

[Free] A Dictionary of Jewish Palestinian Aramaic of the Byzantine Period (Publications of The Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon Project)

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Michael Sokoloff

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Michael Sokoloff : A Dictionary of Jewish Palestinian Aramaic of the Byzantine Period (Publications of The Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon Project) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Dictionary of Jewish Palestinian Aramaic of the Byzantine Period (Publications of The Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon Project):

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Very useful - the only dictionary on JPA around.By Shmuel ben NaftaliI found this book extremely useful, it being virtually the only dictionary on Jewish Palestinian Aramaic around. Pity it didn't do an English-Aramaic index as well, which would have been EXTREMELY useful. Rather pointless though were its inclusion of words that it did not know the meaning of! As a long-time researcher into Aramaic, this was a godsend.

Since the Middle Ages, lexographies of Talmudic and other rabbinic literature have combined in one entry Babylonian, Palestinian, and Targumic words from various periods. Because morphologically identical words in even closely related dialects can frequently differ in both meaning and nuance, their consolidation into one dictionary entry is often misleading. Scholars now realize the need to treat each dialect separately, and in A Dictionary of Jewish

Palestinian Aramaic, Michael Sokoloff provides a complete lexicon of the dialect spoken and written by Jews in Palestine during the Byzantine period, from the third century C.E. to the tenth century. Sokoloff draws on a wide range of sources, from inscriptions discovered in the remains of synagogues and on amulets, fragments of letters and other documents, poems, and marginal notations to local Targumim, the Palestinian Midrashim and Talmud, texts addressing religious law (halacha), and Palestinian marriage documents (ketubbot) from the Arabic period. Many of these sources were unavailable to previous lexicographers, who based their dictionaries on corrupt nineteenth-century editions of the rabbinic literature. The discovery of new manuscripts in both European libraries and the Cairo Geniza over the course of the twentieth century has revolutionized the textual basis of Jewish Palestinian Aramaic. Each entry in *A Dictionary of Jewish Palestinian Aramaic* is divided into six parts: lemma or root, part of speech, English gloss, etymology, semantic features, and bibliographic references. Sokoloff also includes an index of all cited passages. This major reference work, updated to reflect the publication of new texts over the last decade, will both provide students and scholars with a tool for an accurate understanding of the Aramaic dialect of Jewish Palestinian literature of the Byzantine period and help Aramaist and Semitic linguists to see the relationship between this dialect and others, especially the contemporary dialects of Palestine.

There can be little doubt that Sokoloff is the most prolific lexicographer of Aramaic of his generation... Sokoloff has furnished the scholarly community with essential reference tools of a high standard, for which we are grateful. (Siam Bhayro *Journal of Biblical Literature*) Sokoloff and his colleagues have produced two monumental volumes, now immediately and undoubtedly the standard works in the field. (Daniel J. Harrington *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*) About the Author Michael Sokoloff is a professor of Hebrew and Semitic languages in the Faculty of Jewish Studies at Bar-Ilan University. He is the author of *A Dictionary of Jewish Babylonian Aramaic* and co-author (with Stephen A. Kaufman) of *A Key-Word-In-Context Concordance to Targum Neofiti*, both available from Johns Hopkins.