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PREFACE

Leon Nemoy is best known as a scholar in the field of Judaeo-Arabic and Karaite studies, having edited and translated important texts and treatises. He is also the devoted and indefatigable editor of the Yale Judaica Series and many of the contributors are indebted to him for sharpening their insights, suggesting the proper word, and providing patient guidance and advice. His achievement is hailed by the participation in this volume of scholars in a variety of fields, and the broad nature of their contributions bespeaks the breadth of his own interest. When Sheldon Brunswick, of the General Library of the University of California, Berkeley, first approached Nemoy's friends and associates for articles for this volume they responded warmly to the idea of publishing a volume of essays in his honor. Typical was the letter from the late Edward Kiev, the librarian of the New York School of the Hebrew Union College — Jewish Institute of Religion, who passed away before submitting his article:

I am pleased to reply to your recent invitation to contribute an article to the Festschrift you are planning to publish in honor of Prof. Leon Nemoy.

Doctor Nemoy holds a special place among us for his contributions to Jewish learning and Jewish librarianship. It has been a wonderful experience to have shared with him many important undertakings. He deserves our admiration and it is proper to celebrate his achievement by publishing a volume on the occasion.

I gladly accept your invitation and hope to be able to send you an article which you will want to include in the volume.

The articles were assembled by Sheldon Brunswick, who also did the initial editorial work. It was hoped that the volume would appear in time for Leon Nemoy's seventy-fifth birthday, but the usual delays that afflict Jubilee volumes have affected this one too. After Bar-Ilan University agreed to undertake the publication of the volume, Dr. William Braude of Providence, Rhode Island, helped raise part of the funds needed for this. We appreciate the efforts that he has expended in true friendship for Leon Nemoy. Without his encouragement

and prodding the volume might not have appeared. We are also grateful to the American Academy for Jewish Research for its support of this volume. The editors would like to thank Mr. David Louvish who copy-edited the articles and prepared the volume for publication with skill and judgment.

Daniel Sperber, Jonas C. Greenfield