

Penkower, Jordan, *S. Masorah and Text Criticism in the Early Modern Mediterranean: Moses ibn Zabara and Menahem de Lonzano*. Jerusalem, Magnes Press, 2014. 344 pp. \$80.00. (9789654937863). Also available as an eBook.

This book brings the reader to the worktable of leading textual scholars in Jewish studies, allowing him or her to peer over their shoulder as they ply their trade in examining a manuscript. With an abundance of high quality photographs and methodical prose, Jordan Penkower explains the significance of a newly rediscovered manuscript copy of the Bible, copied in the fifteenth century by Moses ibn Zabara, a famed Iberian scribe who specialized in biblical codices. In the seventeenth century, the manuscript passed through the hands of Menahem de Lonzano, who left his mark in the form of marginal comments throughout the book. Lonzano's interests ranged far and wide, but his basic method remained constant – the close comparison of textual variants among authoritative manuscripts. Penkower locates Lonzano within his historical context, and provides a richly descriptive list of all the other manuscripts and printed copies that Lonzano is known to have annotated. Complementing the volume are chapters on the decoration of the manuscript by Andreina Contessa and on the paleography and codicology, by Tamar Leiter and Shlomo Zucker.

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