

CONTENTS

Introduction: The Convert's Tale	1
I THE <i>VIRTUOSO</i> JEW	
1 A Moneylender's Son Turned Goldsmith	13
2 The Jewish Widow's Testament	22
3 Eleonora of Aragon's Court Goldsmith	30
4 A Murdered Child	36
5 Friends and Foes	45
II APOSTASY	
6 A Jewish Sodomite?	59
7 Conversions: Voluntary and Coerced	70
8 Princely Justice and Christian Piety	78
9 Baptizing the Jews	93

III A FAMILY OF CONVERTS

10	A Haunting Past	113
11	Travels and Troubles	121
12	Cesare Borgia's "Queen of Swords"	130
13	Anna: Lucrezia Borgia's Damsel	139
14	Sister Theodora: From Jewish Girl to Bride of Christ	146
15	The Family Workshop: Master Ercole and His Sons	162

IV BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

16	In Prison, Again	183
17	Plague and Malaria	195
18	Ferrara at War	207
19	Glitter and Grief	221
20	Gold Pawned to the Jews	230
	Epilogue: One of the Faithful?	241

NOTES 249

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 373

INDEX 377



A CONVERT'S TALE



