

In the Shadow of Empires: Synagogue Architecture in East Central Europe  
By Sergey R. Kravtsov, with preface by Ilia Rodov  
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“These meticulously researched and clearly presented articles create new ways of looking at East European Jewish architecture that goes beyond the necessary but often superficial country surveys of the past few decades. While collectively presenting an important overview of the development and spread of synagogue types and forms, each article attacks a specific question about why and how buildings were built and what this teaches us about religion, politics, economics, and intellectual circumstances of the period and the Jewish mindset of that time and place. Kravtsov is this generation’s foremost historian of synagogue architecture and here he gives meaning to what otherwise would be abstract and empty form.”

Samuel D. Gruber

President, International Survey of Jewish Monuments

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