

JUDAIC JOURNEYS

התעודות הטקסטיות בישראל
התעודות הטקסטיות פון מדינת
אברהם : אברהם
תשס"א

התעודות האנטישמיים
התעודות הטקסטיות
תשס"א : תשס"א
תשס"א

Newsletter of the University Library Judaica Collections
University of Michigan

תש"ס/תשס"א
5760/5761

Volume 1 • Number 1
Fall 2000

WELCOME...

to *Judaic Journeys*, a new publication highlighting the Judaica Collections of the University Library.

Judaic Journeys will focus on materials that make up this outstanding resource of over 80,000 items spread out across the Ann Arbor campus in numerous branches and covering a large variety of subject areas.

You'll also learn about the people who build, process, and catalog the collection, making it available to the University of Michigan community as well as visiting researchers.

We hope that you will enjoy taking this journey with us as we strive to make the UM Judaica Collections among the best in the world.

Looking Back, Looking Ahead: Where Are We Now, and Where Do We Go From Here?

By Elliot H. Gertel, Irving M. Hermelin Curator of Judaica

Now that I have a perspective of eighteen months at my current position, I am still amazed by the riches of the University Library's collections. The numbers and the depth of the Judaica materials alone are striking: circa 35,000 Western language titles in Jewish studies and around 45,600 holdings in Hebrew and Yiddish; approximately 2,500 new titles are added each year of which roughly 40% are in Hebrew and Yiddish.

This valuable research collection can be found spread throughout the several libraries and in all subject areas across the Ann Arbor campus—reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of Judaic studies—with the greater part residing in the collections of the Hatcher Graduate Library. These materials and the Judaica unit of the Near East Division of the University Library support the research and curricular needs of the students and faculty of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, the Program on Studies in Religion, in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, and interested faculty and students in the Departments of History, Political Science, and English Language and Literature.

Some recent acquisitions include the *Abraham Cahan Papers* on microfilm, the *Poale Zion Archives* (Labor Zionist) microfiche collection, and several limited signed first editions of books exquisitely illustrated by Pol-



Irving M. Hermelin, whose family's generosity, along with that of other supporters, led to the creation of the Library's first endowed position.

Written in a clear, professional scribal hand, this Pentateuch, a tenth century Hebrew manuscript, was included in the *Judaic Journeys* exhibition at the Special Collections Library, February 7-April 29, 2000.



ish-born American artist Arthur Szyk including *The Book of Ruth*, *The Book of Job*, and *The Story of Joseph and His Brothers*. The papers of Abraham Cahan, an author and the founding editor of the *Forverts* (*Jewish Daily Forward*), were purchased in response to a request by a faculty member. The *Poale Zion Archives* were acquired to supplement research materials for Jewish studies, political science, history, and related fields. The continuing acquisition of Szyk material fills a void in our collection



Uriel Birnbaum's *Moses*, a profoundly moving mixture of art deco and expressionistic styles, was one of the treasures on display.

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Judaic Journeys at the University of Michigan From Belser to Frankel to Hermelin

From February 7-April 29, 2000, with the display of *Judaic Journeys at the University of Michigan*, visitors to the exhibit room of the Special Collections Library in the Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library had the opportunity for the first time to view a portion of the treasures of the University Library's ample Judaic holdings and those of other campus libraries including a number of rare items. Judaic studies represents a wide array of disci-

plines, therefore books, photographs, and artifacts were included in subjects ranging from religion, history, music, art, languages and literature, to medicine. Some of the highlights included a tenth century Pentateuch, a rare volume to have survived fairly intact for nearly a thousand years; Uriel Birnbaum's *Moses*, a 1924 illustrated life of Moses that combines art deco and expressionistic styles; a grammar of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Syriac published in 1628; and orthopedic surgeon Henry Keller's 1931 *Modern Hebrew Orthopedic Terminology and Jewish Medical Essays*.

In addition, we were fortunate to have several items on loan from the Bentley Historical Library and William L. Clements Library of the University of Michigan. A partial listing of the items on display was included in the exhibition catalog designed by local artist Jean Buescher, made possible by the generosity of Martha K. Bindeman, the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, Friends of the University Library, and the University Library.

The formal opening of the exhibition took place on March 16. Elliot H. Gertel spoke about how he and Kathryn L. Beam, Curator of Humanities Collections of the Special Collections Library, assembled the exhibition. Professor Zvi Gitelman, Director of the Frankel Center, spoke about the history of Judaic studies at the University and about the symbiotic relationship between the Library and the Frankel Center. After the presentations, those in attendance were treated to a kosher reception sponsored by the Frankel Center.

(Left to right) Martha, Julie, and Stuart Bindeman were the gracious hosts for a special brunch and display of items on loan from the *Judaic Journeys* exhibition at their home in Bethesda, Maryland on April 9.



At a festive brunch on March 12, Elliot H. Gertel (left) and University Library Director William A. Gosling expressed appreciation to Doreen Hermelin -- representing the Hermelin Family--and other supporters whose generosity led to the Irving M. Hermelin Curatorship of Judaica.



Some of the items on display at the Bindeman home.

Looking Back, Looking Ahead...continued from page 1

that previously held little by this important twentieth century artist. Some other titles that have lately been added include *Printing the Talmud: A History of the Individual Treatises* by Marvin J. Heller, which just won the Association of Jewish Libraries Research and Special Libraries Division Bibliography Award; *The Ancient Synagogue: The First Thousand Years* by Lee I. Levine; *The Biography of Ancient Israel: National Narratives in the Bible* by Ilana Pardes; *Black Zion: African American Religious Encounters with Judaism* edited by Yvonne Chireau and Nathaniel Deutsch; *Of Lodz and Love* by Chava Rosenfarb, translated from the Yiddish by the author; and *Milon ivri-angli shalem/Milon angli-ivri shalem (Complete Hebrew-English Dictionary/Complete English-Hebrew Dictionary)* by Reuben Alcalay in a 1996 re-

vised edition.

One of the byproducts of assembling the recent exhibition, *Judaic Journeys at the University of Michigan*, was the discovery of those areas where we have weaknesses whether by discipline or in the works of certain authors. Subject areas that need to be enriched include rabbinic studies, American Jewish history, and music, among others. We have identified gaps in some periodical holdings, and we are working to fill those also. We are seeking grants, gifts, and other donations to help build the collections. With the efforts of our staff and the assistance of friends and others, I have no doubt that we will strengthen our position among the top research centers in the continually emerging field of Judaic studies. I hope that you will join us on this exciting journey.

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Newsletter of the University Library Judaica Collections • University of Michigan
818 Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library • 920 North University • Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1205
734-936-2367

Co-Editors: Elliot H. Gertel, Harriet Teller

Design: Laurie Blume

Photography: Greg Fox, Connie Reider, Pat Young

Images: Courtesy of the Special Collections Library, University of Michigan

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Judaic Studies at Michigan and the University Library: A Symbiotic Relationship

By Zvi Y. Gitelman, Director, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, Professor of Political Science, and Preston R. Tisch Professor of Judaic Studies

Around 1909 a freshman at the University, whose father had been appointed "Chief Rabbi of Detroit," wrote home in Hebrew proudly reporting that he had been admitted to a graduate class in Bible by a skeptical professor of Semitics, Dr. William H. Worrell. The professor decided to test the young undergraduate, Samuel Levin, by taking him to what Levin called *beit ginzey ha-sefarim*, an awkward Hebrew phrase meaning literally the "house of stored books." Worrell pulled off the Book of Ruth from the shelf and was impressed by Levin's ability to sight read and translate this relatively simple Hebrew text. As a son of an Orthodox rabbi, Levin could handle much more difficult texts and he held his own with the more advanced students, most apparently studying for the Christian ministry. Even ninety-one years ago, there was an intimate connection between the Library and what some construed as Jewish studies.

About seventy years later, Judith Levin Cantor invited Zvi Gitelman, then chair of the Program in Judaic Studies at her father's alma mater, the University of Michigan, to visit the library of Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield, Michigan and pick out Yiddish books no longer needed by the congregation for transfer to the University Library. Rabbi Irwin Groner, senior rabbi of Shaarey Zedek, had arranged for an annual gift to the Library from the Rabbi Morris Adler Fund, and this had enabled Jehuda Reinharz, the first faculty member appointed specifically for Judaic Studies (and now president of Brandeis University), and Barbara Rosen, the Judaica cataloguer, to begin systematically building a Judaica collection. Reinharz's successor as professor of modern Jewish history, Todd Endelman, obtained a multi-year grant from the Lucius Littauer Foundation, for Judaica acquisitions. The Solovy Family of Chicago, the Brandt Family of New York, and other donors have enabled the Library to continuously expand its Judaica collection.

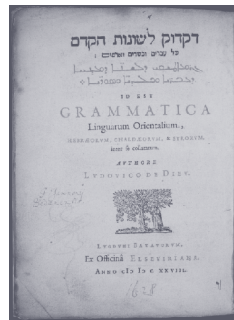
In 1995, another member of Congregation Shaarey Zedek, David Hermelin, with his wife Doreen, and sister

Henrietta Hermelin Weinberg, decided to honor their father, Irving M. Hermelin, then 98 years old, by helping to establish the University Library's first endowed curatorship. With a gift matched by the University Library and a number of friends of the Hermelins and foundations, that curatorship became a reality in 1998. Elliot Gertel was recruited for this position and in 1999 became the first Irving M. Hermelin Curator of Judaica.

Thus, a partnership between the University, institutions and individuals in the Detroit metropolitan area, and donors from around the country have helped the professional staff of the Library build a premier collection, one which will continue to grow and serve students, scholars, and the community at large.



Zvi Y. Gitelman



Title page of a comparative grammar of three Semitic languages (Hebrew, Syriac, and Aramaic) with basic text in Latin by Lodewijk de Dieu, published in 1628 in Leiden, included in the Judaic Journeys exhibit. This book once belonged to Thomas Young (1773-1829), English Egyptologist who aided in deciphering the Rosetta Stone.



UM Lecturer Dr. Judith Nysenholc and students in her Intermediate Yiddish class had a special tour of the Judaic Journeys exhibition conducted in Yiddish by Elliot Gertel on April 11.

Please detach form and send to:
Judaic Journeys, University Library, 818 Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library,
920 North University, Ann Arbor MI 48109-1205

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____ Please continue my complimentary subscription to Judaic Journeys.

____ Please send me additional information about the
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(Volunteer opportunities will be arranged based on program needs and individual's availability.)

JUDAIC JOURNEYS

____ My gift of \$ _____ to advance the
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Meet the Curator!

Elliot H. Gertel is the Irving M. Hermelin Curator of Judaica. Elliot came to the University of Michigan in spring 1999 from Florida Atlantic University where he was Judaica librarian. Elliot brings an extensive educational and teaching background to this position, having undertaken graduate study and research at Columbia and Oxford Universities in Yiddish and Jewish Studies, and the University of Kentucky where he received his library degree.

Elliot has been a leader in Judaic librarianship. Over the last five years he has worked diligently to bring the programs of the American Library Association and the Association of Jewish Libraries together through a series of cooperative sessions in various cities. In August he attended the International Federation of Library Associations Conference in Jerusalem.

We consider ourselves privileged to have been able to recruit such a distinguished librarian for the first appointee to the Irving M. Hermelin Judaic Curatorship at the University of Michigan.

Serving with Elliot on the staff are **Barbara L. Rosen**, (MLS, '74, UM) who has for over a quarter of a century been the Judaica unit of the University Library, working to build up, process, and maintain the Judaica collections, and **Marlene J. Gitelman**, who came to the University Library in February 2000 after serving as principal of the Hebrew Day School in Ann Arbor for 18 years. She will be responsible for cataloging of Hebrew materials and assisting with materials selection to help make our collections even stronger.



A reception on March 16 followed the formal opening of the Judaic Journeys exhibit.



The Yiddish Club of the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County came to the UM campus for a private tour, conducted in Yiddish by Elliot Gertel, of the Judaic Journeys exhibition April 14.

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