PART I

STUDIES IN ‘GENIZAT GERMANIA’
In this short article I will present some material discovered in the archive of Hildesheim in Lower Saxony several years ago. In 1995 the archive’s director, Professor Dr. Herbert Reyer, was happy to announce the discovery of around 80 Hebrew parchment fragments. A few years later the task of investigating this discovery was entrusted to the author. An introductory article was published some years ago. This time I want to focus on the historical setting and the story of the manuscripts. First, I will present the fragments found in Hildesheim. In the remainder of the article I will elucidate the historical background of the Jewish community of Hildesheim and finally propose a thesis about the history of these particular manuscript fragments found in the city’s archive.

**The Discoveries**

Altogether there are 84 fragments. Five fragments belong to a Torah scroll containing parts of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. One fragment is part of a Bible codex. A closer look at the remaining 78 fragments revealed that they stem from a medieval prayer book for the holidays, a Maḥzor. To my knowledge, this is one of the rare cases in ‘Genizat Germania’ in which a large number of fragments

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1. As a result I produced a catalogue: Stadtarchiv Hildesheim, Bestand No. 58. The catalogue will be reworked as part of the new project ‘Genizat Germania’ under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Andreas Lehnardt and funded by the German Research Council (DFG).


3. I was able to identify 74; the remainder is illegible.