Jews on trial
The Papal Inquisition in Modena, 1598-1638

KATHERINE ARON-BELLER

Research on the Papal Inquisition in Italy has tended to centre on trials for heresy, witchcraft and possession of prohibited books, but little is known of the activities of the Inquisition with respect to practising Jews. This book explores the role of the Papal Inquisition in Modena, the status of Jews in the early modern Italian duchy and the fundamental disparity in Inquisitorial procedure regarding professing Jews. It also uses the detailed testimony to be found in trial transcripts to analyse Jewish interaction with Christian society in an early modern European community.

Jews on trial concentrates on Inquisitorial activity during the period which historians have argued was the most active in the Inquisition's history – the first forty years of the tribunal in Modena, from 1598 to 1638, the year of the Jews' enclosure in the ghetto. This book will appeal to scholars of inquisitorial studies, social and cultural interaction in early modern Europe, Jewish Italian social history and anti-Semitism.

Simon Ditchfield, University of York, UK

A welcome addition to our knowledge... the archival material has been handled with care and sensitivity.
Jews on trial
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