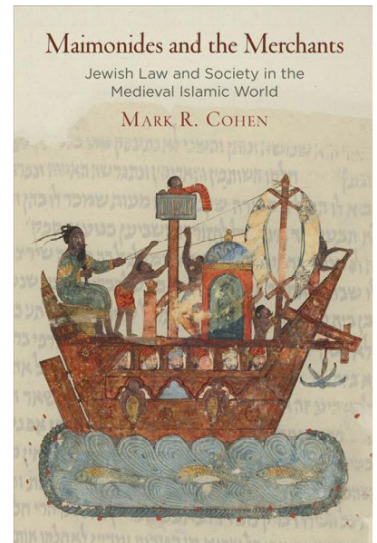


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TUESDAY • 4/24/18 • 314 ROYCE HALL

VITERBI LECTURE IN MEDITERRANEAN JEWISH STUDIES

MAIMONIDES AND THE MERCHANTS



Sponsored by the

UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies

Cosponsored by the

UCLA Department of History

UCLA Center for the Study of Religion

UCLA Department of Near Eastern Language & Cultures



MARK R.
COHEN
(PRINCETON)

Moderator:

JESSICA GOLDBERG (UCLA)

The advent of Islam in the seventh century brought profound economic changes to the Middle East and to the Jews living there. The Talmud, written in and for an agrarian society, was in many ways ill-equipped for the new economy. In the early Islamic period, the Babylonian Geonim made accommodations through their responsa, through occasional *taqqanot*, and especially by applying the concept that custom can be a source of law. Not previously noticed, however, in the *Mishneh Torah*, Maimonides made his own efforts to update the *halakha* through codification, in order to make it conform with Jewish merchant practice as illustrated in the business documents of the Cairo Geniza.

About the Speaker: Mark R. Cohen is the Khedouri A. Zilkha Professor of Jewish Civilization in the Near East, Emeritus, and Professor of Near Eastern Studies, Emeritus, at Princeton University. Educated at Brandeis University (B.A.), Columbia University (M.A.), and the Jewish Theological Seminary (M.H.L., Rabbi, Ph.D.), he is a well-known historian of the Jews in Arab lands in the Middle Ages. His publications include *Jewish Self-Government in Medieval Egypt*; *Under Crescent and Cross: The Jews in the Middle Ages*; *Poverty and Charity in the Jewish Community of Medieval Egypt*, and, most recently, *Maimonides and the Merchants: Jewish Law and Society in the Medieval Islamic World*. Until his recent retirement from Princeton, he was director of the Princeton Geniza Project, an on-line database of transcriptions of documents from the Cairo Geniza.

While the event is free and open to Leve Center members, [pre-registration is required](#).
E mail cjsrsvp@humnet.ucla.edu or call (310) 267-5327 to register.