

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Memory has several dimensions. It comprises both internal, personal recollections of what we have witnessed ourselves and collective, external commemoration of what no longer exists. Memory is timeless to an extent, surviving as it does over generations, preserved in writing long past the lives of those in whose minds it was first held. And yet it is also firmly rooted in time, described and defined by the moment in which it was created. Compare a communal register (pinkas) to a piece of ephemera like a flyer or wedding invitation: one is created as a lasting memory tool, the other as a fleeting testimony to a single moment, but both are inherently related to their original creators and the times in which they lived.

Libraries are repositories of memory—in commemorative, archival materials, books, and records of countless lives, knowledge, and thoughts. The National Library of Israel, with its archival collections and over five million books, defines itself as a central institution of national memory.

This exhibition is designed around archival materials, memoir and press excerpts, historical photos, communal registers, postcards, and other memories of European communities, each poster presenting a window into the story of a community through the points of connection offered by documentary heritage. We suggest that you view it as a series of postcards sent to you from the past. Consider: which documents preserve your own memory? What would you add to a poster about your community? For additional digital materials and a deeper look at the stories hinted here, scan the QR code with your smart device.

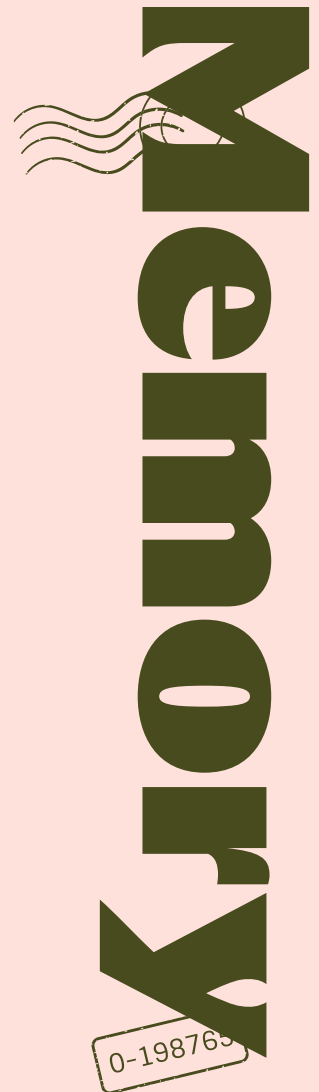
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ISRAEL

Founded in Jerusalem in 1892, the National Library of Israel (NLI) has a distinct dual mandate, serving as the national library for both the State of Israel and the Jewish people worldwide. Its vast holdings contain a wealth of material in a variety of formats, telling the historical, cultural, and intellectual story of the Jewish people, the State of Israel and the Land of Israel throughout the ages.

'Gesher L'Europa' (a Bridge to Europe) is an initiative of the NLI to create opportunities for knowledge sharing and cultural exchange between the National Library of Israel and Europe.

THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF JEWISH CULTURE AND HERITAGE (AEPJ)

The European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ) is a network of European institutions, including public bodies, private foundations, federations of Jewish communities and NGO's, that serves as a platform to develop cultural initiatives and educational programs to European Jewish sites. The AEPJ network acts as a channel for intercultural dialogue and promoting better knowledge and understanding of European history, creating awareness of cultural diversity and strengthening European citizens' cultural identity. The AEPJ serves as an organizational umbrella to welcome, promote, train and help develop unique Jewish cultural and heritage projects of excellence around Europe, including the European Days of Jewish Culture.



Waldemar Haffkine

Waldemar Mordechai Wolff Haffkine was a French-Ukrainian microbiologist who developed and used vaccines against cholera and bubonic plague. He tested the vaccines on himself. 1899.

The National Library of Israel, ARC. Ms. Var. 325 04 127



France

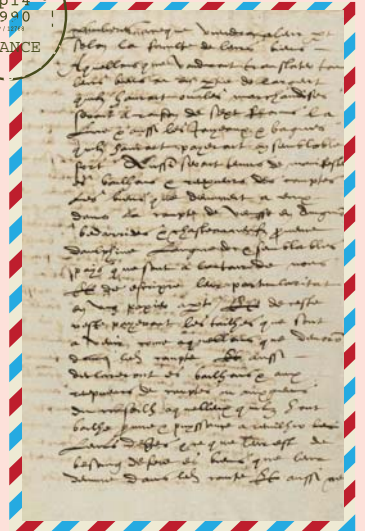


Attestation from the Imperial Novorossiysk University on W. Haffkine's acceptance to civilian service after years of study and completion of his military service. November 10, 1884.

The National Library of Israel, ARC. Ms. Var. 325 04 239



French actress "Madame Judith"; born Julie Bernat in Paris Jan. 30, 1827. She won the heart of the public, to whom she was known as "la belle Juive", the beautiful Jewess. Circa 1860-1870. The National Library of Israel, Schwad 02 07 31



Legal document concerning taxes. Carpentras, France, 12th century. The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, F-Car-785



Postcard featuring an image by Alphonse Lévy of a wife presenting her husband with a kugel she has made. Part of a series of illustrations first published in the book *La vie juive* (Paris, 1886). Circa 1905. The National Library of Israel, TM 8° 921



Paris city plan. Hand colored to show city walls of different eras. 1853. The National Library of Israel, Eran Laor Cartographic Collection, ct 286

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Passover Haggadah in the Provence tradition. Avignon, France, circa 1390-1400. The National Library of Israel, Ms. Heb. 7246=38

TRAIN TICKETS
69€
* TO PARIS *

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Glückel of Hameln

The diary of Glückel of Hameln, 1743. Glückel of Hameln, a Jewish businesswoman, wrote a memoir (in Yiddish) to enlighten her children and other descendants about her life as a 17th century Jewish woman in Germany, describing experiences as dramatic as murder, pirates, and a false messiah, and as mundane as weddings and births.

From the collections of Universitätsbibliothek J.C Senckenberg Frankfurt am Main. "Ktiv" Project, The National Library of Israel.

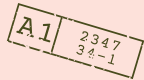


Bertha Pappenheim, a descendant of Glückel's, poses as Glückel two centuries later for this commemorative portrait painted by the artist Leopold Pilichowski

Germany



Mahzor (festival prayerbook) according to the Ashkenazi rite, for the use of cantors in the synagogue, containing mainly cycles of piyutim. Worms, 1272-1280. The mahzor was in use in the community of Worms until the synagogue's destruction on Kristallnacht, November 1938. It was rescued by the municipal archivist, who hid it in the city's cathedral. In 1957, following legal proceedings in Germany, the manuscript was transferred to the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem. The National Library of Israel, Ms. Heb. 781=4



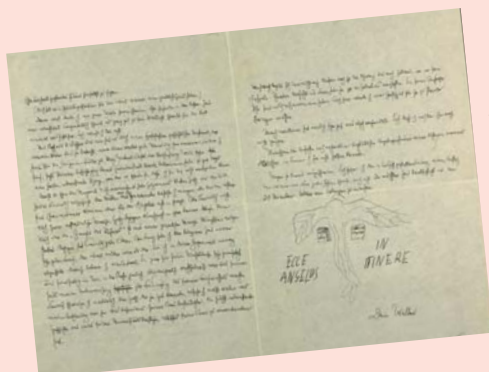
Pinchas ben Abraham Halevy of Halberstadt, Jewish Calendar. Saxony, Germany, 1716. The book enables one to calculate Jewish dates correctly, using the Christian calendar for reference. The unique Jewish calendar is complex to keep, but it places those living by it within the narrative of Jewish history, while the comparison with the Christian calendar adds general context. The National Library of Israel, Ms. Heb. 8*2380



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Ketubah (marriage contract) from Cochin, India. 1773. Though it is designed in the Indian style of the time, the names of the parties indicate Ashkenazi descent. The groom's signature reads "Eliezer Lieber, son of Henle Hamburger". It is speculated that he may be the grandson of Glückel of Hameln. From the collections of The Beth Zedec Reuben & Helene Dennis Museum, Toronto, The National Library of Israel. "Ktiv" Project, The National Library of Israel.



POST BOX

Letter from Walter and Dora Benjamin to Gershom Scholem, Berlin, 1921. A drawing by Benjamin related to artist Paul Klee's work Angelus Novus, which had been acquired by Benjamin shortly beforehand. The lower figure shows Scholem's girlfriend Escha Burchardt as the angel in Klee's drawing. The National Library of Israel, ARC. 4° 1598 03 64.



Rabbi Moshe Pesach

Members of the Romaniote Greek Jewish community of Volos. Rabbi Moshe Pesach (front left) with his sons (back). Prior to 1940.



Greece



Postcard of Jewish women dancing in traditional garb, Thessaloniki, 1910/20. This bibliographic record is part of the Israel Archive Network project (IAN) and has been made accessible thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Yad Ben Zvi Archive, the Ministry of Jerusalem and Heritage and the National Library of Israel



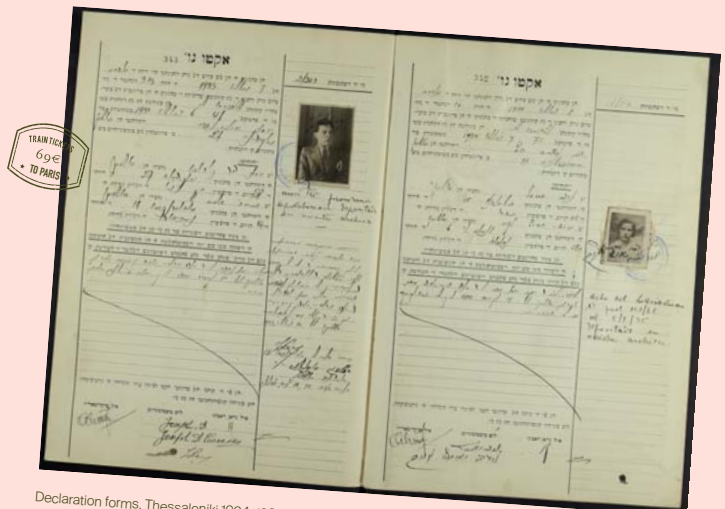
The Candia Ordinances. A collection of hundreds of rabbinic ordinances decreed by the sages of Candia (now Heraklion), Crete, between the years 1504-1583. They relate to numerous topics in halacha and the customs of community life. The sages of Candia were a group of rabbis who gathered on Crete after the expulsion of Jews from Spain. The National Library of Israel, Ms. Heb. 7203=28



Letter to a brother, sent from Heraklion, discussing the trade of wheat for silk from Egypt, as well as family matters, sending regards, and expressing regrets at not seeing enough of one another during the brother's visit. Found in the Cairo Genizah. National Library of Israel, Ms. Heb. 577.4.102=4



Ketubbah (marriage contract), Thessaloniki, 1880. The National Library of Israel, Ms. Heb. 901.29=2



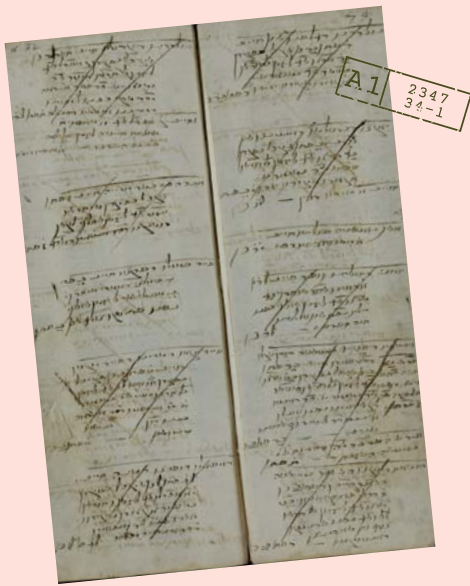
Declaration forms, Thessaloniki 1934-1935. Following the catastrophic fire of 1917, the members of the Saloniki Jewish community were asked to declare themselves, confirming information including addresses, ages and professions (Ladino). Central Archives of the History of the Jewish People, GR-Sa-278-ovs

Umberto (Moshe David) Cassuto

Umberto (Moshe David) Cassuto (1883–1951), was an Italian historian, rabbi, and scholar of the Hebrew Bible and Ugaritic literature. His aim was to arrive at the most accurate possible text of the Tanach. Knowing that the editions known then were edited by their mostly non-Jewish publishers, he emphasized the importance of applying comparative research to detect any alterations to the original.



ITALY



Moneylender's register, Florence, 1540–1554. Purchased from Umberto (Moshe David) Cassuto in 1940. The National Library of Israel, Ms. Heb. 377=4



Jewish calendar fragment, Venice. Though only a fragment of this calendar remains, scholars have dated this broadside based on the available information. The third column from the right indicates that Easter was set to fall on April 12 that year, which occurred only three times in the seventeenth century (1626, 1637, 1648). Of those three years, only in 1648 did the Hebrew dates in the rightmost column correspond with the days of the week listed, as well as the secular dates recorded here. The National Library of Israel, V 1835 O5 19

Postcard from the 500th anniversary celebration of the Venice Ghetto, 2016. The National Library of Israel's European Ephemera Collection



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Ketubbah (marriage contract), Rome, 1790. The National Library of Israel, Ms. Heb. 901.132=1



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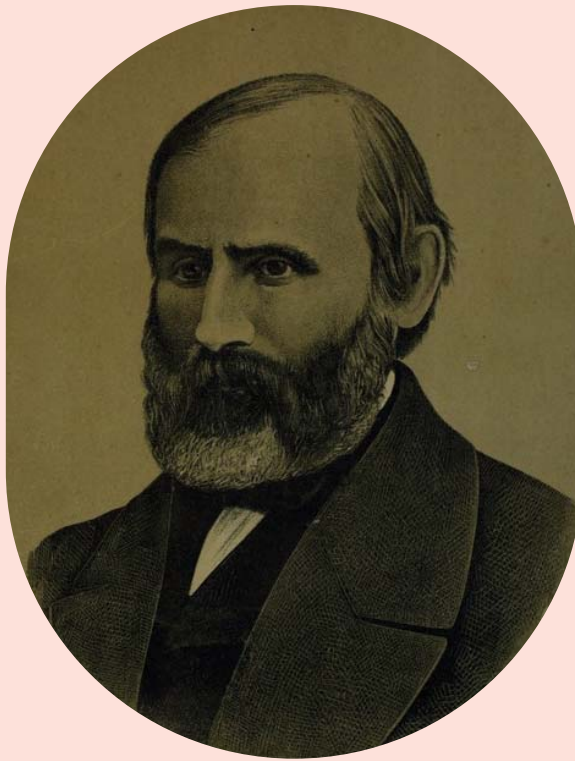
Diploma of Doctor of Medicine, awarded to Jacob Mahler by the University of Padua, 1695. Jacob Mahler was a Jewish student from Bingen-on-the-Rhine, and the standard Latin text of his diploma was altered to accommodate his faith. It begins with the phrase "In the name of the eternal God" instead of the typical "In the name of Christ." It is also dated not in "anno a partu Virginis" (year of the Virgin birth) but simply "anno corrente," the current year. Between the years 1409 and 1816, 325 Jewish physicians graduated from the University of Padua. The National Library of Israel, Ms. Fr. 789.1



A prayerbook including the ultimate memory preserving text in Jewish tradition, the Passover Haggadah. Empoli, 1478. The Haggadah expresses the Jewish people's commitment to continuing the memory of the Exodus and bequeathing it to the next generations. This manuscript bears the marks of censorship where some words misaligned with the Christian tradition have been blotted out by the censor Camillo Jaghel. The National Library of Israel, Ms. Heb. 986=8

Avraham Mapu

Avraham Mapu (1808–1867), Lithuanian Jewish novelist who wrote in Hebrew as part of the Jewish Enlightenment movement, the Haskalah. Author of the first Hebrew novel composed in Russia. The National Library of Israel, Schwad 02 13 192



Lithuanian

13

מספר	שנת הולדת	שנת פטירה	מקום קבורה
90	29	210	בית המדרש
161	106	878	בית המדרש
235	75	70	בית המדרש
98	85	105	בית המדרש
127	736	618	בית המדרש
233	275	671	בית המדרש
29	21	323	בית המדרש
18	3	43	בית המדרש
73	89	30	בית המדרש
510	1277	1279	בית המדרש

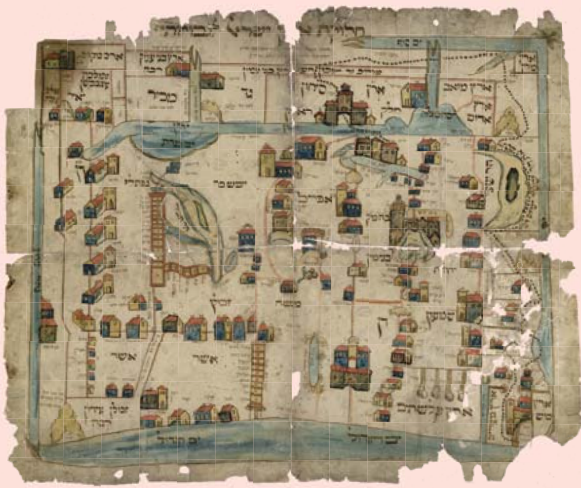
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In 1908, the 100th anniversary of Mapu's birth, a Hebrew library was opened in Kovna and named after him. This is an operational report of that library in 1920–1924. Kovna, 1924

A letter to Rabbi Abraham Shimon, head of the rabbinical court in Kedainiai, from Rabbi Eliezer Isaac Fried, head of the famed Volozhin Yeshiva, discussing a donation sent from Raseiniai to build a girls' school in Kedainiai. 1853. The National Library of Israel, ARC. 4* 1734 / 21

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ידידי אהבה רבות...
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Boundaries of the Land of Israel according to Rabbi Elijah of Vilna (the Vilna Gaon). Vilna, after 1805. The map, with hand-colored details, depicts the division of the Land of Israel by tribes, drawn from the main source of Jewish collective memory, the religious canon. The National Library of Israel, Laor 887

שיר לילדות אהבה...
 מגינת הילדים

Avraham Mapu (1808–1867), author of the first Hebrew novel composed in Russia, had an extensive correspondence with his publisher Abraham Kaplan, whom he calls "my dear comrade", regarding varied changes and improvements to his manuscripts. July 23, 1859, Kaunas. Schwad 01 13 325

Protective amulet for mother and newborn, for a male baby. Printed by the Romm publishing house. Passed censorship on March 17, 1870. Vilna, 1870. The National Library of Israel, V 183 01 106



Promotional postcard for #CookJewishBeJewish, a Jewish culinary masterclass project based in Vilnius. The National Library of Israel's European Ephemera Collection

Eugen D. Relgis

Eugen D. Relgis (backward reading of Eisig D. Sigler, 1895–1987) was a Romanian writer, pacifist philosopher and anarchist militant, known as a theorist of humanitarianism. Woodcut by Louis Moreau



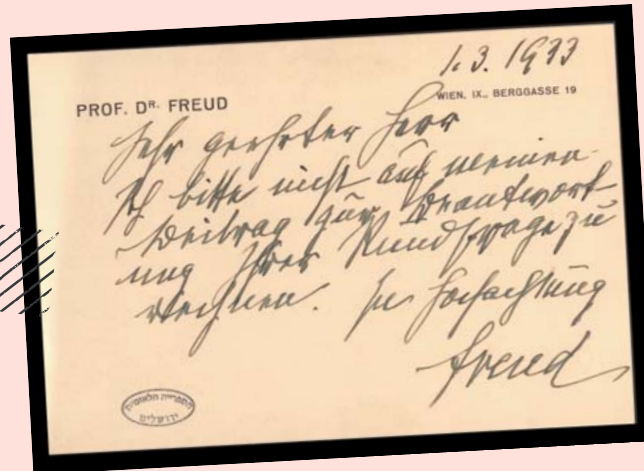
Romanian



Poster for a memorial service in honor of Zeev Jabotinsky on 28 July 1946 in Iași, Romania. The Jabotinsky Institute



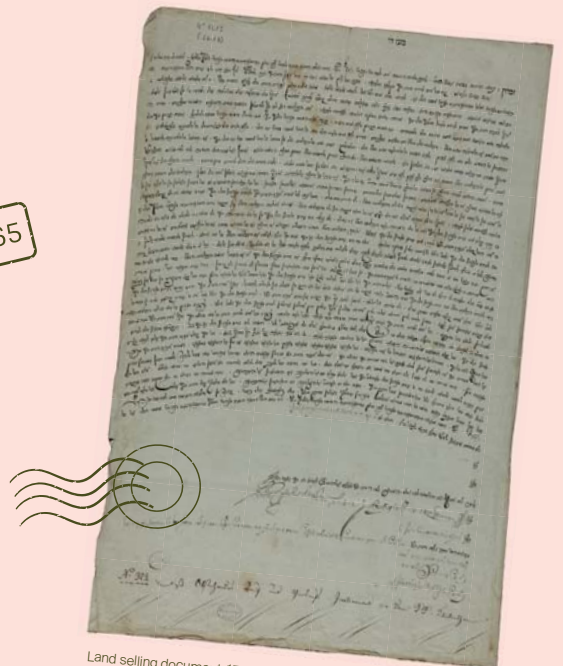
The court file on the illegal confiscation of and extortion of money for 12 barrels of Hungarian wine, purchased from the merchant Yankel Mendeliovitch and transported by Leiba Yankelevitch between Transcarpathian towns. Contains witness testimonies and evidence. 1797–1800. Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, CD-589.01



A postcard from Sigmund Freud to L. Bernard Wechsler, editor of a Zionist newspaper in Bucharest, 1933. Contains apologies for being unable to contribute to the editor's survey for the newspaper asking for opinions about the topic "Judaism and Pacifism". The National Library of Israel, ARC. 4° 2314/05



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Land selling document, 15 February 1817. Confirmed and stamped by the Austrian authorities. The National Library of Israel, Ms. Heb. 1212=4

Postcards and letters sent to Eugen Relgis on various occasions. Relgis had a prolific correspondence reaching around the world. This is a small sample. The National Library of Israel, ARC. Ms. Var. 563

Benjamin of Tudela

Benjamin of Tudela in the Sahara, in the 12th century. (Engraving by Dumouza, 19th century)

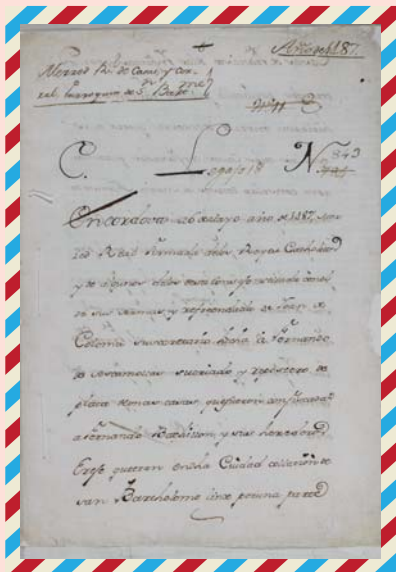


Spain

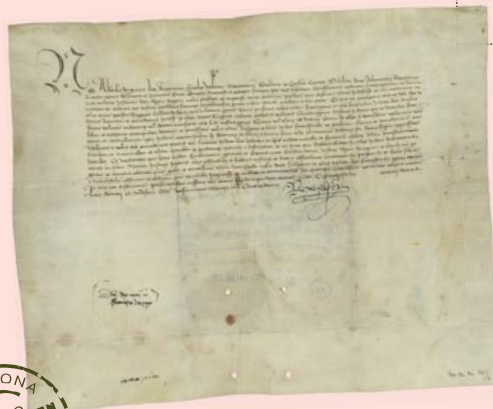


Renowned medieval Jewish traveler Benjamin of Tudela's account of travels to the Near East and Asia between 1160 and 1173 in which the commercial activity of various eastern cities is described in vivid detail, predating Marco Polo's journeys by a hundred years.

The British Library London England Add. 27089, "KItv" Project, The National Library of Israel



Inquisition document regarding the confiscation of "New Christian" property, Cordoba, Spain, May 1487. The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Ms. NH 63; available via the National Library of Israel Digital Collection



Confirmation of a privilege, Alfonso V, King of Aragon, Saragosa, 1429. A rare document written in 1429 given to a noble from Saragosa, Spain. It proclaims an allowance for Jews to settle on his land, a mere 63 years before the Jews were expelled from Spain. The National Library of Israel, Ms. Yah. Var. 403



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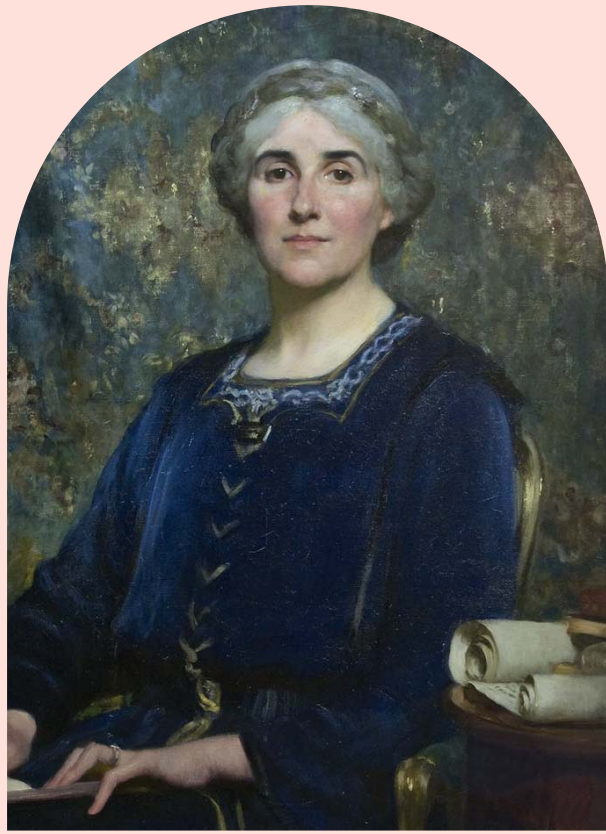
Hebrew Bible with Masoretic notes and Targum Onkelos, Burgos, Spain, 1260. The notes and the translation enable continued use of the Bible as the Jewish people spread throughout the diasporas and begin losing the memory of ancient Hebrew. This beautiful book, known as one of the Damascus Crowns, features multicolor illuminations, gold leaf, and micrography. The National Library of Israel, Ms. Heb. 24° 790



Mishneh Torah, Maimonides, Spain, c.1350. The Mishneh Torah was intended to combine philosophy and Jewish religious law (halakha), and was the only medieval text to comprise the entirety of Jewish observance, including laws pertaining to the Temple in Jerusalem. Maimonides wrote it as a record of the Jewish Oral Law, a tradition passed down through generations to complement and interpret the written Torah, and chose to write it in Hebrew to make it accessible to Jews anywhere and in any age. The National Library of Israel, Ms. Heb. 4° 1193

Nina Salaman

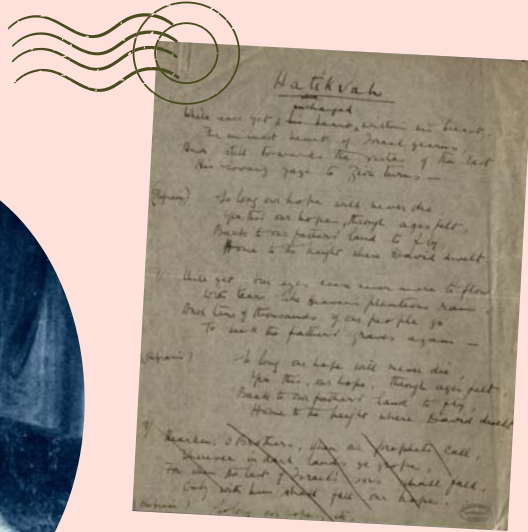
Portrait of Nina Salaman, wife of Redcliffe, by Solomon J. Solomon. 1918. Pauline Ruth "Nina" Salaman (née Davis) (1877–1925), was a poet as well as an outstanding scholar of the Spanish medieval period, whose poetry she masterfully translated.



United Kingdom



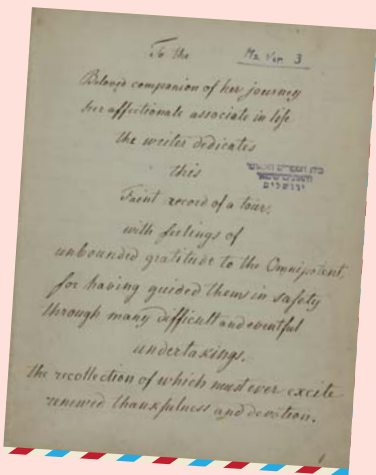
Claude Reignier Conder's scrapbook from his time as head of the PEF survey of Western Palestine. This page shows a scene of a chuppah (marriage ceremony) Conder observed in the Old City of Jerusalem. The National Library of Israel, V.1209



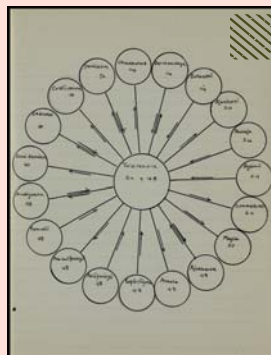
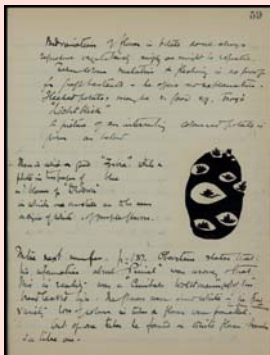
In 1916, Nina Salaman was among the first to create an English translation of HaTikva, the song that later became the Israeli national anthem. Her husband sent a copy of this translation to Mrs. Melchior at the Hebrew University. The National Library of Israel, Schwad 0115 132



Judith Montefiore



The travel diary of Judith Montefiore, a British linguist, musician, travel writer, and philanthropist, wife of Moses Montefiore, whose journals record the lives of Jews in the cities she passed. This volume records her travels in Palestine and is piously dedicated to God, 1838–39. The National Library of Israel, ARC. 4*1746 01.1



POST BOX

Notebook on potatoes. Redcliffe Salaman (1874–1955) was a physician, pathologist, botanist, and potato breeder. Born to a Jewish family, he lived in Redcliffe Gardens and carried out his genetic research in his garden, especially interested in the potato's resistance to potato blight, which he discovered in 1908. He gained renown for his work and as Chairman of the Potato Synonym Committee, dealt with different varieties of potatoes and stopped the marketing of old varieties under new names at higher prices. In 1926, a book was published based on this work called Potato Varieties. The National Library of Israel, V 1159