



Lexicon of Jewish Names in Late Antiquity: Part III: The Western Diaspora, 330 BCE - 650 CE (Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism)

Tal Ilan, Thomas Ziem

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In this lexicon, Tal Ilan collects information on names of Jews in lands west of Palestine, in which Greek and Latin were spoken and on the people who bore them between 330 BCE, a date that marks the Hellenistic conquest of East, and 650 CE, the approximate date when Muslims conquered the East and the southern Mediterranean basin. The corpus includes names from literary sources, but those mentioned in epigraphic and papyrological documents form the vast majority of the database. This lexicon is an onomasticon in that it is a collection of all the recorded names used by the Jews of the western Diaspora in the above-mentioned period. Tal Ilan discusses the provenance of the names and explains them etymologically, given the many possible sources of influence for the names at that time. In addition, she shows the division between the use of biblical names and the use of Greek, Latin, and other foreign names, and points out the most popular names. This book is also a prosopography because Ilan analyzes the identity of the persons mentioned therein.

The lexicon is accompanied by a lengthy and comprehensive introduction that scrutinizes the main trends in name giving at the time. A large part of it is devoted to how one can identify a Jew in a mostly non-Jewish society.

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