Scroll Down: Classical Jewish Texts, from Parchment to Internet

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Aleppo Codex
C. 930
Tiberias

http://aleppocodex.org/

Sample page shows portions of Ezekiel 2-3

St. Petersburg (Leningrad) Codex
1009 / Tiberias

(digital images not available online)

Sample page Genesis 1

Digital Dead Sea Scrolls / Google / Israel Museum

1QIsaa
The Great Isaiah Scroll

http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/

Isaiah 6:3 (1QIsaa): Holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts, all the earth is filled with his glory.
Isaiah 6:3 (Masoretic Text): Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts, all the earth is filled with his glory.
Isaiah 6:3 (1QIsaa):
Holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts, all the earth is filled with his glory.

Isaiah 6:3 (Masoretic Text):
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts, all the earth is filled with his glory.

4Q394 = 4QMMTφ fragments

4Q271 = 4QDT – Damascus Document

Ben Sira, c. 180 B.C.E. – http://www.bensira.org/

Mishna Kaufmann Manuscript A50 (Budapest) Italy, c. 1200
http://kaufmann.mtak.hu/ep wysi30/m52 cod1.htm
Mishna Parma Manuscript, Biblioteca Palatina 3173
(De Rossi 138)
Italy, 1073

Mishna Manuscript / c. 1150 / Italy
Jewish Theological Seminary – http://jts-ms-r1622-1.org/

Mishna text from the Cairo Geniza
(Berakhot 1:1
Zevahim 5:5)
Cambridge University Library,
T-S E2.82

Mishna Manuscript / c. 1150 / Italy
Jewish Theological Seminary – http://jts-ms-r1622-1.org/

Mishna manuscripts:
שָׁקוֹף (M. ‘Ohalot 9:10, 10:7, 11:7, 12:8 [2x])
מַשְׁקוֹף (M. Pesahim 9:5, clearly based on Exod 12:7)

Mishna printed editions:
שָׁקוֹף – in all six places
מַשְׁקוֹף – in all six places

Mishna printed editions:
שָׁקוֹף
מַשְׁקוֹף

Mishna Sanhedrin 4:5 – a major theological point

Printed editions:
של המאבד תפשה אתות מיושאם מטלה עליה המחבר יאבר עליה הוא
ולכּי המحكيم תפשה אתות מיושאם מטלה עליה המחבר
כּ kjovj לא

Manuscripts:
של המאבד תפשה אתות מיושאם מטלה עליה המחבר
וכל המحكيم תפשה אתות מיושאם עליה kjovj לא
Mishna Sanhedrin 4:5 – a major theological point

Printed editions:
One who destroys a life within Israel, he brings upon himself the saying, “It is as if he has destroyed an entire world.” And one who raises up a life within Israel, he brings upon himself the saying, “It is as if he raised up an entire world.”

Manuscripts:
One who destroys a life, he brings upon himself the saying, “It is as if he has destroyed an entire world.” And one who raises up a life, he brings upon himself the saying, “It is as if he raised up an entire world.”

Leiden Or. 4720
the only extant complete manuscript of the Talmud Yerushalmi
written in 1289 by Rabeinu Yechiel ben Yekutiel HaRofe of Rome
today bound in two volumes, consisting of 682 folios

http://www.yerushalmionline.org/manuscripts/

Talmud Yerushalmi / Leiden Manuscript
(Talmud of the Land of Israel)
Leiden Manuscript
(Rome, 1289)
Sample Page

Op de Bibliotheken van de Universiteit Leiden

Talmud Yerushalmi / Leiden Manuscript
End of Tractate Berakhot / Beginning of Tractate Pe’ah
Talmud Yerushalmi manuscript from the Cairo Geniza
Tractate Sanhedrin / Cambridge T-S G2.132

http://daten.digitale-sammlungen.de/~db/0000/bsb00003409/images/

Talmud Bavli (Babylonian Talmud)
Munich Manuscript
(France, 1342)
Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Cod.hebr.95

Babylonian Talmud
Paris Manuscript (1337)
(incomplete)

A comparison of Babylonian Talmud manuscripts
Bavli Berakhot 4b

How often to recite Psalm 145 each day, in order to gain the world to come?

Paris (and other mss): 1x each day
Munich (and other mss): 3x each day

Bavli Berakhot 4b, Paris MS, folio 193r
Bibliothèque Nationale de France, no. 671
See also Oxford Ms. Opp. Add. fol. 23 (no images available)

Talmud Bavli fragment from the Cairo Geniza
Cambridge T-S F1(1).65a
Berakhot 2b-3a
First Printed Edition of the Babylonian Talmud
Printed by Daniel Bomberg
Venice, 1520-23
Sample page from Tractate Yevamot

Targum Onqelos
BL Ms. Or. 2363
fol. 173r
Deuteronomy 1
Persia / Babylonia with Babylonian niqqud
11th-12th century
http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Or_2363

Targum Neofiti
Rome – 1499 / 1504
Correctly identified in 1949
fol. 446v, end of Torah, plus colophon
http://digi.vatlib.it/view/MSS_Neofiti.1
Maimonides

(1140 – 1205)

Guide for the Perplexed

Copenhagen Manuscript

Barcelona, 1348

http://www.kb.dk/permalink/2006/manus/293/

Bodleian, Mishneh Torah, beginning – fol. 2a (left) | fol. 1b (right)

“Checked against my book, I, Moshe be-Rabbi Maimon” (followed by homage to his father in Arabic)

Maimonides Mishneh Torah ‘Code of Jewish Law’

Oxford Manuscript / Bodleian Library MS Huntington 80, folio 165a

“Checked against my book, I, Moshe be-Rabbi Maimon” (followed by homage to his father in Arabic)
Maimonides
Guide for the Perplexed
Copenhagen Manuscript
Barcelona, 1348

Colophon:
Levi ben Isaac (scribe)
Menahem Bezalel (patron)
Ferrer Bassa (artist) (?)

King Pedro IV of Aragon

Ben Ezra Synagogue – Cairo, Egypt

The opening in the Women’s Gallery to the Geniza
(Geniza = storeroom)

https://fjms.genizah.org/ | Friedberg Genizah Project

Tafsirof
Saadia Gaon
Cambridge
T-S Ar.1a.2

Just one of the 300,000 documents found in the Cairo Geniza during the 1890’s.
The vast majority (193,000) are housed in Cambridge, the second largest collection (31,000) is at Jewish Theological Seminary— with Oxford, Manchester, St Petersburg, and Philadelphia also holding significant numbers of documents.
The ‘Four’ Questions / מה נשתנה

Mishna manuscripts
Three questions (dipping, matzah, roasting)

Mishna printed editions
Four questions (dipping, matzah, bitter herbs, reclining) (to conform to the Babylonian rite)

MS JTS (New York)
Two questions (dipping, roasting)

MS Dropsie/CAJS (Philadelphia)
Three questions (dipping, matzah, roasting)

CULT-S H2.152 verso
Passover Haggadah text with five questions!

CUL T-S H2.152 verso
Passover Haggadah text with five questions!

Birkat ha-Mazon
‘Grace after Meals’
Johannes of Oppido = Obadiah the Proselyte
c. 1070 – c. 1130

1. Oppido
2. Constantinople
3. Baghdad
4. Aleppo
5. Banias
6. Fustat / Cairo

• c. 1070 – born in Oppido, southern Italy
• son of a Norman aristocrat named Dreux
• entered the Catholic priesthood
• as a youth Johannes was influenced by the conversion of Andreas, archbishop of Bari, who adopted Judaism in Constantinople
• c. 1102 – Johannes converted to Judaism

Johannes of Oppido = Obadiah the Proselyte
• Travels throughout the Near East:
  o Iraq
  o Syria
  o Israel
• Settles in Egypt:
  o Fustat / Cairo
• Numerous documents found in the Cairo Geniza, including his memoir and various compositions

Obadiah Memoir
14 pages of text, in the Budapest, Cambridge, and New York collections

My next digital humanities project: www.johannes-ovadya.org

Hebrew prayer barukh hag-gever ‘blessed is the man’ (based on Jeremiah 17:7)
Hebrew prayer *barukh hag‐gever* 'blessed is the man' – set to Gregorian Chant –

Epistle of Rabbi Barukh of Aleppo, on behalf of Obadiah ha-Ger

http://genizah.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/fragment/MS_Heb_a_3/1a

http://genizah.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/fragment/MS_Heb_a_3/1b


Beginning of the Epistle of Rabbi Barukh of Aleppo

Bodleian MS Heb. a.3

Italian Rite

“Woman’s Siddur” (JTS MS 8255) folio 5v

Gift of the scribe Abraham Farissol to his bride

Italy 1471

http://www.jtslibrarytreasures.org/
Italian Rite
“Woman’s Siddur”
(JTS MS 8255)
folio 5v
Gift of the scribe
Abraham Farissol
to his bride
Italy 1471

Kernicott Bible
Written in
La Coruña,
Spain, 1476
Now in the
Bodleian Library
(Oxford)
opening page of
the biblical text
Genesis 1

Kernicott Bible
Written in
La Coruña,
Spain, 1476
final page of
the Torah text
Deuteronomy 34

Kernicott Bible
Written in
La Coruña,
Spain, 1476
Opening of the
book of Jonah
I, Moshe son of Jacob ibn Zabara, the scribe . . . I wrote and I proofread and I added the Masora and I checked these twenty-four books, in one collection; and I concluded it on Wednesday, the 3rd day of the month of Av, in the year [5235] [=1476 C.E.], here in the place La Coruña . . . for the delightful young-man Isaac, dear firstborn-son of Don Shelomo de Braga . . .

Second colophon, with the name of the artist, Yosef ben Hayyim

Kennicott Bible colophon

with names, place, date, etc.

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