



Anti-Judaism in Christian Art. Some examples of anti-Judaic Christian art. Ecclesia and Synagoga

| Voll, Fritz

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Negative images of Judaism in Christian Art

Ecclesia and Synagoga

Ecclesia and Synagoga as a double-portal of the south to the Strasbourg cathedral (1230)

Here both, the Church and Synagogue, are symbolized to each other in the sense of *concordia veteris et novi testamenti* (the unity of the Old and New Testaments). Both figures are of opposite character. However, the Church is depicted as triumphant with an imperial robe on her shoulders, a staff and chalice in her hands, symbolizing her divine authority. She looks ahead assured of her dominion over the world. The Synagogue is symbolized as defeated, her crown broken more than once, the crown slipping from her hands, a hand covering her eyes and her head bowed.

**Wood carving
at the choir
benches of the
Erfurt
cathedral,
Thuringia,
Germany
(about**

1400-1410)

Ecclesia on a horse is attacking the Synagogue with a lance. Her shield carries the Christian symbol of a fish. The Synagogue is symbolized as riding a pig. Her eyes are closed and with her left hand she holds on to a branch. One of many depictions of the "Judensau" in the art work of European churches.

Church window of St. John's Church in Werben/ Elbe River, Germany (around 1414-1467)

In the left section of the window the Church is riding a tetramorph

(a creature with the heads of eagle, human, lion and bull, symbolizing the four Gospels). She holds the flag of the cross and the chalice in her hands. The divine hand from heaven places a crown on her head.

In the right section the Synagogue is depicted as riding a donkey which is about to break down. In her right hand she holds the head of

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Photos
by
Brian
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See also Heinz
Schreckenberg:

[The Jews in
Christian Art:
An Illustrated
History](#)

Franz

Böhmisch:

Synagoga et

Ecclesia,

Exegese einer

Beziehung in

Wort und Bild

[www.animabit.d](http://www.animabit.de/bibel/synagoga_et_ecclesia.htm)

[e/bibel/synagog](http://www.animabit.de/bibel/synagoga_et_ecclesia.htm)

[a_et_ecclesia.ht](http://www.animabit.de/bibel/synagoga_et_ecclesia.htm)

[m](http://www.animabit.de/bibel/synagoga_et_ecclesia.htm)

[Positive images
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Christian Art](#)