown Maskilic Critic of Jewish Society in Russia in the Nineteenth Century* (1998), as well as of various articles on the Haskalah in Germany and eastern Europe. David Sorkin is Frances and Laurence Weinstein Professor of Jewish Studies and Senior Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is the author of *The Transformation of German Jewry, 1780-1840* (1987), *Moses Mendelssohn and the Religious Enlightenment* (1996), and *The Berlin Haskalah and German Religious Thought* (2000), and is co-editor of *Profiles in Diversity: Jews in a Changing Europe, 1750-1870* (1998). He has received grants from the British Academy and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Previously a Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies and St Antony's College, Oxford, he has been a visiting professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, and a visiting fellow at the Max Planck Institut für Geschichte, Göttingen.