



Gary A. Rendsburg

Upcoming Lecture
February 2022

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Dear Friends,

In the weeks ahead, Gary will deliver:

- 1) a prestigious named lecture in person at the University of Oxford, England;
- 2) teach a 3-part series for the Princeton Adult School; and
- 3) deliver an all-day program for Smithsonian Associates.

Details as follows:

Oxford, England

As you can imagine, it is a high honor for Gary to deliver a named lecture at the University of Oxford:

Sixth Annual Edward Ullendorff Memorial Lecture

Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies (OCHJS)
University of Oxford (England and an in-person lecture)
Tuesday, 15 February 2022, 6:00 p.m. (GMT)

“The Significance of Ugaritic for the Study of the Bible”

<https://www.ochjs.ac.uk/public-lectures/edward-ullendorff-memorial-lectures/>

The lecture will be a hybrid event: Gary will deliver the lecture in-person, but it also will be both live-streamed and recorded for future posting at the OCHJS Vimeo page.

If you are interested in watching the lecture in real-time (1:00 p.m. EST), here is the link to the Zoom registration:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIPC-6trTosG9T96tvh14xzb71WBJ5qCVrY>

Edward Ullendorff (1920–2011) was a much beloved professor of Semitic languages at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) (London), though he lived in Oxford, where he was an enthusiastic supporter of OCHJS activities. As testimony thereto, friends of Professor Ullendorff created the annual lecture in his memory, delivered each year in Oxford.

Gary knew many of the great luminaries in the field, including Edward Ullendorff's main mentor at the Hebrew University, several of his fellow students in Jerusalem, and a number of his distinguished disciples who now dot the academic landscape, both in Israel and in Great Britain – but somehow, much to his great regret, he never had the opportunity to meet Professor Ullendorff personally, though they did correspond occasionally over the years.

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THE SIXTH
EDWARD ULLENDORFF
MEMORIAL LECTURE

Professor Gary A. Rendsburg
Rutgers University

The Significance of Ugaritic
for the Study of the Bible

Gary A. Rendsburg serves as the Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair of Jewish History at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., U.S.A. His academic interests include the Bible, the history of the Hebrew language, Semitic languages generally, ancient Egypt, the Dead Sea scrolls, the Cairo Geniza, and the medieval Hebrew manuscript tradition. On five occasions during the past dozen years, he has served as visiting scholar affiliated with OCHJS (during summers and sabbaticals). His most recent book is *How the Bible Is Written* (2019).



Professor Edward Ullendorff

Week 5, Tuesday, 15 February 2022

6:00 pm (UK time)

This lecture will be a hybrid session which will be accessible both online (see below) and in person in the Catherine Lewis Lecture Room (refreshments to follow).

In order to participate in this lecture online, please register at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register?Zlpc=6trT0sG9T96tvh14xsh71WRf5qCYrY>





Three-Part Series for the Princeton Adult School (Princeton, NJ)

“The Tribes of Israel: Lost and Found”

Tuesdays, February 22 / March 1 / March 8, 2022

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. (EST) (via Zoom)

Registration details here (course code 007):

<https://www.ssreg.com/princeton/classes/classes.asp?catID=5759&pcatID=5758>

Description: The field of biblical archaeology has informed the study of the Bible for about 150 years now. Join us as world expert Gary Rendsburg guides us through the wealth of material at the intersection of the written Bible and scientific interpretation. We will use both sources to explore the Exodus from Egypt, the emergence of the Israelites in the land of Canaan, the reigns of David and Solomon, as well as the era of the lost tribes.

Lecture titles:

1. “Israel In-and-Out of Egypt (or: Was There an Exodus?)” (Tuesday, February 22, 2022)
2. “David and Solomon: Real Kings or Imagined Past?” (Tuesday, March 1, 2022)
3. “Israel and Judah, Assyria and Babylonia” (Tuesday, March 8, 2022)

The Tribes of Israel: Lost and Found

Gary A. Rendsburg
Blanche and Irving Laurie
Chair in Jewish History
Rutgers University

Princeton Adult School
Three-Part Series
February 22, 2022
March 1, 2022
March 8, 2022





Smithsonian Associates All-Day Program

“The Jewish Diaspora: Finding a Home in the World”

Saturday, February 26, 2022


9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (EST) (Washington, D.C.) via Zoom

<https://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/tickets/jewish-diaspora-finding-home-in-world>

Description: After the destruction of both the First Temple (586 B.C.) and the Second Temple (70 A.D.), Jews left their ancestral home in Israel to settle in other lands, both near and far. By 1000, Jews were living in communities from Yemen in the south to the Russian steppes in the north, and from India in the east to Iberia in the west. Biblical scholar and historian Gary Rendsburg presents a fascinating survey of

selected Jewish diaspora communities from the ancient and medieval periods. (See detailed schedule below.)

The Jewish Diaspora: Finding a Home in the World



Gary A. Rendsburg, Rutgers University
All-Day Program / Saturday, February 26, 2022

SMITHSONIAN ASSOCIATES
ENTERTAINING. INFORMATIVE. ECLECTIC. INSIGHTFUL.

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. The First Diasporas: Egypt and Babylonia

Following the destruction of the First Temple, Jews left the land of Israel in large numbers. Archaeological remains of Jewish life in Egypt and Babylonia include evidence of an outpost of Jewish soldiers and families on Elephantine Island in Egypt, near Aswan. Hundreds of cuneiform tablets attest to Jewish mercantile and commercial interests in Babylonia.

11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Two Jewish Kingdoms: Himyar and Khazaria

Himyar, the earlier Jewish kingdom founded in exile, began in 380 in southern Arabia (modern-day Yemen) and lasted for the next 150 years—all before the rise of Islam. Khazaria, located in an area that is now southern Russia, was founded ca. 650 and lasted for more than 300 years.

12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Break

1:15 to 2:30 p.m. The Jews of Italy

The diaspora reached Italy in the 1st century, during the heyday of the Roman Empire. For the next two millennia, until the present day, Italy's Jews were leaders in scholarly pursuits, including the creation of important manuscripts of the Mishna and the Talmud, and the printing of the first Hebrew books during the Renaissance.

2:45 to 4:00 p.m. The Jews of Spain

In what was the largest and most prosperous Jewish community during the Middle Ages, Spain's Jews lived under both Muslim rule (in the south) and Christian rule (in the north). They were obliged to constantly negotiate their role and their space within these two realms. Intellectual life flourished: poetry, philosophy, Bible commentaries, and the production of lavishly illuminated manuscripts. This all came to a sudden end in 1492, when Ferdinand and Isabella expelled the Jews, thereby inaugurating a new chapter in Jewish history.

**Special Study Tour:
“England as the Custodian of the Jewish Past”
(August 8-19, 2022)**



We continue to receive bookings for the special study tour of Oxford, Cambridge, and London, with access to the Hebrew manuscript collections at the Bodleian Library (Oxford) and the Cambridge University Library (C.U.L.) in August 2022 – but slots

are still available.

The tour is brought to you by Sababa Travel (Westfield, N.J.), with itinerary, pricing, and registration available

here: <https://traveljoy.com/bookings/gvCkvyWtCSaUqCxAswXLyyDr>

See here for the pdf file with all relevant information:

<https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/docman/rendsburg/920-england-as-the-custodian-of-the-jewish-past-august-2022-tour-itinerary-2/file>

And see here for the “flip-book” version:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/garyarendsburglectureseries/england-as-the-custodian-jewish-past-updated-on-february-3.html>

Naturally, feel free to be in touch with us with any questions, and also feel free to share with family, friends, interested parties, et al.



GARY'S CORNER





Follow-up to the England tour announcement above:

Did you know that the medieval Jewish community of Oxford was one of the largest in England? And that echoes of its glorious past may still be seen in the city?

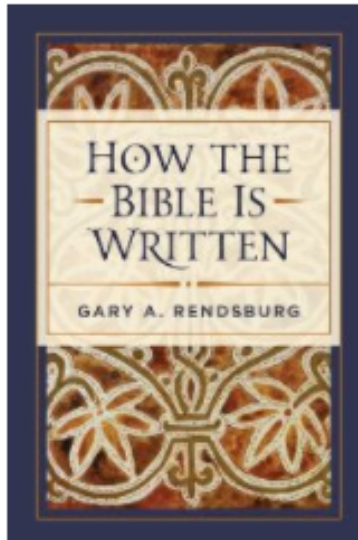
A few choice tidbits: 1) Jacob the Jew sold his land to Walter de Merton for the establishment of Merton College (founded 1262), one of the oldest constituent colleges of the University of Oxford – moreover, the deed of sale retains its legal standing (since the land has not been sold since), and we will see the deed when we visit Merton College Library; 2) the Oxford Botanical Garden sits on the land which once was the burial ground of the Jewish community, with a plaque at the entrance way on prominent display explaining the history to visitors (see image above); and 3) the c. 500-yard path that leads from the old Jewish neighborhood to the Oxford Botanical Garden along the city walls is known as Deadman’s Walk to this day; most people have no idea why this is so, though clearly the name harks back to the medieval period when the Jews would convey their deceased from the synagogue to the burial ground.

All this and more during the course of our days together on the England tour!

- Gary

[Click here to contact Gary A. Rendsburg](#)

[Click here to contact Melissa A. Rendsburg, Managing Director](#)



MOST RECENT BOOK

(April 2019)

How the Bible Is Written

(Hendrickson)

Gary A. Rendsburg Lecture Series

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Department of Jewish Studies – Rutgers University

<https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/people/core-faculty/gary-a-rendsburg>