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## The Art of Early Printed Books: Judaica Gems & English Bibles from the Collection of Rabbi Howard R. Buechler

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"Printers' marks of Joseph and Jacob Proops, utilizing the symbol of the hands to depict their priestly descent, and two fish for the zodiac sign of the month Adar, Jacob's birth month."<sup>1</sup>

## The Art of Early Printed Books: Judaica Gems & English Bibles from the Collection of Rabbi Howard R. Buechler

An Exhibit to Celebrate the Dedication of the Gould Law Library  
Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center  
March 31, 2008

This exhibit features 22 early printed books from the collection of Rabbi Howard R. Buechler. The Judaica selections were published between 1546 and 1832 in the major centers for early Hebrew printing. Included among these rarities are a Hebrew lexicon/grammar published in 1546, Mahzorim, books of sermons, a first book of songs for Shabbat, and three copies of the Shulhan 'Arukh - the Code of Jewish Law. The English language Bibles were published in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Two of the Bibles are highly decorated, with elaborate bindings and illustrations. All include entries in the family register pages.



Rabbi Buechler, who received both his Master's Degree and Rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1985, is the Congregational Rabbi at Dix Hills Jewish Center in Dix Hills, NY. Prior to coming to DHJC in 1992, he served at Temple Beth Chai in Hauppauge, NY. Rabbi Buechler holds active board and trustee positions with many organizations such as SAJES, the Solomon Schechter Day School of Suffolk County, and the JCC of Suffolk, as well as being involved with civic activities in the Town of Huntington. He is the past President of the Rabbinical Assembly of Nassau-Suffolk and the Suffolk Board of Rabbis. He completed his tenure as Chair of the UJA-Federation Rabbinic Cabinet of Long Island. In addition, Rabbi Buechler has been on the Executive Council of the Rabbinical Assembly, the international organization of Conservative Rabbis and the New York Board of Rabbis. He also has founded and/or co-founded several remarkable Jewish institutions in Suffolk County ranging from the Suffolk Mikveh to SHMA Hebrew High School and the Chai Institute of Adult Jewish Studies. He practices his avocation as an antiquarian bookman while traveling throughout the world - gathering a wonderful collection of antiquarian Judaica, as well as other books. The library is grateful to Rabbi Buechler for sharing his treasures with us.

## JUDAICA GEMS:



1. Karo, Joseph ben Ephraim. Shulḥan `arukh mi-Ṭur Hoshen mishpat: li-fene zeḥenim `im ne`arim : be-kerekh ḳatan le-ma`an ... Venetsiya [Venice]: Be-mitsvat ha-Adon Zu`an Bragadin, 358 [1598]

This early edition of the Code of Jewish Law is most notable for the layout of its commentaries.



2. Karo, Joseph ben Ephraim. Shulḥan `arukh mi-tur Oraḥ hayim ... `im ḥidushe dinim she-hishmit ... Mosheh Iserla's ye-`im Be'er ha-golah ye-`im Be'er ḥeṭev mi-m.h. ye-R. im ... Even ha-`ozar ye-`im yalkuṭ ḥadash she-ḥiber Avraham Openheim ... shemo Eshel Avraham. Amsterdam: Yohanan Leyi Rofe u-veno Binyamin, 559 [1799].

Code of Jewish Law.

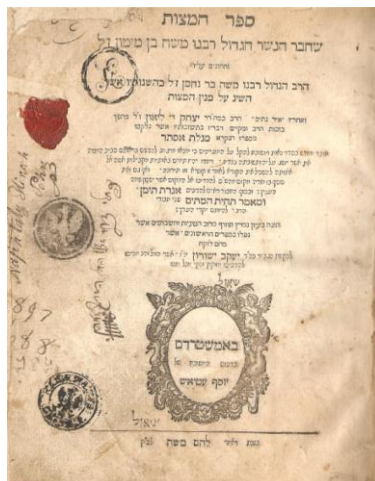


3. Karo, Joseph ben Ephraim. Shulḥan `arukh mi-tur Hoshen ha-mishpat ... Mantuva: Itzhak David Ira, 1723?  
Code of Jewish Law. Hoshen Mishpat.  
Includes commentaries by Moses ben Israel Isserles [RaMA] and Rabbi Aryeh HaLevi.

4. Katzenelnbogen, Samuel Judah. Shenayim `asar derashot mi-derashot ha-hakham ha-kolel ... Shemu'el Yuda' ebn ha-rav ha-gadol be-Yisra'el noda shemo. Vinisiya'ah [Venice]: zuan di Ga'arah, 354 [1594].

Book of twelve sermons.

The note "Con licentia de' Superiori" indicates that the book was printed with permission of the Catholic Church.



5. Maimonides, Moses. Sefer ha-mitsvot ... V'eha-honim `alay Mosheh bar Nahman ... ye-aḥaray ye'ir netiv Yitsḥaq de Lé'on ... bi-teshuvotay asher nilqetu mi-sifro ha-nikra Megilat Ester ... uve-sof ha-ḥibur ra'inu le-hadpis Igeret Teman u-Ma'amar teḥiyat ha-metim. Amṣterdam: bi-defus Y. `Aṭi'ash, [1660].

The translation is that of Moses Ibn Tibbon.

The Six Hundred and Thirteen Commandments.

6. Kimhi, David. Sefer ha-shorashim: ve-hu ha-ḥeleḳ ha-sheni meha-Mikhlol ... V'initiah [Venice]: Nidpas be-vet Daniel Bombirgi {Bomberg}, 1546.

Book of Roots.

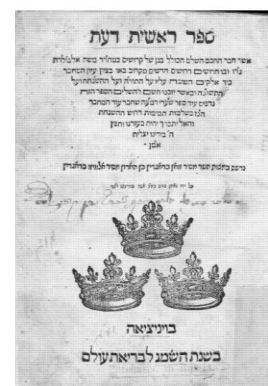
The lexicon Sefer ha-Shorashim is the second part of Radak's encyclopedia of Hebrew grammar called Sefer Miklol





7. Albelda, Moses ben Jacob. Sefer Reshit da'at ...  
Venetsi'ah [Venice]: Zu'an Bragadin [Bragadini], 343  
[1583].

Collection of sermons.



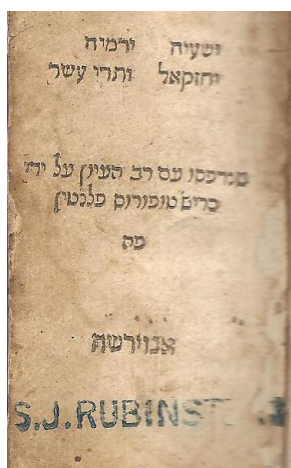
8. Mishnayot: Seder Tohorot `im perushe ha-ge'onim ha-mefursamim `Ovady. mi-Bartenurah ye-Tosfot Yom Tov ... .  
Amsterdam: Ya'akov Props [Proops], 535 [1775].

Seder Tohorot [Cleanness] is the sixth and last order of the Mishnah. Among its twelve tractates is Peah [the Red Heifer].

9. Talmud Bavli `im perush Rashi ye-tosfot ... ye-tosfot ...  
Amsterdam: Yosef ye-Ya'akov Props [Proops], [516] 1756.

This volume includes Yevamot, Kiddushin, and Ketubbot.

A bookplate is attached to the verso of the front cover indicating that at some point the book was given to the Dutch Israel Seminary in memory of D. I. Hollander. "In the merit of lending, his soul will be tied to the bundle of life."



10. Hamishah humshe Torah: Nevi'im aharonim, Ketuvim.  
Anvershah [Antwerp]: Kristoforus Plantin, [334] 1574.

This miniature book of prophets has two titles bound as one: Nevi'im and Ketuvim. The size indicates it was made for travel and personal use.

11. Yehudah Leyb ben Mosheh, Shire Yehudah. Amsterdam: Asher Anshil be Eli'ezer, 457 [1697].

[Book of Yehudah's Songs]

"The core of the book is a song to be sung at festive meals ..."

It includes an interpretation of the songs with Hebrew and Yiddish commentary.



12. Maḥazor: helek rishon ke-minhag Ashkenaz ve-Polin: 'im

perush leshon Ashkenaz ve-dine me-Hadrat kodesh: ve-'im perush rov ha-Kavanat ha-paitan ... Rosh Ha-shanah ve-Shabat Shuvah ...

Mets [Metz]: Mosheh Mai, 529 [1769].

Hebrew and Yiddish.

Festival prayer book according to the rite of Polish Jews, part

1. Includes Rosh Hashanah and Shabat Shuvah.



13. Maḥazor le-Sukot ke-minhag Polin / The form of prayers for the feast of Tabernacles according to the custom of the German and Polish Jews as read in their synagogues and used in their families / translated by David Levi. London: D. Levi, 555 [1795]. v. 4

Hebrew text and English translation on facing

pages.

Prayer book for Sukkot [Feast of Booths or

Feast of Tabernacles].



14. Mishnayot: Shishah sidre mishnah: 'im nekudot ... ve-

tsiyunim ... ye-'im targum Ashkenazi ...ve-he'arot ... ve-

hakdamah be-rosh kol Masekhet ... u-mavo ha-Mishnah ... /

me'et Hevrat ohave Torah u-mada' be-Berlin ha-birah.

Berlin: I. Lewent, 592 [1832].

Nezikin [Damages].

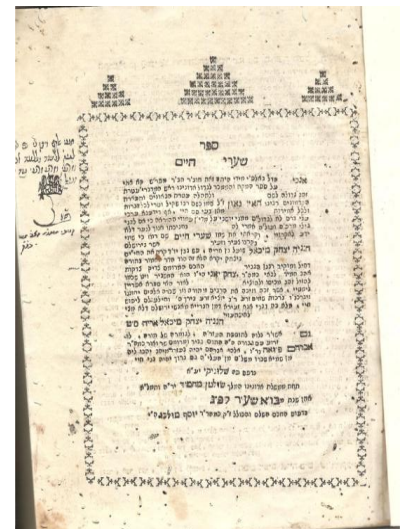
Includes Yiddish translation.



15. Sefer Sha'are hayim / ... be'ur 'al sefer ha-Mekah veha-  
memkar le-rav Hai ga'on ... Salonika: Yosef Molkho, [574]  
1814.

Hai Ben Sherira (Hai Gaon) is considered the "molder of  
the halakhah and the most prominent figure of his time."<sup>3</sup> This  
treatise on purchases also includes commentaries by Hananiah  
Isaac Michael Aryeh.

The printing of the book on blue paper can indicate that  
it was a deluxe edition.



16. Karo, Joseph ben Ephraim. Sefer Ape ravve: ye-hem be'urim  
... 'al Shulhan 'arukh Even ha-'ezer ... Heklat mehokek ... [me-et]  
Mosheh ... de Brisk ... . Fyorda [Fuerth]: Shemu'el Bansat ben  
Yosef Shné'or, [485?] 1725 or 1726.

This work includes commentaries on the Shulhan 'arukh  
[The Code of Jewish Law].

17. Raccah, Masud ben Aaron. Sefer Ma'aseh Roqeah: helek 1:  
sovev holekh 'al divre ha-Rambam le-sefer Mishneh Torah asher  
hibarti ani Mas'ud Hai b.l.a.a. Aharon Raqa.h. Vinitsi'ah [Venice]:  
bi-defus Me'ir da Zarah, 502 [1742].

Work of the Apothecary, Part 1.

Part 1 of a four part commentary on Maimonides' Mishneh  
Torah. In this work the Masrud Ben Aaron Raccah compares the  
texts of various editions of the Mishneh Torah.



18. Hebrew Bible. Venice: Bomberg, 1546-48.

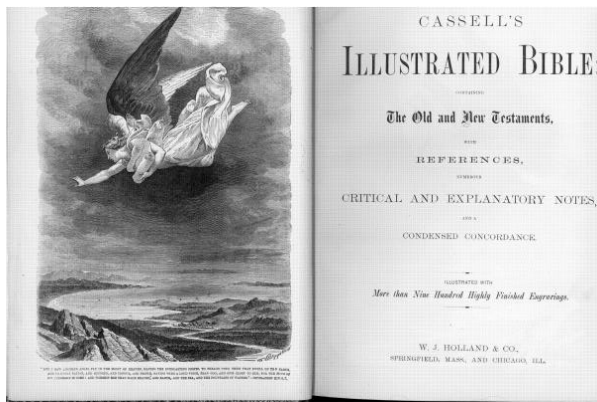
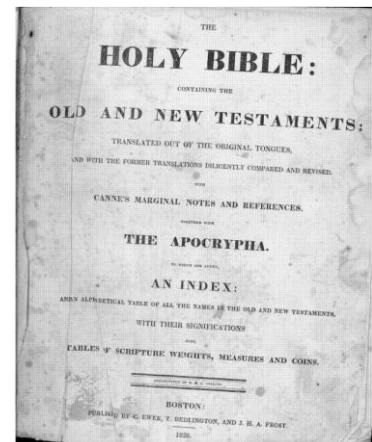
This work is missing the title page, but it appears to be part 2 of an  
edition of Daniel Bomberg's famous Rabbinic Bible. Bomberg's work set a  
pattern for printing the Bible that continues until this day.

An interesting note is added to a tipped in page at the front of the  
work. "Volume found by a French officer at Sebastopol in 1855.  
Crimean Campaign, 1854-55-56."



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE BIBLES:

19. The Holy Bible: containing the Old and New Testaments translated out of the original tongues, and with the former translations diligently compared and revised; with Canne's marginal notes and references; together with the Apocrypha; to which are added an index, and an alphabetical table of all the names in the Old and New Testaments, with their significations; also, tables of scripture weights, measures and coins. John Brown. Brief concordance to the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Boston: C. Ewer, T. Bedlington, and J.H.A. Frost, 1828.



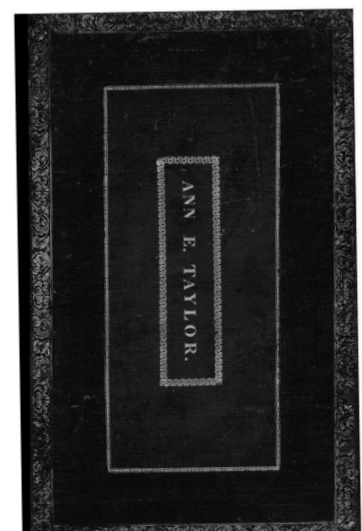
20. Cassell's illustrated Bible; containing the Old and New Testaments, with references, numerous critical and explanatory notes, and a condensed concordance. Illustrated with more than nine hundred finished engravings. Springfield, MA: W.J. Holland, 1869-1869?.

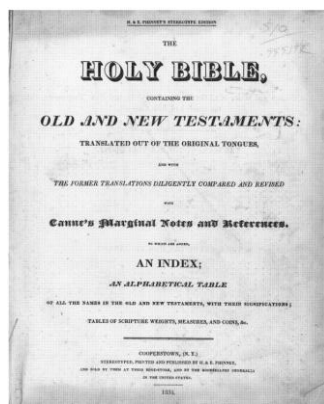
This Bible features a beautiful sculpted and gilded cover, as well as numerous steel engravings.

21. The self interpreting Bible with an evangelical commentary by the late Revd. John Brown. London: Tho. Kelly, 1824-1827.

The embossed and gilded cover of this Bible is labeled with the name Ann E. Taylor, although hers is not the first name to appear in the Family Register. Many steel engravings are interspersed throughout the work.

John Brown taught himself Latin, Greek, and Hebrew while working as a shepherd. After taking part in the Jacobite Rebellion, he studied for the ministry. He held a post at Haddington until his death. His works as a biblical scholar include this Bible and a dictionary of the Bible.





22. The Holy Bible; containing the Old and New Testaments; translated out of the original tongues, and with the former translations diligently compared and revised; with Canne's marginal notes and references; to which are added an index; an alphabetical table of all the names in the Old and New testaments, with their significations; tables of scripture weights, measures, and coins &c. / John Canne, H. & E. Phinney's Stereotype ed. Cooperstown, NY: Stereotyped, Printed and Published by H. & E. Phinney, 1834.

#### ENDNOTES:

- <sup>1.</sup> The Hebrew book: an historical survey / Raphael Posner; Israel M Ta-Shma. New York: Leon Amiel; Jerusalem, Keter, 1975, p. 159.
- <sup>2.</sup> Elisheva Carlebach, Two Amens That Delayed the Redemption: Jewish Messiansim and Popular Spirituality in the Post-Sabbatian Centry, 82 Jewish Q. Rev. 241, 243 (Jan-Apr, 1992)
- <sup>3.</sup> 8 Encyclopedia Judaica, 2d ed. 232 (2007)



#### WORKS CONSULTED:

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- Encyclopaedia Judaica / Fred Skolnik, editor-in-chief; Michael Berenbaum, executive editor. 2nd ed. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA in association with the Keter Pub. House, c2007. JUDAICA REFERENCE DS102.8 .E496 2007
- The French Enlightenment and the Jews: the origins of modern anti-Semitism / Arthur Hertzberg. New York: Columbia University Press, 1990, c1968. JUDAICA DS135.F82 H4 1990
- From the ends of the earth: Judaic treasures of the Library of Congress: [essays] / Abraham J. Karp. New York, NY: Rizzoli; [Washington, DC]: Library of Congress, 1991. JUDAICA Z6375 .K37 1991

- From written to printed text: the transmission of Jewish tradition / an exhibition of books and manuscripts from the Library of the Center for Judaic Studies; curated by Rebecca Kobrin and Adam Shear, April 21-June 26, 1996, Rosenwald Gallery, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library, University of Pennsylvania. [Philadelphia]: The Center, 1996. JUDAICA Z6611.U5 F8 1996 (also available at <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/exhibit1996/>)
- Hebraic Collections, Library of Congress: an Illustrated Guide: The Books of the People of the Books. <http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/guide/hs-books.html>
- The Hebrew book: an historical survey / Raphael Posner; Israel M Ta-Shma. New York: Leon Amiel; Jerusalem, Keter, 1975. JUDAICA Z228.H4 H4
- Hebrew printers' marks / Abraham Yaari. [1<sup>st</sup> ed., reprinted.] Farnborough, Gregg, 1971. JUDAICA Z236 .H4
- Hebrew Typography Annotated Bibliography. <http://www.ivritype.com/hebrew/biblio/>
- Incunabula, Hebracia & Judaica: Five Centuries of Hebraica and Judaica, Rare Bibles, and Hebrew Incunables from the Jacob M. Lowy Collection: 1981 Exhibition Catalogue / Prepared by: Brad Sabin Hill, Curator, The Jacob M. Lowy Collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts Division, Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa 1981.  
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/incunab/index-e.html#contents>
- XVII. The Spread of Hebrew Printing and the Fate of the Hebrew Book (134-144).  
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/incunab/s6-210-e.html>
- The Jewish Book: Material Texts and Comparative Contexts: An Online Exhibition from the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies 2005-2006 Fellows at the University of Pennsylvania.  
<http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellowso6/>
- The Jewish encyclopedia: a descriptive record of the history, religion, literature, and customs of the Jewish people from the earliest times / prepared ... under the direction of ... Cyrus Adler [and others], Isidore Singer, PH.D., projector and managing editor, assisted by American and foreign boards of consulting editors. [New York]: KTAV publishing house, Inc., [190-1906] JUDAICA DS102.8 .J6 (also available at <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/index.jsp>)
- Jewish Publishing / New Age World Publishing.  
[http://www.nawpublishing.com/expansionpages/ephemera/jewish\\_publishing.htm](http://www.nawpublishing.com/expansionpages/ephemera/jewish_publishing.htm)
- Jewish typography in Ottoman lands.  
<http://maviboncuk.blogspot.com/2007/11/jewish-typography-in-ottoman-lands.html>
- Jewish Virtual Library - Judaic Treasures from the Library of Congress.  
<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/loc/loctoc.html>
- Landmarks in Hebrew Publishing. <http://www.jerusalembooks.com/jap/bookb1.htm>

Mattityahu (Mathias) Strashun (1817-1885): Scholar, Leader and Book Collector / YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. <http://www.yivo.org/exhibits/strashun/strashunexhibit2.htm>

Menasseh ben Israel: a digital collection of seventeenth-century Jewish printing in Amsterdam / edited by J.J.M. de Haas, A.K. Offenberg and M.G. Ootjers. [Amsterdam]: Amsterdam University Press, c1999. RESERVE BM495 .M45 1999 (CD)

The Michael Davidson Early Hebrew Printing Homepage: A Virtual Guide to the Great Jewish Libraries and Rare Book Collections On-line Hebrew Manuscripts, Incunabula, and Written Antiquities. <http://aix1.uottawa.ca/~weinberg/hebraica.html>

Krzysztof Pilarszyk, Hebrew Printing Houses in Poland Against the Background of Their History in the World: An Outline with Reference Books on the Subject, 7 *Studia Judaica* 201-321 (2004) #2(14)

Printer, Publisher, Peddler: The Business of the Jewish Book / Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Library Exhibitions at the University of Pennsylvania.  
<http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/PrinterPublisherPeddler/>

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Printing the Talmud: a history of the individual treatises printed from 1700 to 1750 / by Marvin J. Heller. Leiden; Boston: Brill, 1999. JUDAICA Z6371.T2 H46 1999

Printing the Talmud: from Bomberg to Schottenstein / edited by Sharon Liberman Mintz and Gabriel M. Goldstein. [New York, NY]: Yeshiva University Museum, 5765. 2005. JUDAICA BM501 .P755 2005

A Sign and a witness: 2,000 years of Hebrew books and illuminated manuscripts / edited with an introduction by Leonard Singer Gold. New York: New York Public Library: Oxford University Press, c1988. JUDAICA Z115.4 .S54 1988

*The following members of the Touro Law community participated in the preparation of this exhibit: Carl Baurle, Deborah Brown, Beth Chamberlain, Sophia Martins, Beth Mobley, April Schwartz, Dan Subotnik, and James Woodstock. James Woodstock selected the entries for the Hebrew titles.*





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