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ATTENTION: Jewish Interest, Jewish History and Culture, New Books

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New Book Offers Vivid Look into Judaism during Second Temple Era

November 2018— Imagine being able to walk the streets of Jerusalem, Alexandria and Antioch in the Second Temple period (539 BCE-70CE). In *Discovering Second Temple Literature: The Scriptures and Stories That Shaped Early Judaism*, Malka Z. Simkovich, Chair of Jewish Studies and director of the Catholic-Jewish Studies program at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, invites readers to do just that through a presentation of diverse stories, commentaries and other documents written by Jews of the time.

From Jewish sectarians and the historian Josephus to the Dead Sea Scrolls, Simkovich analyzes primary sources, illuminating the perspectives of Jewish figures in this formative era.

This book interweaves past and present: modern stories of discovery of Second Temple literature and a description of the Jewish communities that flourished in the Land of Israel and in the Diaspora, as well as an exploration of the lives and writings of Second Temple authors, and an examination of the ways they composed novel versions of Bible stories in hopes of imparting messages to the people.

A companion book to *Outside the Bible* (JPS, 2013), a noted collection of late- and post-biblical literature in translation, *Discovering Second Temple Literature* will engage both scholars and casual readers. “Simkovich’s eminently readable and well-balanced account will help readers to understand the Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, and Dead Sea Scrolls’s contributions to Judaism and Christianity,” said Lawrence H. Schiffman, editor of *Outside the Bible*.

For more information about Discovering Second Temple Judaism, visit jps.org. To contact the author, email Suzanne Selengut, sselengut@jps.org. For a review copy, contact Anna Weir, aweir@unl.edu.

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