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PUBLISHERS' PREFACE

Brown Judaic Studies has been publishing scholarly books in all areas of Judaic studies for forty years. Our books, many of which contain groundbreaking scholarship, were typically printed in small runs and are not easily accessible outside of major research libraries. We are delighted that with the support of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities/Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Humanities Open Book Program, we are now able to make available, in digital, open-access, format, fifty titles from our backlist.

Bernadette Brooten's study, *Women Leaders in the Ancient Synagogue* (1982), was a landmark in the study of gender in antiquity, bringing attention for the first time to the role that women played in ancient synagogues by focusing primarily on epigraphical evidence. Her book allowed us to see old evidence in a fresh way, revealing a long history of scholarly biases.

This edition incorporates a new preface. The original text is unchanged.

Michael L. Satlow
Managing Editor
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