“Goodly Treasures New and Old:”
A Lecture on the Song of Songs
by Gary A. Rendsburg
Blanche and Irving Laurie Professor of Jewish History,
Rutgers University

Following the talk there will be a Display of Rare Books
(new and old) from the collections of the Library of Congress

Osculetur me
“kiss me”

Lothian Bible
Pierpont Morgan Library

c. 1220 | England
Beginning of the Song of Songs in the Kennicott Bible
Spain, 1476
folio 404v
Bodleian Library (Oxford)

End of the Song of Songs in the Kennicott Bible
Spain, 1476
folio 406v
Bodleian Library (Oxford)
Song of Songs – repetition with variation

Song 2:5
כִּי־חוֹלַ֥ת אָֽנִי׃ אַהֲבָ֖ה
For I am sick with love.

Song 5:8
אָֽנִי׃ שֶׁחוֹלַ֥ת אַהֲבָ֖ה
That I am sick with love?

Song 2:6
תְּחַבְּ קֵֽנִישְׂמֹאלוֹ֙ וִימִינ֖וֹ לְרֹאשִׁ֔י;
His left-hand is beneath my head,
and his right-hand embraces me.

Song 8:3
תְּחַבְּ קֵֽנִי׃ וִֽימִינ֖וֹ רֹאשִׁ֔י תַּ֣חַת שְׂמֹאלוֹ֙
His left-hand is under my head,
and his right-hand embraces me.
Song of Songs – repetition with variation

Song 2:16

בַּשּׁוֹשַׁנִּֽים׃
הָרֹעֶ֖ה ל֔וֹ
וַאֲנִ֣י לִי
דּוֹדִ֥י

My beloved is mine, and I am his,
grazing among the lilies.

Song 6:3

אנִי לִדוֹדִ֥י לְדוֹדִ֖י
הָרֹעֶ֑ה לִ֔י
וְדוֹדִ֩י אֲנִ֤י

I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine,
grazing among the lilies.

Song of Songs – repetition with variation

Song 2:9

דּוֹמֶ֤ה לְעֹ֣פֶר אוּלֶ֖פֶר לִצְבִ֑י
הָאַיָּלִ֖יםדוֹדִ֙

My beloved is-like a gazelle,
or a fawn of the hinds.

Song 2:17

בָּתֶר עַל־הָ֥רֵי הָֽאַיָּלִ֖ים לְעֹ֣פֶר אוּלֶ֖פֶר לִצְבִ֑י
דְּמֵה־לְךָ֙׃סֹב֩

Turn, liken yourself, my beloved, to a gazelle,
or to a fawn of the hinds,
apon the mountains of cleavage.

Song 8:14

בְּרַ֣ח הָעַ֖ל הָאַיָּלִ֗ים לְעֹ֣פֶר אוּלֶ֖פֶר לִצְבִ֑י וֻֽדְמֵה־לְךָדּוֹדִ֗י בְשָׂמִֽים׃׀
רֵ֥י

Flee, my beloved, and liken yourself to a gazelle,
or to a fawn of the hinds,
apon the mountains of spices.
Song of Songs – repetition with variation

Song 4:1  Your hair is like a flock of goats, that flow down from Mount Gil’ad.

Song 6:5  Your hair is like a flock of goats, that flow down from the Gil’ad.

Song 4:2  Your teeth are like a flock of shorn-ones, who come up from the washing.

Song 6:6  Your teeth are like a flock of ewes, who come up from the washing.
Song of Songs – alliteration

Song 1:7
Where do you cause-(them)-to-lie-down at noon?
‘eka tarbiṣ baṣ-šoharayim

Song 1:17
The rafters of our house are cedars, our runners are cypresses.
qorot battenu ’arazim rahitenu berotim

Song of Songs – alliteration

Song 3:6
Who is this coming up from the wilderness, like columns of smoke;
redolent with myrrh and frankincense, with every powder of the merchant.
ke-timarot . . . mequṭṭeret

Song 4:2
All of whom are twinned, and none of them bereaved.
šek-kullam mat’imot we-šakkula ’en bahem
Song of Songs – alliteration

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Song 2:12

The blossoms appear in the land,
The time of zamir has arrived;
The voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.
Song 2:12

The blossoms appear in the land,
The time of zamir has arrived;
The voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

זָמִיר zamir = ‘pruning, singing’