The Libes Briv of Isaac Wetzlar

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I first encountered Isaac Wetzlar’s *Libes Briv* at the beginning of my graduate studies in a seminar on Modern Jewish History with Prof. Ismar Schorsch at the Jewish Theological Seminary. I would like to thank him for initially encouraging me to undertake this project. My first effort at analyzing the *Libes Briv* was a seminar paper which grew into an M.A. thesis, a version of which was published in the *Yearbook of the Leo Baeck Institute*, Vol. 27 (1982). After a hiatus of many years during which I pursued other areas of research, I was able to return to the *Libes Briv* and complete the editing and translation of this manuscript.

A number of individuals and institutions have responded to queries and offered other assistance in the course of preparing this book. I would like to thank Prof. Menachem Schmelzer, then head of the Jewish Theological Seminary library for permission to publish the JTS manuscripts of the *Libes Briv*. My thanks to the following for providing information about other manuscripts of the *Libes Briv* and related materials: Dr. Malachi Bet-Arie and Mr. Benjamin Richler of the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts of the JNUL, Mr. Brad Sabin-Hill of the British Library, Dr. von Boetticher of the Niedersaechsisches Hauptstaatsarchiv Hannover, Dr. Guenter of the Stadtarchiv Celle, and Mr. Manfred Maier of Worms.

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