Contents

A Note on Transliteration, Names, and Dates ix

Preface xi

Introduction 1

Chapter 1. "Sharīf of the Jewish Nation": Reconceptualizing the House of David in the Islamic East 34

Chapter 2. "The Truth of the Pedigree": Documenting Origins and the Public Performance of Lineage 68

Chapter 3. Ancestry as Authority: Lineage and Power in Near Eastern Jewish Society 107

Chapter 4. "Designated in the Past and for the Future": Davidic Dynasts and Medieval Messianic Anticipation 131

Chapter 5. "The *Sharīf* of Every People Is Well-Born": Genealogy and the Legitimization of Minority Culture 163

Conclusion 179

Appendix A. Halper 462: Transcription and Translation 185

Appendix B. A Tentative List of Davidic Dynasts Datable between ca. 950 and ca. 1450 189

viii Contents

Abbreviations 207

Notes 209

Bibliography 253

Index of Manuscript Sources 277

Index 285

Acknowledgments 295