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Scatter of the Literature (2000)

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SCATTER OF THE LITERATURE

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Baker, Zachary M. "The Yiddish Collections of the YIVO Library: Their History, Scope, and Significance," *YIVO Annual* 22 (1995), pp. 253-273.

This overview of the YIVO Library collections appeared originally as an introduction to the five-volume G. K. Hall publication, *The Yiddish Catalog and Authority File of the YIVO Library* (1990), edited by Zachary M. Baker and Bella Hass Weinberg. The essay begins with a brief history of the founding and growth of YIVO in Vilna and its establishment in the U.S. The fate of the collections during and after World War II is discussed, and the pivotal and tragic role of the Holocaust in the formation of the library is described.

The YIVO Library is referred to in the essay as a "collection of collections," and indeed many of the varied and important collections that came together to build this great library are mentioned. Eight categories are presented as encompassing the "contours of the collection," each with characteristic examples. The categories are: early Yiddish imprints; Haskalah literature; modern Yiddish belles lettres; Yiddish theater and folklore; Yiddish linguistics; Jews in Russia and Poland; Jewish immigrant life in the United States; and the Holocaust.

The bibliographic significance of the collections is pointed out, as is YIVO's participation with Yad Vashem in a joint bibliographic series on the Holocaust. Gaps in the collections and the decline in Yiddish publication activity are noted.

Breger, Jennifer. "Three Women of the Book: Judith Montefiore, Rachel Morpurgo, and Flora Sassoon," *AB Bookman's Weekly, Special Judaica Issue* 101:13 (March 30, 1998), pp. 853-864.

The three women described in this article all "were traditionally observant, all three came from prominent families, all three were married, and all three left published writings." Judith Montefiore (1784-1862), "First Lady of Anglo Jewry," philanthropist, patroness of charities and good works, participated with her husband in his travels and benefactions. The printing press of Israel Bak in Jerusalem was "presented by Moses and Judith Montefiore." Her extant published works include her honeymoon diaries and two journals of visits "to Egypt and Palestine By Way of Italy and the Mediterranean." The first known Jewish cookbook in English by "a Lady" is attributed to her as well.

Rachel Morpurgo (1790-1871) was born into the distinguished Luzzatto family in Trieste. She was extremely well versed in the Hebrew language and the various fields of Jewish studies, including the Talmud and the *Zohar*. Her poetry and letters appeared in *Kochavei Yitshak*, a Viennese journal of Hebrew literature. Her writings were issued in a separate volume, *Ugav Rachel* (Cracow, 1890; reprint: Tel Aviv, 1943), edited with a biography of the author by R. Vittorio Castiglioni, who later became Chief Rabbi of Rome. Morpurgo's works were translated into English by Nina Davis Salaman.

Flora Sassoon (1850-1936), a woman of many talents and unusual erudition in Jewish texts, was distinguished as a philanthropist, businesswoman, hostess, and scholar. At the age of thirty-five, following her husband's death, she took over his business interests and ran the Bombay office as managing partner. Her publications include articles on "Rashi" and "Thirteen," both published in *The Jewish Forum* in 1930 and 1931, respectively. Her speech, delivered when she presided over

Speech Days at Jews College, was published by Oxford University Press (1924) and in Hebrew, as an appendix to *Imre Yoel*, volume 3, by Rabbi Joel Herzog. Flora Sassoon encouraged her son David in his scholarly and collecting interests, which led to the establishment of the greatest private collection of Hebrew and Samaritan manuscripts in the world.

Lazinger, Susan S.; Levi, Judith. "Multiple Non-Roman Scripts in ALEPH—Israel's Research Library Network," *Library HI TECH*, Issue 53—14:1 (1996), pp. 111-116.

As the only country in the world in which Hebrew is the official language, Israel found it necessary to develop software enabling its research library catalogs to handle from the outset two alphabets—Hebrew (including Yiddish and Ladino) and Roman characters. Starting in 1981, ALEPH, Israel's research library network, utilized locally developed software that could provide both Hebrew and Roman modes; however, since the nation's research libraries had large collections in Arabic and Cyrillic languages, an urgent need arose for a system that could also handle Arabic and Cyrillic scripts. This led to the development of soft fonts, software instead of the hardware-based Hebrew-English solution that was incorporated into ALEPH's earlier versions. The soft fonts can display on any VT320 or upwardly compatible terminal in the Roman, Hebrew, Arabic, and Cyrillic alphabets. Furthermore, in the Hebrew and Arabic modes, the language of communication with the computer (commands, HELP, and so on) is also the vernacular. This article focuses on some of the problems and solutions involved in developing ALEPH's multi-script, bi-directional system. (*Authors' abstract, edited*)

Lerman, Linda P. "Librarians," in *Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia*, edited by Paula E. Hyman and Deborah Dash Moore. New York: Routledge, 1997, pp. 847-849.

Traces the role played by Jewish women in the development of general as well as Judaica librarianship in the United States. Beginning with Fanny Goldstein, "the most prominent and creative of the earliest American Jewish librarians," the article identifies significant contributions made by women to Judaic bibliography, the establishment of professional organizations and cooperative programs for Jewish libraries, professional publications, and the administration and management of Judaic library collections.

Schmelzer, Menahem. "Guides to the Perplexed in the Wilderness of Hebraica: From Historical to Contemporary Bibliographies and Catalogs of Hebraica," *Harvard Library Bulletin*, New Series 6:2 (Spring 1995), pp. 9-23.

Paper presented as the Max and Irene Engel Levy Memorial Lecture at the Widener Library on May 8, 1995, to celebrate the publication by K. G. Saur of the eleven-volume *Catalog of the Hebrew Collection of the Harvard College Library*.

The author presents a sweeping overview of more than three centuries of Hebrew bibliography, beginning with *Sifte Yeshenim* by Shabbethai Bass (Amsterdam, 1680) and ending in the present day. The characteristics of Hebrew bibliographies are identified, compared and contrasted, and their unique contributions to the field are noted. Of special interest is the discussion of the motivations of Hebraica bibliographers, from religious to historical, both ideological and practical. Full-page facsimiles from the works cited illuminate the text of the article, illustrating the style and content of individual bibliographic works. Hebrew bibliographies have appeared as printed books, card catalogs, and computer files, each with its unique features and applications.

Harvard's Hebrew collection *Catalog* is set in historical context; this publication will take its place in the long tradition of Hebrew bibliography.

Sever, Shumel; Simon, Eli. "The Economics of the Virtual Library in Israel," in International Essen Symposium (18th: 1995). *Electronic Documents and Information: From Preservation to Access*, edited by Ahmed H. Helal and Joachim W. Weiss. Essen: Universitätsbibliothek Essen, 1996. (Veröffentlichungen der Universitätsbibliothek Essen; 20).

The University of Haifa Library is developing a virtual library. It aims to bring digital resources to Israeli library users. Currently, only the universities in Israel are net-

worked. We propose that a national system of college, school and public library networks be created as an essential prerequisite to enable equal access to educational resources by the information-poor sectors of Israeli society. This could improve their socioeconomic position, thereby enhancing political stability. To this end the University of Haifa Library has proposed several projects: 1. A digital library of Hebrew periodicals, where scanned full images of articles, connected to an index, will serve networked students. 2. Electronic reserves that will provide required reading materials for University of Haifa users. 3. A digital slide collection that will make 160,000 annotated slides available to all interested users.

Raising the funds for such projects needs much effort, in face of rising expenses, technological change and diminishing budgets. Regarding networking as a national priority should lead to government funding. Our library has submitted several grant applications this year; one was rejected, and the others are pending. The development of a virtual library needs state investments, as this could lead to far-reaching benefits for a developing country like Israel. As in past ventures, lack of resources might influence the pace at which University of Haifa Library projects are carried out, but not our determination to proceed with or without external funding. (*Author's abstract.*)

Steinberger, Naomi M. "ALEPH: A Bilingual Integrated Library System," *Library HI TECH*, Issue 46—12:2 (1994), pp. 93-96.

Working with a foreign vendor and creating a network among three multilingual libraries was a challenging experience for the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. After four years [of] investigating library systems offering integrated capabilities for English/Hebrew, the Library selected the ALEPH system. The intricacies of the Hebrew language posed unexpected problems. Gratz College and the Annenberg Research Institute became key players in the establishment of the network. Several technical difficulties had to be resolved before the interfacing aspects among the three multilingual libraries became functional. (*Author's abstract.*)

Weill, Asher. "Book Publishing in Israel: Bigger than the Sum of its Parts," *Logos* 7:2 (1996), pp. 192-198.

Presents a brief survey of Israel's printing and publishing industry, "one of the world's largest on a per capita basis." The country

boasts a high literacy rate, and it is not uncommon for a volume of poetry to sell more than 10,000 copies. Jewish religious publications play a primary role, while books dealing with Jewish history, archaeology, Middle East, art, and travel appear with frequency. Publishers fall into three categories: institutionally owned publishers—Am Oved, Magnes Press; publishers owned by newspaper groups—Schocken (*Ha'aretz*), Ma'ariv Book Guild; and privately owned publishers—Keter, Carta. The biennial Jerusalem International Book Fair and the Jerusalem Prize for the "Freedom of the Individual in Society" are prestigious events on the world literary scene. Veteran Hebrew writers, well known and widely translated—Amos Oz, A. B. Yehoshua, Aharon Appelfeld, etc.—are joined by new authors, among them women writers, authors of Sephardic background and interests, and writers of children's books.

Weinberg, Bella Hass. "The Earliest Hebrew Citation Indexes," *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*, *JASIS* 48:4 (April 1997), pp. 318-330.

The invention of the citation index was credited to Shepard (1873) until Shapiro described a legal citation index published in 1743. A similar index was embedded in the Talmud two centuries earlier (1546). The first Hebrew citation index to a printed book is dated 1511. The earliest Hebrew manuscript citation index, ascribed to Maimonides, dates from the 12th century. Considerable knowledge was assumed for users of these tools. The substantial knowledge of their compilers contrasts with the semi-automatic production of modern citation indexes. The terms *citation*, *quotation*, *reference*, *cross-reference*, *locator*, and *concordance* are employed inconsistently in publications about Hebrew indexes. There is a lack of citation links between the secondary literature on Hebrew indexes and that of citation analysis. (*Author's abstract.*)

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