

Gary A. Rendsburg

Upcoming Lectures July 14th & 17th

Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Dear Friends,

We hope that everyone had a relaxing, enjoyable, and meaningful Fourth of July weekend.

Gary will be presenting two programs next week, one stand-alone lecture for the Flint Institute of Arts (Flint, Michigan) (July 14), and one all-day program for the Smithsonian Associates (Washington, D.C.) (July 17):

Lecture #1 – July 14th: (via Zoom)

“The Greatest Bible Ever Written: Kennicott no. 1, La Coruña, Spain, 1476”

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

6:00 p.m. (EDT)

Flint Institute of Arts (Flint, Michigan)

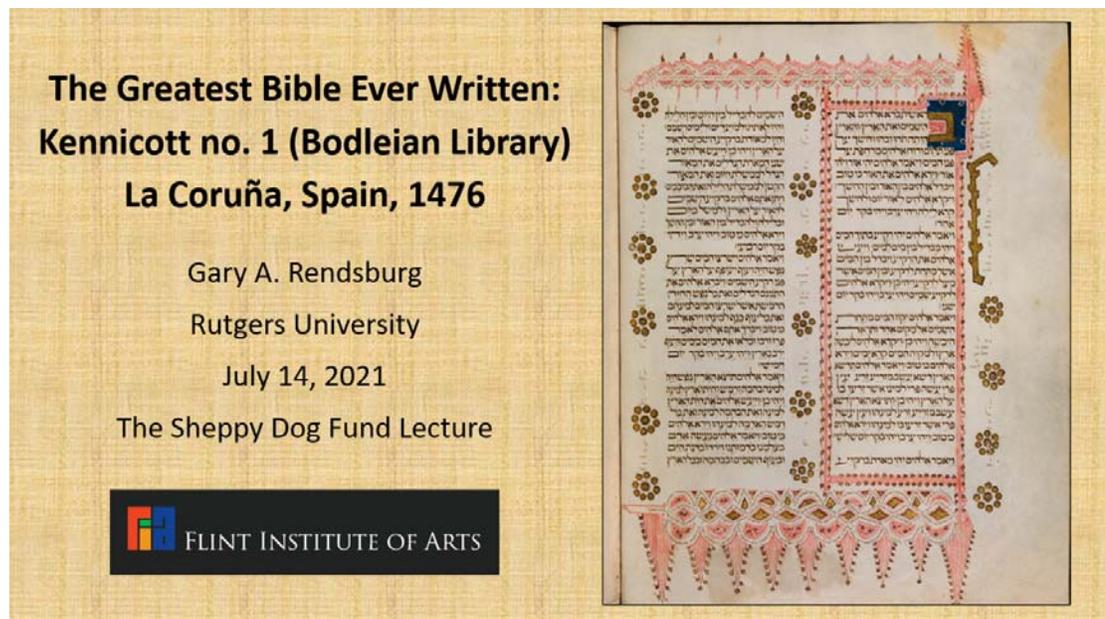
Free and open to the public: <https://flintarts.org/events/lectures>

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/161622777680/WN_raEo3OqzQYy99W2iqb6PSw

The Kennicott Bible is the crown jewel of all medieval Hebrew manuscripts, expertly written by a skillful scribe and beautifully illuminated by an ingenious artist. What makes the manuscript even more remarkable is that it was written in 1476, just 16 years prior to the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492, in the wake of the Alhambra Decree of Ferdinand and Isabella.

In addition, printing (movable type) had just been invented, and in fact, Hebrew font was created just a few years earlier, sometime between 1470 and 1475, in northern Italy (though such technology had not yet reached Spain).

Join us for this virtual tour of the most sumptuous Hebrew Bible manuscript ever produced, as Gary discusses the Kennicott Bible, its layout, format, biblical text, and beautiful illuminations.



**The Greatest Bible Ever Written:
Kennicott no. 1 (Bodleian Library)
La Coruña, Spain, 1476**

Gary A. Rendsburg
Rutgers University
July 14, 2021
The Sheppy Dog Fund Lecture

 FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Lecture #2 – July 17th: (via Zoom)

“England as the Custodian of the Jewish Past”

All-day program - four lectures, with a lunch break.

Saturday, July 17, 2021

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (EDT)

Smithsonian Associates (Washington, D.C.)

<https://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/tickets/england-custodian-of-jewish-past>

The Duke of Sussex – no, not Prince Harry, but rather Prince Augustus Frederick, son of King George III – collected Hebrew Bibles. An 18th-century Oxford don traveled throughout Europe to inspect Hebrew Bible manuscripts and to obtain a few select ones for the Bodleian Library. John Selden, whom John Milton called “the chief of learned men reputed in this land,” collected manuscripts of the Code of Jewish Law written by Moses Maimonides. Charles Taylor, master of St. John’s College, Cambridge, expended the funds to bring 200,000 Jewish documents found in a Cairo synagogue’s attic storeroom back to Cambridge.

Why were these venerable English personages so fascinated by Jewish history? Join our self-styled Anglophile as Gary draws on many summers and sabbaticals spent conducting research in English museums and libraries to find the answers to this question. Follow him through the centuries, commencing with the Middle Ages and then continuing the narrative from the Tudors to the Victorians.

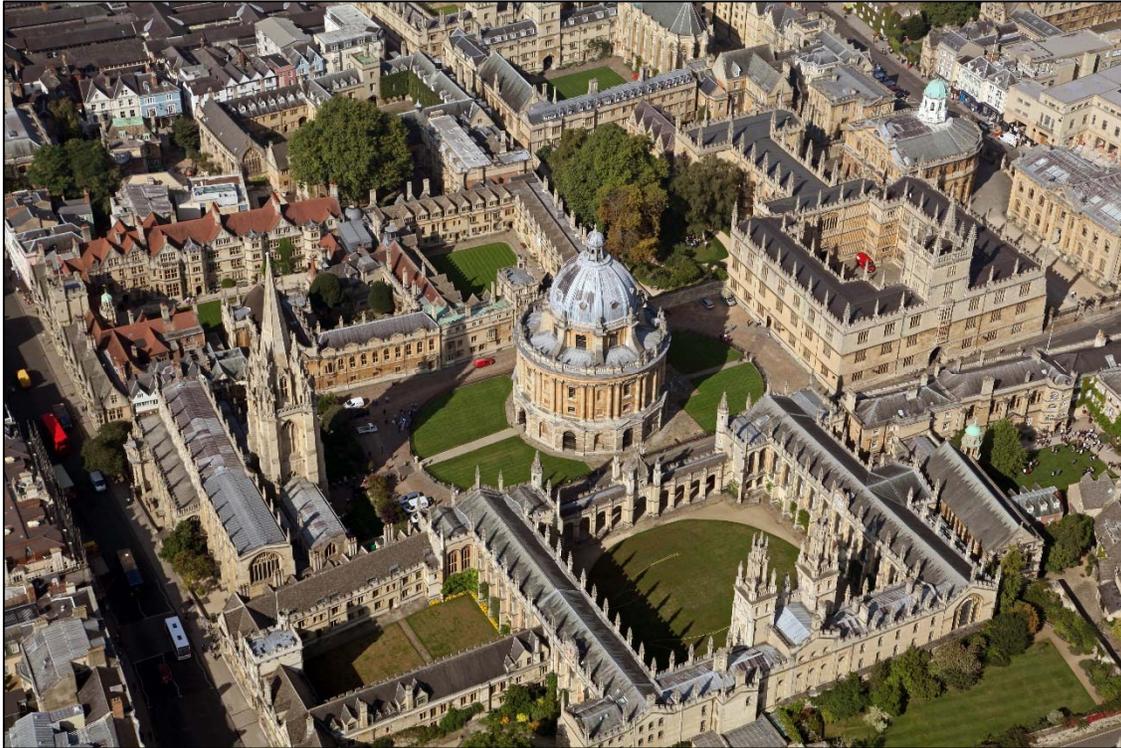
9:30 – 10:45 a.m. :: Setting the Stage: Oxford and Cambridge

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. :: The Bodleian Library, University of Oxford

12:15 – 1:15 p.m. :: Lunch break

1:15 – 2:30 p.m. :: The Cairo Geniza: Discovery and Documents

2:45 – 4:00 p.m. :: The British Library, the British Museum, and the John Rylands Library



Aerial view of Oxford, with the three main buildings (left to right):
 St. Mary's University Church (with steeple), the Radcliffe Camera (round building), and the Bodleian
 Library Old Quad (rectangular building with tower).



Prince Augustus Frederick
 Duke of Sussex (1773 – 1843),
 son of King George III



Duke of Sussex Bible
 Catalonia, c. 1350
 BL Add MS 15252 (fol. 116v)



Getty Villa - Los Angeles

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Getty_Villa

And now for some exciting news:

Getty Villa – Residential Scholar Fellowship (Spring 2022)

We are delighted to report that Gary has been awarded a Getty Residential Scholar fellowship at the Getty Villa (Los Angeles) for academic year 2021–2022, with in-person residency planned for the period of mid-April through end-of-June 2022.

The general theme for the academic year is “Phoenicians, Philistines, and Canaanites: The Levant and the Classical World,” while his specific research project will focus on “The Spread of Phoenician Writing Culture to Ancient Greece”

https://www.getty.edu/research/scholars/years/2020_2021-villa.html

As you can imagine, this is a special honor and a unique opportunity to engage with colleagues from around the world on the academic theme.

For those of you who live in the Los Angeles area, we even may find the occasion to meet in person!

– Gary & Melissa