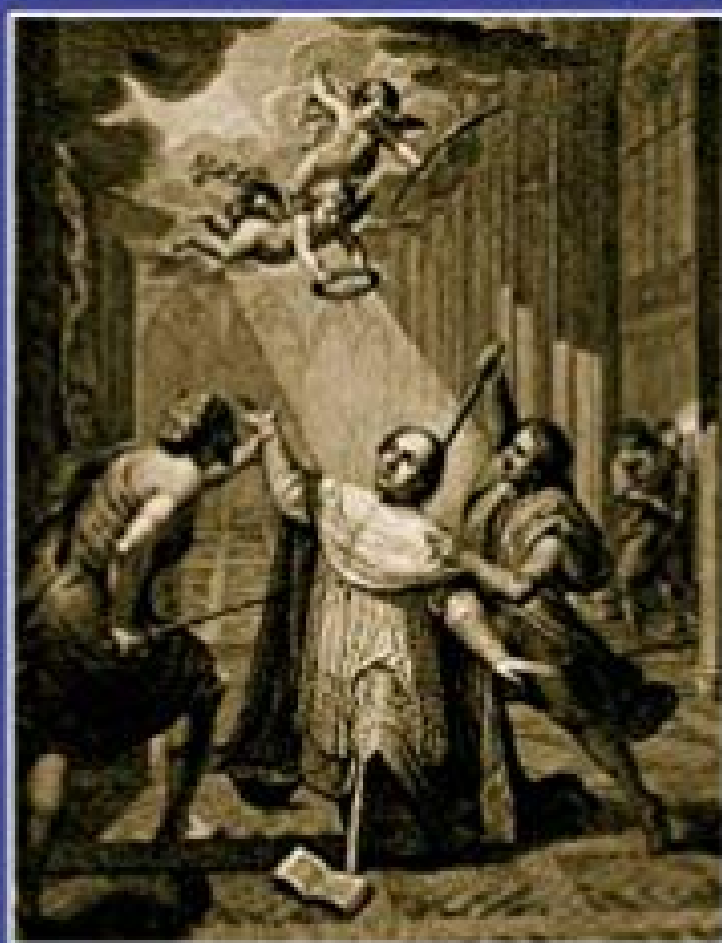


THE TRIBUNAL OF ZARAGOZA AND CRYPTO-JUDAISM 1484-1515



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The Tribunal of Zaragoza and Crypto-Judaism 1484-1515 (EUROPA SACRA)



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Since the starting of the Inquisition's archives in Spain in the nineteenth century, historians and anthropologists alike have seized upon the institution and its amazing archival legacy, and have scrutinized it from a multitude of political, socio-economic, and cultural angles. When the Inquisition was established in Saragossa in 1484, associates of the converso communities across Aragon, although denominationally Christian, were secretly observing the rituals of Judaism. This range of documents provides sufficient evidence of a true survival of Jewish ritual life and tradition among the Aragonese conversos who had been living and working in Saragossa by the end of the fifteenth century. This book queries Netanyahu's hypothesis by embracing the extant trial records from Aragon's tribunal of Saragossa, and employing them as a research study. Perhaps probably the most contentious hypotheses to have lately emerged from the field has been Benzion Netanyahu's proposal that the inquisitors fabricated charges of Judaizing against the Spanish New Christians (Christians of Jewish descent). Whether a continuing observance of the Sabbath, Yom Kippur, or Passover, enduring Jewish dietary practices or a deeply rooted prayer existence, the picture of converso daily life which emerges from the trial information is essentially a Jewish one.



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