

The Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book

The Jewish Studies Program at the University of Pennsylvania, in conjunction with the University of Pennsylvania Library and the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, are pleased to provide a summary of the past Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshops.

2015 Topic: “Cheap Books From the Cairo Geniza: Formats, Texts and Readers in Medieval Egypt”

Speaker: Judith Olszowy Schlanger, École Pratique des Hautes Études (Sorbonne), Paris

The treasure-trove of manuscripts in Hebrew script recovered from the Cairo Geniza includes thousands of fragments of books. Of varying physical shapes and textual contents, these books bear witness to intense book production in medieval Eastern Jewish communities, and to the demand for such books by a robust readership. The costs of book production, and the price of book purchase were clearly important factors in shaping the market. Focusing on these material artifacts, the sessions will explore the variety of books produced, identify the texts which enjoyed particular popularity, and attempt to reconstruct the milieu of their copyists. Themes to be examined through the study of manuscript images include: Books from the Cairo Geniza: 'Elite' or 'Popular' Culture?; Economics of Book Production and Trade; Books Materials: Techniques of Production, Use and Reuse; Hebrew Script as a Marker of Specific Social or Religious Readership Groups; Book Formats and Sizes—and their Functions; and Quality of Manuscripts Versus Quality of Texts.

2014 Topic: “The Jewish Book, Halakhah, and Minhag”

Speaker: Daniel Sperber, President of the Institute of Advanced Torah Study at Bar-Ilan University and Professor Emeritus of Talmud.

This year's workshop will be devoted to intersections between Jewish law and customs and the Jewish book. Topics to be covered include the Masorah (and problems of misunderstanding it due to its transmission); the impact of material features of the book (like lacunae and misprintings) on halakhah; the role of the emender; the corrective use of manuscripts and early printings for the decisor; iconography and its interpretation; and the use of illustrations and other paratexts as sources for the historical reconstruction of minhag and halakhah. Because the Workshop will involve textual study, participants should be able to read unpointed Hebrew texts.

2013 Topic: “Hebrew Codicology in the Digital Age”

Speaker: Malachi Beit-Arié, Ludwig Jesselson Professor Emeritus of Codicology and Palaeography at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The first part of the workshop will be devoted to presenting the singularity of medieval Hebrew book production and consumption, and the consequences of its singular features for understanding the transmission of texts written in Hebrew characters as well as its implications for textual criticism and editing. In addition, the workshop will also deal with why and how text-scholars can apply codicological approaches to their textual work, and in particular a comparative codicological approach so as to appreciate the special circumstances of Hebrew manuscript production. The second part of the workshop will introduce the new on-line SfarData, the comprehensive data base for the codicology of dated Hebrew manuscripts (and those with indications of the scribe's names), which is now being converted into a free website.

Along with explaining the new version, the workshop will demonstrate the diverse ways that Sfardata can be used for the complex retrieval of clustered data and its use for historical and prosopographic research.

2012 Topic: “Jewish Book Art in the Late Middle Ages”

Speaker: Katrin Kogman-Appel, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The workshop will be devoted to Hebrew illuminated manuscripts of the fourteenth and the fifteenth centuries and to the ways in which current methods in art history and related fields can be fruitfully applied to them. Among the subjects to be treated will be issues of patronage, function, historical context, reception, mediality and visuality, and cultural interaction. Specific sessions will focus on the illustration programs of Ashkenazi Mahzorim; the Sephardic Bible within the framework of Judeo-Arabic culture; the Sephardic Haggadot with particular stress on cultural exchange and patronage; Jewish-Christian collaborations in late medieval manuscript workshops; and strategies employed by Ashkenazi book producers like the fifteenth century scribe-artist Joel ben Simeon to make the haggadah accessible to wide audiences from different social strata. The final session will deal with the persistence of manuscript culture after the invention of the printing press with a discussion of the work of some early modern printers.

2011 Topic: “Collectors and Collections: Hebrew Manuscripts and Incunabula in Russia”

Speaker: Shimon Iakerson, Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and Russian Museum of Ethnography.

One of the world's leading experts on Hebrew incunabula, Professor Iakerson is the author of many books including *Ohel Hayim Vol. 3 (Incunabula and Sixteenth Century Books in the Manfred and Ann Lehmann Collection)* and the monumental *Catalogue of Hebrew Incunabula from the Collection of the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America*. About 22 thousand Hebrew manuscripts and more than 100 Hebrew incunabula are preserved in the libraries and research centers of Russia. Until recently these volumes were largely unavailable to Western scholars. Since the opening of these collections some twenty years ago, they have revolutionized many fields in Jewish Studies. This year's Lehmann Workshop will deal with the histories of these collections, the stories of the collectors and bibliographers who built them, and the importance of these books for the history of Jewish culture. Other topics to be treated will include the nature of the earliest Hebrew codices; Karaite manuscripts and communities; forgery; and the importance of the Russian incunabula for understanding the beginnings of Jewish printing. Since the workshop will concentrate upon reading colophons, dedications and owners' notes, knowledge of Hebrew is highly desirable.

2010 Topic: “The Jewish Book In and Around Amsterdam”

Speaker: Emile Schrijver, University of Amsterdam

The workshop will treat *The Jewish Book In and Around Amsterdam*, and will focus on three main topics: (1) the heyday of Hebrew printing in Amsterdam in the 17th century and its coming into existence; (2) the printed and manuscript book tradition of the Amsterdam Sephardim; and (3) the influence of the Amsterdam Hebrew book on surrounding Jewish communities. The last session will focus on future research agendas for the various fields of research dealt with in the earlier sessions. The sessions will include detailed readings of title pages, colophons, and relevant archival and other primary and secondary sources.

2009 Topic: “The Traditional Eastern European Jewish Book, 1500-1900”

Speaker: Moshe Rosman, Bar Ilan University

The workshop will treat the Traditional Eastern European Jewish Book, 1500-1900, by focusing on three principle types: Rabbinic and Hasidic books, and those for women. Sessions will survey each category, analyzing their subjects, forms, and social and cultural roles, and will highlight the printing, reception history, and cultural/social significance of one central book for each type: the Talmud, the Tze'ena U're'ena, and Shivhei haBesht.

2008 Topic: “From Manuscript to Print: Reading Colophons, Title Pages, and Other Paratexts”

Speaker: Menachem Schmelzer, Jewish Theological Seminary

The two-day program will focus upon close readings of selected colophons in medieval Hebrew manuscripts, and title pages, authors' prefaces, printers' introductions, and approbations in books printed before 1700. Attention will be paid to the language of these paratexts, and to extracting the bibliographical, biographical, historical and textual information contained in them. The workshop will also cover the available bibliographical tools that can help in understanding and interpreting these texts as well as in utilizing them for scholarly purposes.

2007 Topic: “Genizah Texts and the Expansion of Jewish Literacy”

Speaker: Stefan Reif, University of Cambridge

The two-day program will provide an overview of its subject, and of its significance in various areas, including: biblical versions and commentaries; talmudic, halakhic and midrashic texts; liturgical evolution and variety; personal letters of mundane and intellectual significance; miscellaneous cultural expression through writing. The various topics covered in the workshop will be illustrated by reading of Genizah texts, with special attention to the problems of layout, decipherment, analysis and historical evaluation.

2006 Topic: “Chapters in the Early History of Hebrew Printing in the Ottoman Empire and The Early Yiddish Book”

Speakers: Joseph Hacker, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; and Shlomo Berger, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

In a slight departure from previous years, this year's Workshop will be led by two current fellows at CAJS, Professors Chava Turniansky and Joseph Hacker, both of the Hebrew University, each of whom will teach one day of the Workshop. Professor Turniansky's topic will be the Early Yiddish Book, and will cover both the manuscript age and the early printed book through the beginning of the 16th century as well as illustrated Yiddish books. Professor Hacker will deal with the Jewish printed book in the Sephardic world with particular emphasis upon the early Ottoman Empire, including books in Ladino.

2005 Topic: “Jewish Book Art and Illumination”

Speaker: Sarit Shalev Eyni, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

This year's workshop will provide an overview of the history of the illuminated Hebrew book from the early tenth century to modern times. Sessions will focus on the main genres of the Hebrew illuminated manuscript, the Bible, the Passover Haggadah, and Mahzor, and will relate to such topics as: representation and the second commandment; reading images as interpretations; the

singularity of Jewish art and the question of Christian and Islamic influence; Jewish-Christian relations through the prism of book art; and historical events as reflected in illustrations. Sessions will also treat the making of the illuminated book; relations between scribes, illuminators and patrons; and the question of Jewish artists and Christian ateliers.

2004 Topic: “Hebrew Printing 1470 to 1750”

Speaker: Mordecai Glatzer, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The two-day program will provide an overview of its subject, including: issues in the historiography of early Hebrew printing; the development of the technology of Hebrew printing during its first century; and the revolutionary contributions of Hebrew printing to Jewish culture along with the destructive impact of printing on textual transmission. The various topics covered in the workshop will be illustrated by the reading of texts, with special attention to colophons and their use as historical sources.

2003 Topic: “Early Hebrew Printing”

Speaker: Mordecai Glatzer, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The two-day program will provide an overview of its subject, including: the transition from the manuscript to the printed book, the technology of early printing and its various techniques; model-copies and their function; the chronology of early Hebrew printing and its historiography; printing and textual emendation; internal censorship; and the revolutionary impact of Hebrew printing on Jewish culture. The various topics covered in the workshop will be illustrated by reading of texts, with special attention to the challenges and problems of reading colophons and using them as historical sources for the reconstruction of the history of early printing.

2002 Topic: “Medieval Hebrew Script”

Speaker: Malachi Beit-Arié, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The two-day program will provide an overview of its subject, including such topics as the evolution and typology of Medieval Hebrew script into its three modes (i.e. square, semi-cursive and cursive); its main branches ('Islamic-Arabic,' 'Christian-Latin,' and 'Byzantine-Greek'); and its main types and subtypes (e.g. Oriental, Sefardic, Ashkenazic, etc.). The Workshop will also include hands-on practice in reading legibly difficult manuscripts; in recognizing ligatures; in differentiating hands, and identifying individual elements within stereotype handwritings. If time permits, one session will be devoted to reading colophons and to reading dates according to the various systems. Participants working on specific manuscripts will also be encouraged to submit them before the Workshop so that Professor Beit-Arie can help in their study.

2001 Topic: “Medieval Hebrew Codicology and Paleography”

Speaker: Malachi Beit-Arié, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The two-day program will provide an overview of the field of Hebrew codicology in cross-cultural and comparative perspective and of the methods of localizing and dating Hebrew manuscripts. The primary focus will be on the technical aspects of writing materials and their typological significance, on the formation of a codex, including features like quiring and ruling, as well as on the ways that scribal layout devices shape the page. The paleographical segment will cover techniques for differentiating handwriting types and individual elements within stereotype handwritings. As the basis for the workshop, Prof. Beit-Arie will select original sources, including

genizah fragments and illuminated Hebrew manuscripts, from the rare book collections of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

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