

Katelyn Chin, Acquisition Editor  
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Dear Katie,

Sydney, 6 April 2021

**BOOK PROPOSAL** *Vision of Colonial Judaism: Australian Jewish Visual Legacy, 1838-1878*

The idea of a monograph on Jewish visual legacy in colonial Australia may seem at odds with the general awareness of Jewish history. Yet, the topic aligns, I believe, with particular aspects of the Brill's earlier works in Jewish Studies series, such as *The Jews of the British Crown Colony of Aden* (1994) or the more recent art historical study *Secularizing the Sacred* (2019).

The idea started with an old European silver ritual object I found in the Sydney's Great Synagogue. Nothing was known about it, so I set out searching for its provenance in 2015. Rather unexpectedly, a rich and neglected field of historical Judaica objects and synagogue architecture begun to emerge. A dissertation followed and now, I propose to deepen the knowledge in the field of the world-wide Jewish art history by introducing the Australian Jewish visual heritage. Furthermore, based on the analysis of material shaped during the mid-colonial period, the projected book *Vision of Colonial Judaism* challenges some of the established premises of Jewish art history.

Naturally, I see the book being of interest to the lively Jewish cultural scene in Australia. More importantly though, the book – first of its kind – has chances to take the wider sphere of historians and art historians by surprise.

Please find attached my proposal for your consideration. I will be ready to submit the rewritten and edited publication text in November 2021.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

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