

STUDIES IN MEMORY OF IGNAZ GOLDZIHNER

Edited by

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האקדמיה הלאומית הישראלית למדעים
المجمع الوطني الإسرائيلي للعلوم والآداب
THE ISRAEL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Copy editing: Shani Tzoref & Deborah Greniman
Proofreading: Leigh Chipman & Shiri Gerson
Typesetting by Irit Nahum
Production: Yehuda Greenbaum

ISBN 978-965-208-244-2

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The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, 2026
Printed in Israel at Printiv Press, Jerusalem

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Foreword

The contents of the present volume are based on lectures delivered at the colloquium “Commemorating Ignaz Goldziher” held at The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Jerusalem on April 26–27, 2022, marking the centenary of Goldziher’s passing on November 13, 1921. The Israel Academy’s conference was a sequel to the conference organized by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Avicenna Institute of Middle Eastern Studies on November 15–16, 2021, in Budapest. Both colloquia reflect the cooperation of the Hungarian and Israeli academies in honoring the memory of a towering figure in the history of Islamic studies and of the Humanities in general.

The connection of Ignaz Goldziher (known in Hebrew as Yitzhaq Yehuda Goldziher) to the Israeli academic community began with the acquisition in the 1920s of his extensive library of Islamic classics by the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem – now the National Library of Israel – where it served as the basis for the library’s collection of works on Islam and Arabic literature.

Goldziher is considered a founding father of Islamic studies in Europe. His life and work have been the subject of numerous studies dedicated to the appreciation of his pioneering contributions to the modern study of Islam, then in an embryonic stage. His research is characterized by a unique ability to reach significant conclusions concerning the character of Islamic thought on the basis of the limited source material available in his time. His philological prowess and scholarly intuition are evident everywhere in his work. It is hoped that the present volume will make a substantial contribution to the appreciation of this great scholar’s legacy.

It is my pleasant duty to thank Shani Tzoref and Leigh Chipman, who, respectively, edited and proofread the articles, Liat Oshry, the Director of the Israel Academy’s Publications Department, and especially Deborah Greniman, Senior Editor of English-Language Publications at the Academy, who did part of the editorial work and supervised the whole process with her well-known erudition and professionalism.

Yohanan Friedmann
Jerusalem, September 2025