



News from the Norman E. Alexander Jewish Studies Library at Columbia University Libraries

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

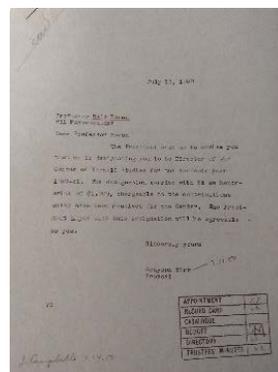
VOLUME 6, NUMBER 2

New and Newly Processed Judaica in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library:

- Seder Pidyon haben, Amsterdam, 1806. [List of first-born boys in Amsterdam]
- Letter from Shemu'el David Luzzatto regarding Spinoza, 1847
- Seder Mazal Betulah (Mantua, 1682) on funds to marry off indigent brides
- Hazaniya (Prayerbook) for Yom Kippur, Corfu Rite, 1813/1814
- Program of the new regulations of the institute of public instruction of the Israelite community (Ferrara, 1849)
- Jews in the Bolognan Inquisition, 1484

News

This fall will feature the 10th annual Norman E. Alexander Lecture in Jewish Studies. To celebrate this milestone, the virtual lecture will feature three scholars who have worked extensively with the Columbia Judaica collections: Dr. J. H. Chajes (University of Haifa), Dr. Francesco Spagnolo (University of California at Berkeley), and Alexis Hagadorn (Columbia University). The Norman E. Alexander Symposium on Collections will take place on December 2, 2020, entitled *Mystics, Music, and Microscopes: Celebrating Ten Years of Research in the Norman E. Alexander Library of Jewish Studies*. Please join us by registering here: <https://events.columbia.edu/go/nea10>



Letter from Provost Grayson Kirk appointing Salo Baron director of the new Institute for Israel Studies, July 1950

In other anniversary news, the Norman E. Alexander Library is proud to participate with the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies in a several events celebrating 90 years since Salo Baron's hire as the first professor of Jewish History in the Western Hemisphere and 70 years since the establishment of the Institute. Michelle Chesner gave a presentation on "Salo Baron and The Finest Collection," on Baron's essential work in making the Columbia libraries among the most important Judaica collections worldwide. A special event celebrating the anniversary will be held on November 15 entitled "[Salo Baron: Celebrating 90 Years of Jewish Studies at Columbia.](#)"

Notwithstanding the remoteness of the courses this semester, there is still plenty of engagement with the libraries and the collections. Courses visited (or to be visited) include "*History of Jews in the Islamic World, 1800-2000*," and "*Topics in Jewish Studies.*" Due to the unusual circumstances this year, there will also be a special session giving an overview of [Digital Resources in Jewish Studies](#). One fantastic example of a digitized resource can be found in the newly re-digitized and preserved audio files from the Language and Culture Atlas for Ashkenazic Jewry, available via the [finding aid](#) for the collection. More details about the study of Yiddish at Columbia can be found in an [online exhibition](#) that went live at the end of 2019. In other digital news, digitized manuscripts continue to be added to Columbia's [Hebrew Manuscripts](#) site on the Internet Archive.

A joint project between Columbia, New York University, and the New York Public Library to digitize the American Jewish Press as part of the Historical Jewish Press project was [recently featured](#) on the NYPL blog. The three institutions are preparing to enter the fifth phase of this important collaborative endeavor.



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Norman E. Alexander Library for Jewish Studies