

Contents

Acknowledgements IX

Note Regarding Romanization X

List of Illustrations and Tables XI

Introduction 1

1 A King of Small Things 29

An Aesthetics of Prestige: Claiming Solomon's Treasure 31

The Cup 35

The Pillars 38

The Table 41

The Transfer of Metal-Working Techniques 43

Unfamiliar yet Beautiful: Sabres and Cuirasses 43

Casting Bronze Like Hiram: Lamps and Vessels 45

Working "à l'œuvre Salomon": Spurs, Saddles, Furniture 47

Conclusions 53

2 The Solomonic Throne in Constantinople 55

The Magnaura Throne 60

The Throne in the Byzantine Chronicles 66

A Throne for a New Solomon 72

The Case of the Golden Plane Tree 78

Courtly Automata 84

The Organ as a Soundtrack for the Empire 93

Sharing Elements of Kingship: Silks and Precious Objects
in Circulation 95

Conclusions 101

3 The Throne of the Rabbis 106

Scholarship on the Throne 111

The Throne in Midrashic Literature 117

The Relationship between Legends and Reality 121

Midrash Esther Rabba 125

Midrash Leviticus Rabba 129

Targum Sheni: between Ekphrasis and Reality? 133

Enlivening the Scene: The Echoes of the Magnaura 145

The Wandering of the Throne 151

The Reception of Midrashim about the Throne in other Contexts	156
Conclusions	159

4 The Throne of Solomon in the Islamic World	160
Jewish Sources for Arabic and Persian Accounts	167
Lions and Griffins: A Lost Solomonic Throne?	176
Building Solomon's Throne on Persian Royal Ruins: Takht-i Sulaymān	184
Mapping Solomon's Kingdom	201
Flying Thrones and Flying Carpets	205
Conclusions	213

5 The Throne of Solomon in the Christian West	215
My Kingdom for a Lion: Papal and Imperial Seats	216
Henry VI and the <i>Sedes Sapientiae</i>	224
<i>Sedes Sapientiae</i> and Divine Wisdom	234
A Seat for the Virgin	236
Rabanus Maurus	238
Guibert of Nogent	241
Nicholas of Clairvaux	242
Richard of Saint-Laurent	243
The <i>Sedes Sapientiae</i> as the Throne of Solomon: A Marian Interference	245
The Throne of Solomon as Spiritual Ladder	249
Conclusions	251

6 A Literary Abode for the Throne	258
The City of Brass	260
The Jüngere Titurel	268
Conclusions	279

Appendix: Weather Lore and the Throne of Solomon	281
Bibliography	289
Index	340