

Medieval Hebrew Manuscripts Reused as Book-bindings in Italy

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Giuseppe Veltri

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Edited by

Mauro Perani

With the Cooperation of

Emma Abate



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Cover illustration: Urbino, Archivio di Stato, Notalile 1793 n, 13, Hebr. fr. 1–2; Pseudo-Rabad, *Commentary on Sefer Yeširah*; the actual author is Yosef ben Shalom Ashkenazi.

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Map

- 7.1 The map of Italy and its regions where fragments of Hebrew manuscripts have been found. In Italy almost 16,000 fragments were found and, among this large number, about 7,000 fragments have been unearthed in Emilia Romagna alone, making almost a half of all the Italian fragments, mainly concentrated in the State Archives of Modena and Bologna. Highlighted in orange is the Emilia Romagna, while the other regions highlighted in yellow gave us a number of fragments. Very few fragments were also found in Puglia, Sicily, Sardinia, but due to the scarcity they appear in blank. In the southern regions almost no fragments have been found because in the mid-16th century the Jews were already expelled from these regions. Many Jews moved up to the central and northern regions of the Italian Peninsula, taking with them their manuscripts, which we have found dismembered and reused as bookbinding in the archives of those regions 83