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# GESELLSCHAFT FÜR FRÄNKISCHE GESCHICHTE

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Castell, October 2011

**Die Grabsteine vom jüdischen Friedhof in Würzburg aus der Zeit vor dem Schwarzen Tod (1147–1346)**

**The tombstones from the Jewish cemetery in Wuerzburg of the years before the Black Death (1147–1346 A.D.)**

Dear Sir or Madam

The board of the Gesellschaft für fränkische Geschichte, Wuerzburg, a nonprofit historical association founded in 1904, would like to draw your attention to one of the most spectacular scientific publications on Jewish history in Franconia. Generally, our main target is to provide financial support to the publication of outstanding doctoral and habilitation theses or other important topics regarding Franconian history e.g. famous persons, noble families, or art history such as books on the residences in Wuerzburg and Bamberg or the castles in Franconia.

Our latest and certainly most important publication under the aegis of an international team consisting of Prof. Dr. Dr. Karlheinz Müller professor emeritus of theology at Wuerzburg University, Prof. Dr. Simon Schwarzfuchs (Tel Aviv and Paris) and Prof. Dr. Avraham (Rami) Reiner (Be'er Scheva) is being printed at present and will be available at the end of the year. It contains the spectacular findings of 1,455 tombstones and fragments of tombstones from the medieval Jewish cemetery in Wuerzburg which were found by chance during excavations. Every single tombstone is illustrated and described in the edition with Hebrew and German comments. The addressees are specialists as well as all who are interested in Jewish religion and medieval culture in general.

Volume 1 (in German) contains the “introductions” concerning the history of the discovery of the tombstones, the position in the general development of Jewish cemeteries, the material used and the dimensions of the tombstones, the carvers and artists who worked on the stones, and the development of the inscriptions between 1147 and 1346 when the “Black Death” brought urban medieval life to a standstill.

The reader can find detailed information about the names on the tombstones, the age of the deceased and the places mentioned, as well as about martyrs, converts, scientists or honorary titles.

Yehuda Amichai, one of the most important contemporary Israeli poets, has been accompanying the development of the work on the Wuerzburg Jewish tombstones with great interest and has dedicated them three poems in his latest book. The tombstones themselves can be seen in the basement of Shalom Europa, the Jewish centre in Wuerzburg. The spokesman of Shalom Europa, Albrecht Fürst zu Castell-Castell, and the head of the Jewish community in Wuerzburg, Dr. Josef Schuster, as well as several other organizations have supported this publication.

For further details we would like to invite you to have a look at the attached folder or to visit our internet site [www.franken-im-buch.de](http://www.franken-im-buch.de).

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours



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