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Acknowledgments

As a student at the University of Amsterdam I crossed almost every day the boundaries, literary and otherwise, between the Departments of History and Hebrew. Both subjects captured my fascination, and I feel privileged that I was given the opportunity to bring these interests together in the research for this dissertation. Although I continue to define myself first and foremost as an historian, this book could not have been written without knowledge of the sacred tongue, Hebrew, as much as the *mameloshn*, Yiddish. As a dissertation is the formal conclusion of one's academic education, I would first like to express my gratitude to all those, from both departments, at whose feet I sat during my studies. Over the years I have realized how much I am indebted to them for their knowledge and analytic approach.

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