

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> xi
<i>Abbreviations and Conventions</i>	xv
1 Introduction	1
The Problem of Charity	1
Begging in Late Antiquity	5
The Problems: Beginnings and Ends	7
The Ends of Organized Charity	8
The Beginnings of Organized Charity	10
The Reality of Organized Charity	22
<i>Tsedaqah</i> and “Charity”: Some Definitions	26
Charity and Other Forms of Support	32
Organized Charity as an End to Begging	33
Organizing Charity: The Structure of This Book	35
Appendix: A Brief Introduction to Tannaitic Literature	39
2 The Poor and Poverty in Roman Palestine	42
Economy and Poverty in Roman Palestine	43
The Third-Century Crisis	47
The Poor and Poverty: Realia	48
Food	49
Clothing	52
Shelter	53
Two Poverties	56
Urbanization and Urban Life	59
Conclusion	62
3 From Vessels to Institutions	63
Introduction	63
Vessels and Institutions	64

	<i>Tamhui</i> : From Dish to Soup Kitchen	67
	<i>Quppa</i> : From Basket to Charity Fund	69
	Institutions	75
	From Vessels to Institutions	79
	Conclusion	82
4	<i>Tamhui</i>, The Soup Kitchen	84
	Introduction	84
	Daily Alms	85
	Bread	86
	Legumes	87
	Olive Oil	89
	Biological Poverty	91
	Provisions for the Sabbath and Passover	91
	Three Meals	92
	Fish	93
	Vegetables	94
	Wine at the Passover Seder	95
	Conclusion	97
	Lodging for the Poor	98
	Hospitality	99
	Communal Hospitality and the Synagogue	104
	Hospitality and the Origins of the <i>Tamhui</i>	105
	Conclusion	109
5	<i>Quppa</i>, The Charity Fund	111
	Introduction	111
	Clothing, Money, and Food	112
	Clothing	112
	Money	114
	Bread	116
	Wives, Slaves, and Horses	118
	Wife	118
	Slave and a Horse	121
	The Poor's Needs	125
	Unlimited Giving	128
	Prodigious Giving	129
	The "Usha Ordinance"	134
	Conclusion	137
6	Charity with Dignity	139
	The Conjunctural Poor	139
	The <i>Quppa</i> as a Civic Institution	142
	Anonymous Giving	151

Empathy for the Conjunctural Poor's Dignity	153
Conclusion	155
7 The Charity Supervisor	157
Introduction	157
Charity Supervisor	158
Collection	163
Distribution	167
The Poor Who Refuse Alms	167
Imposters	169
Supervisors as Judges	172
Supervisors as Communal Officials	175
Instructions for Handling Funds	176
Conclusion	179
8 Conclusion: After the Tannaim	180
Organized Charity in Palestinian Amoraic Texts	180
The <i>Tamhui</i> and <i>Quppa</i> in Palestinian Amoraic Texts	181
The Urgency of Poverty	183
Organized Charity and Authority	185
Conclusion	192
<i>Bibliography</i>	193
<i>Ancient Sources Index</i>	219
<i>Subject Index</i>	229