

Aliza Cohen-Mushlin

Selected Hebrew Manuscripts from the Bavarian State Library

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The Center For Jewish Art · The Hebrew University of Jerusalem



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In collaboration with
Yaffa Levy, Michal Sternthal, Ilona Steimann,
Anna Nizza-Caplan and Estherlee Kanon-Ebner

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Cover picture: Image section of Mordecai Raphael Rosello (Ruscelli), Sha'arei Hayyim, Venice, 1552 (Cod.hebr. 49, fol. 1). The Hebrew word means 'book'.

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Bezalel Narkiss
in memoriam



Passover Haggadah, Germany, late 15th century (Cod.hebr. 200, fol. 24v)

CONTENTS

Foreword.....	XI
Introduction by Aliza Cohen-Mushlin	XIII
Johann Jakob Fugger and his Collection of Hebrew Manuscripts by Ilona Steimann.....	XXIX

Cod.hebr. 2: Pentateuch, Five Scrolls and Haftarot, Franconia, end of 13th century	3
Cod.hebr. 3(1-2: Mahzor for Day of Atonement and Sukkot, Ulm and Augsburg, 1459/60 ...	12
Cod.hebr. 4(1-2: Mahzor for the Whole Year, Franconia (?) end of 13th century.....	31
Cod.hebr. 5(1-2: Biblical commentaries by Rashi and others, Würzburg, 1232/33	41
Cod.hebr. 7: <i>Mekor Hayyim</i> by Samuel Zarza, Venice, 1551	81
Cod.hebr. 8: Medical Miscellany, Venice, c.1551	83
Cod.hebr. 9: Homilies on the Pentateuch by Joshua ibn Shu'eib, Venice, 1550	86
Cod.hebr. 10: Kabbalistic Miscellany, Venice, c.1549.....	89
Cod.hebr. 11: Kabbalistic Miscellany, Venice, c.1549.....	92
Cod.hebr. 12: Kabbalistic Miscellany, Venice, c.1549.....	98
Cod.hebr. 14: Pentateuch, Five Scrolls and Haftarot, Rhineland (?), second half of the 13th century.....	100
Cod.hebr. 15: Biblical Commentaries, Venice, c.1549	108
Cod.hebr. 17: Kabbalistic Miscellany, Venice, c.1549.....	111
Cod.hebr. 18: <i>Sefer Milhamot Adonai</i> by Levi ben Gershon, Venice, 1550	114
Cod.hebr. 19: Medical Miscellany, Venice, 1552.....	117
Cod.hebr. 21: Mahzor for the Whole Year, Franconia, third quarter of the 13th century....	119
Cod.hebr. 22: Kabbalistic Miscellany, Venice, c.1549.....	133
Cod.hebr. 23: <i>Sefer ha-Peliah</i> , Venice, c.1549	137
Cod.hebr. 24: Kabbalistic Miscellany, Venice, c.1549.....	140
Cod.hebr. 25: Biblical Commentaries, Venice, 1550	143
Cod.hebr. 26: Philosophical Miscellany, Venice, 1551.....	146
Cod.hebr. 27: Medical Miscellany, Venice, c.1552.....	150
Cod.hebr. 28: Kabbalistic Miscellany, Venice, 1552.....	153
Cod.hebr. 29: Medical Miscellany, Venice, c.1550.....	156
Cod.hebr. 30: Averroes' Commentaries on Aristotle, Venice, 1550	159
Cod.hebr. 31: Philosophical Miscellany, Venice, 1550.....	162
Cod.hebr. 32: Averroes' Commentaries on Aristotle, Venice, 1550	166
Cod.hebr. 33: Kabbalistic Miscellany, Venice, 1552	169
Cod.hebr. 34: <i>Ittur Sofrim</i> by Isaac ben Abba Mari, Venice, c.1550	173
Cod.hebr. 35: <i>Yesod Olam</i> by Isaac ben Joseph Israeli, Venice, 1551	175
Cod.hebr. 39: Averroes' Commentaries on Aristotle, Venice, c.1552	177
Cod.hebr. 40: Kabbalistic Miscellany, Venice, 1548	180
Cod.hebr. 41: Medical Miscellany, Venice, c.1550.....	184
Cod.hebr. 42: Philosophical Miscellany, Venice, c.1552.....	187

Cod.hebr. 43: Philosophical and Kabbalistic Miscellany, Venice, c.1552	190
Cod.hebr. 44: Philosophical Miscellany, Venice, 1552.....	193
Cod.hebr. 45: Philosophical Miscellany, Venice, 1551-1552.....	196
Cod.hebr. 46: Philosophical Miscellany, Venice, 1552.....	200
Cod.hebr. 47: Biblical and Kabbalistic commentaries, Venice, c.1552	203
Cod.hebr. 48: Zohar, Venice, c.1549	208
Cod.hebr. 49: Medical Miscellany, Venice, c.1552.....	210
Cod.hebr. 50: Biblical Commentaries, Venice, 1552	213
Cod.hebr. 51: <i>Mekor Hayyim</i> by Samuel Zarza, Venice, 1552	216
Cod.hebr. 52: Biblical Commentaries, Venice, 1549	219
Cod.hebr. 53: Kabbalistic Miscellany, Venice, 1550.....	222
Cod.hebr. 54: Kabbalistic Miscellany, Venice, 1548-1549.....	226
Cod.hebr. 55: Grammatical Miscellany, Venice, 1552	230
Cod.hebr. 56: Kabbalistic Miscellany, Venice, c.1551	233
Cod.hebr. 57: Philosophical Miscellany, Venice, c.1551	239
Cod.hebr. 58: Kabbalistic Miscellany, Venice, 1550.....	242
Cod.hebr. 59: Kabbalistic Miscellany, Venice, 1552.....	246
Cod.hebr. 60: Philosophical Miscellany, Venice, c.1551	250
Cod.hebr. 61: Biblical Commentaries, Venice, 1552	253
Cod.hebr. 62: Biblical Commentaries, Venice, c.1549	256
Cod.hebr. 63: Grammatical and Philosophical Miscellany, Venice, c.1550	259
Cod.hebr. 64: Philosophical Miscellany, Venice, 1552.....	262
Cod.hebr. 65: Biblical and Philosophical Commentaries, Venice, c.1552	265
Cod.hebr. 66: Biblical Commentaries, Venice, c.1552	268
Cod.hebr. 68: Kabbalistic Miscellany, Venice, 1552.....	270
Cod.hebr. 69: Siddur and Mahzor, Franconia, end 13th-early 14th centuries.....	274
Cod.hebr. 73: Philosophical Miscellany, Venice, c.1552	284
Cod.hebr. 86: Mahzor for High Holidays and Sukkot, Franconia, end 13th –beginning 14th century.....	287
Cod.hebr. 90: Siddur, Franconia, early 14th century	302
Cod.hebr. 100: Yiddish Octavianus and other stories, Tannhausen, 1580-1600	308
Cod.hebr. 101: Gerard de Solo, Commentary on the Ninth Book of Al-Rāzī's al-Manṣūrī, Provence, 1464.....	318
Cod.hebr. 107: <i>Meshal ha-Kadmoni</i> , <i>Sefer ha-Tapua'ah</i> , <i>Sefer ha-nefesh</i> , <i>Sefer ha-Nizzahon</i> , probably Regensburg, before 1458	323
Cod.hebr. 112: Kabbalistic Miscellany, Gradoli, 1538	353
Cod.hebr. 114: Pentateuch with Targum Onkelos and Sa'adia Gaon's Arabic translation, Spain, end 13th century.....	361
Cod.hebr. 135: Small Book of Precepts (SeMaK), Louvain, 1337.....	365
Cod.hebr. 152: Yiddish Pentateuch, South Germany, 1530-1540.....	370
Cod.hebr. 154: Calendar for the year 1536-1537, Reggio Emilia, 1536-1537	373

Cod.hebr. 200: Passover Haggadah with Latin introduction, South Germany or Austria, 1480s (before 1489).....	376
Cod.hebr. 208: Ibn Rushd (Averroes) Commentaries on Aristotle's: On Hearing, On the Heavens, and Meteorology, Spain, early 15th century.....	399
Cod.hebr. 212: Pentateuch, first half of 13th century; Bookbinding 1470s.....	404
Cod.hebr. 235: Yiddish Bellifortis and Other Works, South Germany, last quarter of the 15th century	411
Cod.hebr. 392: Bible, Soria or Toledo, c.1275-1300.....	443
Cod.hebr. 394: Two <i>Sefer Evronot</i> , I: Frankfurt am Main, 1566; II: <i>ibid.</i> , 1677.....	458
Cod.hebr. 422: Mahzor for the Whole Year, Franconia, end 13th –beginning 14th century ..	489
Cod.hebr. 450: Kabbalistic scroll <i>Ilan de-Adam Kadmon</i> , Nikolsburg, 1691.....	494
Cod.hebr. 451: Kabbalistic <i>Ilan Dikkduk ha-Torah</i> , Nikolsburg, 1692.....	499
Cod.hebr. 453: Passover Haggadah, piyyutim and haftarot, Tafilalt, 1838-1850 and c.1870 ...	501
Cod.hebr. 455: Prayer Book and Passover Haggadah, Morocco, second half of 19th century ..	506
Cod.hebr. 473: Book of Psalms, Prague, 1706.....	509
Cod.hebr. 512: Siddur, Franconia (?) c. 1800.....	515
Biographies of Researchers	519
Glossary of Jewish Terms	521
Names of Treatises in the Manuscripts.....	529
Index of Iconographical Subjects	537
Index of Manuscripts	545
Index of Personal Names.....	553
Index of Geographical Names	564

NOTE

“Folio 38”, for example, means the recto; while “Folio 38v” means the verso.

FOREWORD

In January 2008, the Illuminated Manuscripts Section of the Center for Jewish Art at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem began a four-year project supported by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation. The project entailed the documentation and research of 84 Hebrew manuscripts housed in the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich, of which 51 are illuminated. The documentation and research team included, besides myself, four of my students, researchers at the center: Michal Sternthal, head of the Illuminated Manuscript Section; Ilona Steimann, who documented, researched and wrote the introduction to the Fugger group; Estherlee Kanon-Ebner, and Anna Nizza-Caplan. Another researcher, Yaffa Levy, was a great help in the editorial work (see biographies p. 519).

The detailed documentation data and the results of the research can be found in this book, as well as on the website of the *Center for Jewish Art* (<https://cja.huji.ac.il>), in the *Bezalel Narkiss Index of Jewish Art*. There one can find all the relevant pictorial and comparative material. Furthermore, it is possible to browse according to fields of documentation and iconography through the Munich manuscripts as well as through many other Hebrew manuscripts documented by the Center for Jewish Art in other libraries throughout the world.

In addition to the manuscripts found in the *Bezalel Narkiss Index of Jewish Art*, the Munich Library has digitized in their entirety most of the manuscripts we have documented there. This can be seen in the *digitized manuscripts of the Munich Library*, <https://www.bsb-muenchen.de/sammlungen/handschriften/sprachenregionen/orientalische-handschriften/>. Thus the user may receive full pictorial information regarding the manuscript which is the object of his interest.

My team and I are deeply grateful to the director of the manuscript department of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Dr. Claudia Fabian, who allowed us to study these treasures under optimal conditions. Furthermore, we thank the excellent staff and researchers who were always ready to help us: Drs. B. Gullath (deceased), W.-V. Ikas, G. Glauche, C. Bubenik, B. Hernad, K.-G. Pfändtner, S. Wimmer, as well as W. Kasper of the computer department. I am also indebted to the readers and friends H. Traub and Profs. D. Buschinger and P. Kuhn.

Special thanks are due to Dr. K. Kessler of Bet Tfila Research Unit at the Technical University of Braunschweig, for carefully reading and collating the text; as well as to Dr. V. Levin, director of the Center for Jewish Art at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, for preparing the glossary, and R. Levin for preparing the indices. Last but not least, I am deeply grateful to G. Hemed of the Center for Jewish Art for his invaluable advice, and to M. Fröhlich of the Harrassowitz Verlag for his remarkable patience.

We are greatly indebted to the Fritz Thyssen Foundation which supported this documentation and research, without which it could not have been realized. Personally I am extremely grateful to Dr. Karl-Ulrich Gelberg, the director of the Historisches Kolleg, and to Dr. Amalia Reisenthel, where I found pleasant homes in Munich.

My heartiest thanks go to my life-long friends, Miss Christine Evans, Dr. Sabine Solf and Prof. Claudia Märkl. Miss Evans is the language editor of this catalogue and of all my other publications; Prof. Märkl has helped in practical matters; and Dr. Solf has supported and encouraged me on many occasions.

This catalogue is dedicated to the memory of Prof. Bezalel Narkiss, who founded the Center for Jewish Art and the Index of Jewish Art at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and revealed to us the rich and fascinating world of Hebrew manuscripts.

It is hoped that this book will arouse the interest of scholars as well as of the general public in the treasure trove of Hebrew manuscripts in the Munich Bayerische Staatsbibliothek.

A. C.-M., Jerusalem 2020