

England as the Custodian of the Jewish Past

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Rutgers University
Mandelbaum House
14 April 2019




The Norman, Angevin, and Early Plantagenet Periods (1066 – 1290)




Battle of Hastings as portrayed
in the Bayeux Tapestry

Coin of William
the Conqueror



Corpus Christi College,
MS 133 (Oxford)



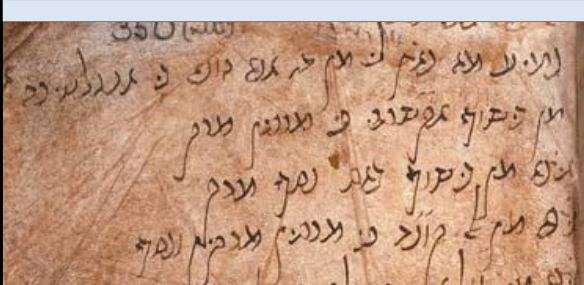
Ashkenazi Siddur
(Prayer Book)
England, c. 1200




Blank pages at the end, written by a Sephardi Jew, recording
(in Judeo-Arabic) debts owed to him by a variety of Christian dignitaries



Corpus Christi College, MS 133: List of debtors in Judeo-Arabic



Corpus Christi College, MS 133
List of debtors in Judeo-Arabic

(fol. 330r)

1 The year commencing first of July

2

3 all that I have since being here in England: first

4 from the Bishop of Exeter one mark, twice;

5 also from the Bishop of Bath half a mark;

6 also from the Count two and a half marks, twice;

7 also from William Chemillé, three times four and a half marks;

8 from the Bishop of Winchester five marks, twice;

9 from Sir Walter Aud Luna half a mark, twice;

10 half a mark/

11 from Rau Bruyere five paid/also Bath;

12 from Walter Gourdoun paid (unidentified numeral)/also Chemillé one mark/

13 also from Oucherty (?) during one year, five marks;

14 also Chemillé half a mark/also Count half a mark/

(fol. 349v)

15 half a mark

16 all that I received from Stillington (?) at first from [Ou]cherty (= Oucherty?) payment (unidentified three numerals)/

17 also from Stillington (?) in his writ to Norwich, one mark;

18 also from Stillington (?) by order of his clerk two marks, twice;

19 also I received by the writ of Sir Harry from the above noted Stillington (?) one mark;

20 and payment 5 (?)/

21 total marks (unidentified numeral)/ and payment 5 (?)/ all this received during a year

Corpus Christi College, MS 133

List of debtors in Judeo-Arabic

Valmadonna, no. 1 (MOTB GC 858), 1189 C.E.
Torah and Targum, Haftarat, Five Scrolls and Targum

Valmadonna, no. 1 (MOTB GC 858), 1189 C.E.
Torah and Targum, Haftarat, Five Scrolls and Targum

Valmadonna, no. 1 (MOTB GC 858)

Complete Pentateuch, with Targum, and Five Scrolls

fol. 482v
Colophon

with original date and subsequent various owners

completed on
15 Tammuz 4949
= 2 July 1189

Judeo-French and Anglo-Norman glosses for the forbidden birds

Leviticus 11



Merton College, Oxford, established 1262



Seal of
Jacob
the Jew



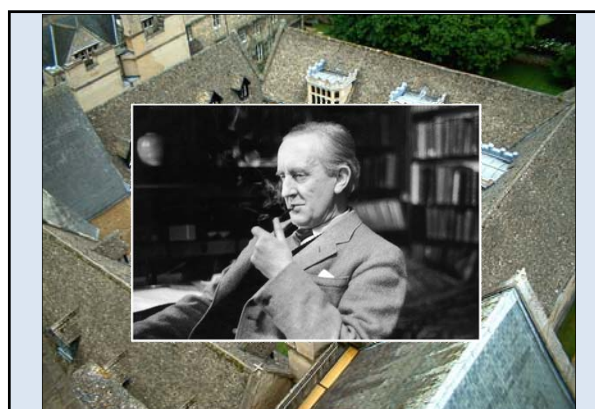
Deed in Latin, recording the sale
of land by Jacob the Jew,
to Walter de Merton, with
summary statement in Hebrew.



Merton College Library (oldest library in continuous use)

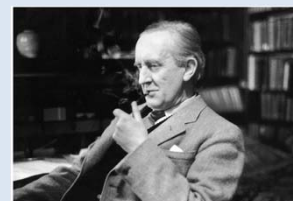


Merton College, Oxford, established 1262



J. R. R. Tolkien, professor at Merton College

J. R. R. Tolkien,
among the
translators of the
Jerusalem Bible
(1966)



The seaweed was wrapped about
my head **at the roots of the
mountains.** (JB: Jonah 2:6-7)
The roots of those mountains
must be roots indeed.
(Gollum, *Lord of the Rings* I.ii.63)





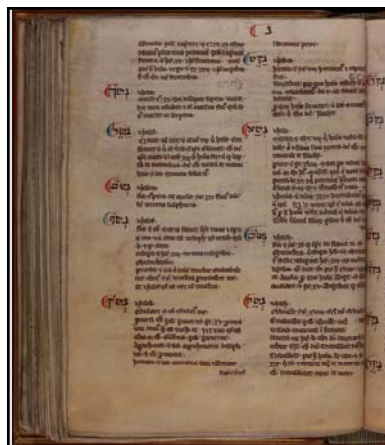
Longleat House
Warminster, Wiltshire
Home of the Marquess of Bath
built 1580



Longleat MS 21

Hebrew-Latin-
(French)
Dictionary

Written at
Ramsey Abbey
(Cambridgeshire)
13th century



Longleat MS 21

Hebrew-Latin-
(French)
Dictionary

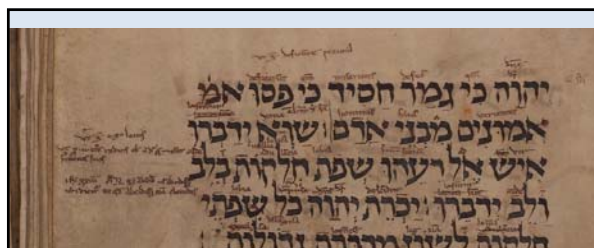
- 3682 entries
- 1392 verbs
- 2290 nouns (plus)
- 1000+ words glossed in Old French
- mentions Rashi 50+ times



Longleat
MS 21

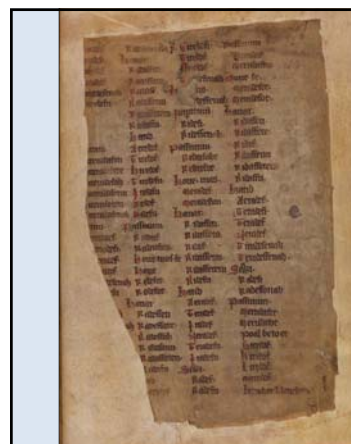
Hebrew-Latin
Book of
Psalms

Written at
Ramsey
Abbey
(Cambridgeshire)
13th century



Longleat MS 21

Hebrew-Latin Book of Psalms
Written at Ramsey Abbey, 13th century



Longleat
MS 21

- Grammatical
Tables,
appearing
both in
Hebrew
and in Latin
transcription



Longleat House

Thomas Thynne,
1st Viscount
Weymouth
(1640 – 1714)



Lachrymose History

- Blood libels:
 - Norwich (1144)
 - Lincoln (1255)
- Massacre of the Jews of York (1190)
- Expulsion under Edward I (1290)

No Jews in England: 1290 – 1657

And yet Hebrew learning continued and flourished:

- Ralph Niger, archdeacon of Gloucester (c. 1140 – c. 1217)
- Roger Bacon, polymath (c. 1214 – c. 1292)
- John Grandisson, Bishop of Exeter (served 1327 – 1369)
- Adam Easton, Cardinal (1328 – 1397)
- Laurence Holbeach, Benedictine monk (14th century)
- Thomas Gascoigne, Vice-Chancellor, Univ of Oxford (1404 – 1458)




CorpusChristi
College Oxford

Founded 1517, with its
biblioteca trilinguis (Erasmus, 1519)



Ashkenazi Prayer Book
England c. 1200
Corpus Christi College,
MS 133 (Oxford)



English Reformation – 16th Century



Regius Professor of Hebrew at Cambridge (1540)
Regius Professor of Hebrew at Oxford (1546)

Antoine Rodolphe Chevallier (1523 – 1572)



Thomas Bodley
(1545 – 1613)



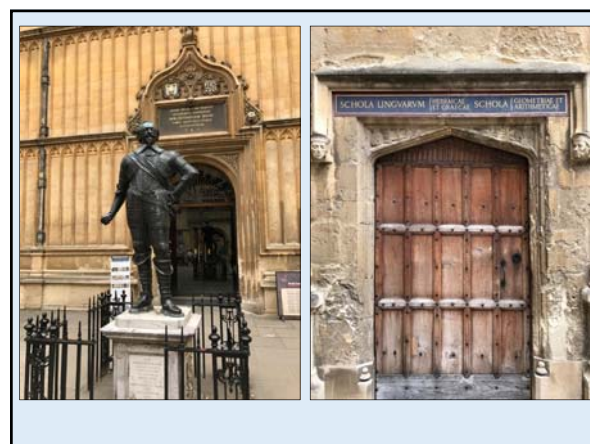


Bodleian Library, 1603 – 1624

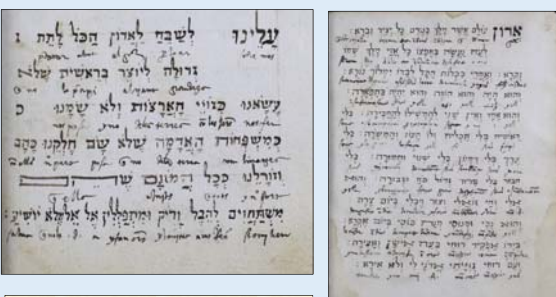
First Bodleian Library catalogue (1605) includes 58 books and manuscripts with Hebrew titles.

Thomas Bodley added his own notations to the catalogue (in Latin), correcting some misprints in the Hebrew.

I concluded at the last to get up my stall at the library door in Oxon, being longingly persuaded, that in my study, and constant look at the Catalogus affert, I could not have access to better papers. — Sir Thomas Bodley

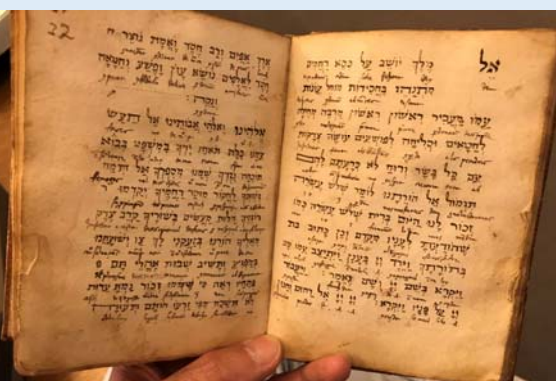



MS Bodl. Or. 3 – Book of Psalms (c. 1300)



Sephardic Siddur (Prayer Book), c. 1500, Hebrew and Catalan

MS Bodl. Or. 9



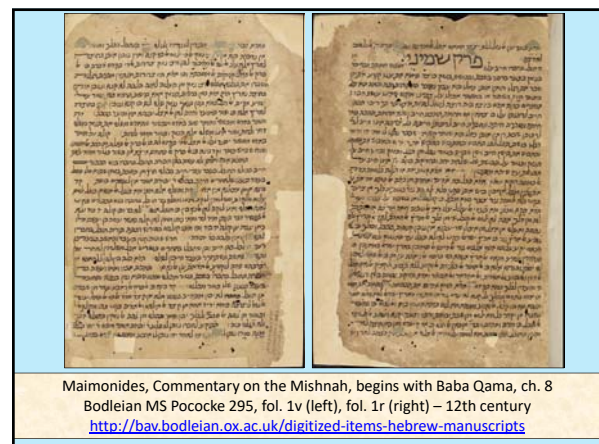
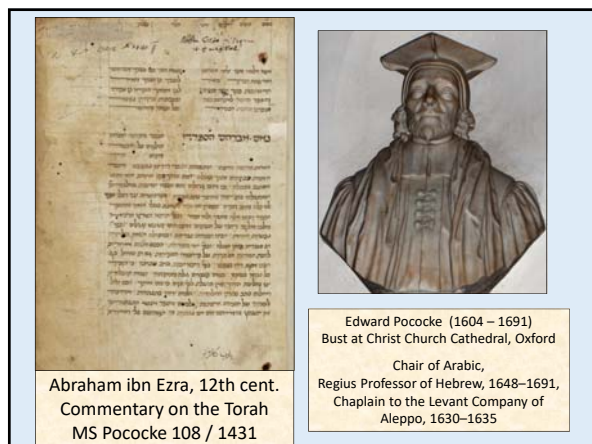
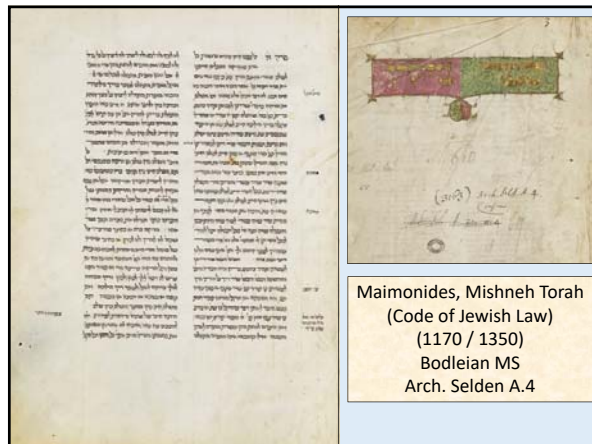
Sephardic Siddur (Prayer Book), c. 1500, Hebrew and Catalan

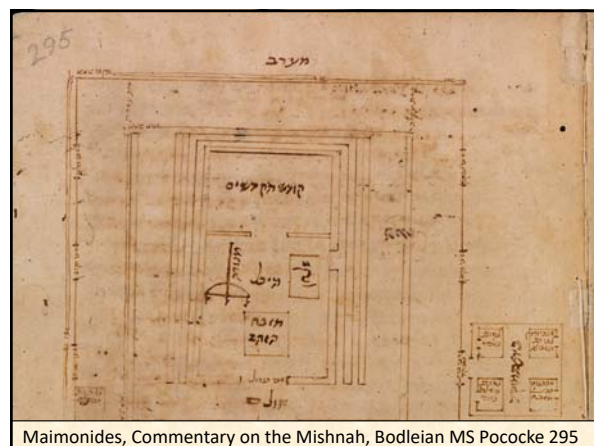
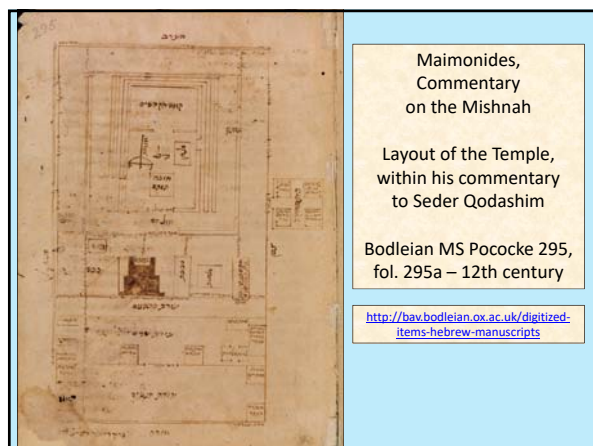
John Selden (1584 – 1654)

Jurist and scholar of Jewish law

His manuscript collection entered the Bodleian Library in 1659







Robert Huntington (1637 – 1701)

- Chaplain to the Levant Company of Aleppo, 1671 – 1681
- Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, 1683 – 1701

- Donated 14 manuscripts to Merton College
- Donated 35 manuscripts to Bodleian Library
- Sold 646 manuscripts to the Bodleian Library in 1693 for £700

Moses Maimonides
(1135 – 1204)

Medical Aphorisms
Fuṣūl Mūsā | פסול מוסא

2 of the 8 extant
manuscripts belonged
to Robert Huntington

MS Hunt. 356, fol. 2r
c. 1300

MS Hunt. Donat. 33,
fol. 2r, c. 1300

Maimonides' Code of Jewish Law

History of the manuscript | Maimonides | Bibliography | About

Mishneh Torah

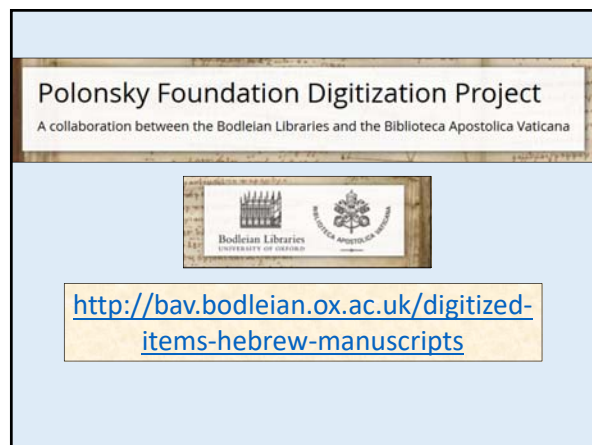
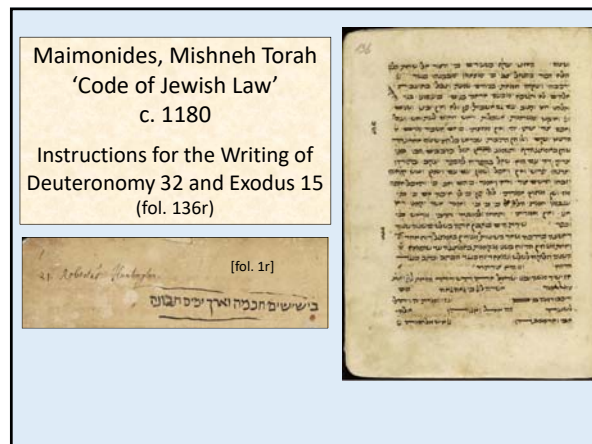
"Corrected against my own book -I, Moses, son of Rabbi Mayman of blessed memory."

Bodleian Libraries, MS. Huntington 80

The Bodleian Libraries are the proud custodian of Maimonides' authorized copy of his major halakhic work, the Mishneh Torah, a code meant to collect disparate rulings and to present them "succinctly and clearly, so that all the Oral Torah will be easily accessible to all" (introduction to the Mishneh Torah, fol. 3). A later owner of the copy, a certain Eliezer, son of Perahya, stipulated in his will that this and the other volumes of the Code (now lost) should remain in the public domain for consultation.

"and in its entirety be placed in the keeping of the Bet Din for ever, that it not be sold or otherwise, nor should any single person ever take possession of it. It should rather be kept available so that all scholars can correct their own versions against it, but not read from it"

<http://maimonides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>





Prince
Augustus Frederick
Duke of Sussex
(1773 – 1843)
c. 1835

- Son of George III
- Brother of George IV
- Favourite Uncle of Queen Victoria
- Governor of Windsor Castle
- Royal Patron of Jews' Hospital and Orphan Asylum (> Norwood Charity)

Moses Wilhelm
Shapira
(1830 – 1884),
agent of the
British Museum
in Jerusalem



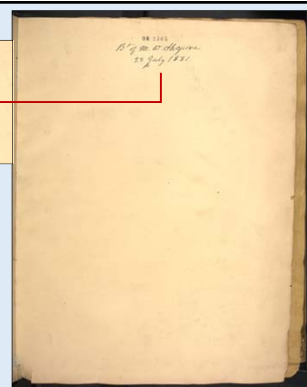
Targum Onqelos
BL Ms. Or. 2363
fol. 173r
Deuteronomy 1
Persia / Babylonia
11th-12th century

http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Or_2363



OR. 2363
13th m. w. Shapira
23 July 1881

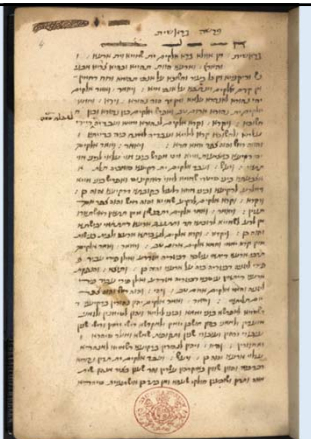
BL Ms. Or. 2363
Blank page at rear:
Purchase Note,
Moses W. Shapira
23 July 1881



Targum Yerushalmi
(Targum Pseudo-Jonathan)
via confusion with ת"י

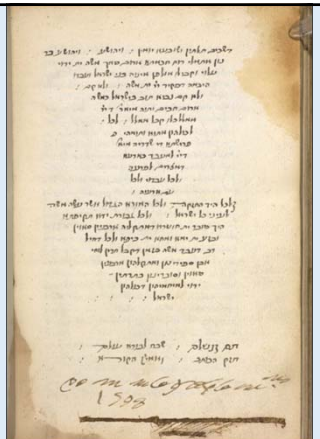
BL Add. 27031, fol. 4r
c. 1500
paper codex
Ashkenazi cursive script
Genesis 1

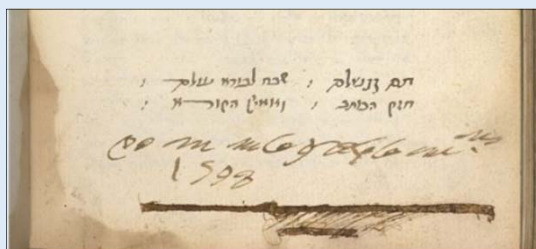
http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Add_MS_27031



Targum Yerushalmi
= Targum Pseudo-Jonathan

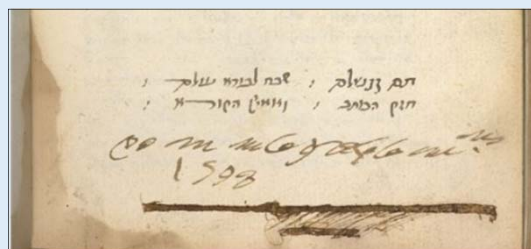
BL Add. 27031
fol. 231v
End of Deuteronomy 34
Plus colophon





Targum Yerushalmi (= Targum Pseudo-Jonathan)

BL Add. 27031, fol. 231v, colophon



Targum Yerushalmi (= Targum Pseudo-Jonathan)

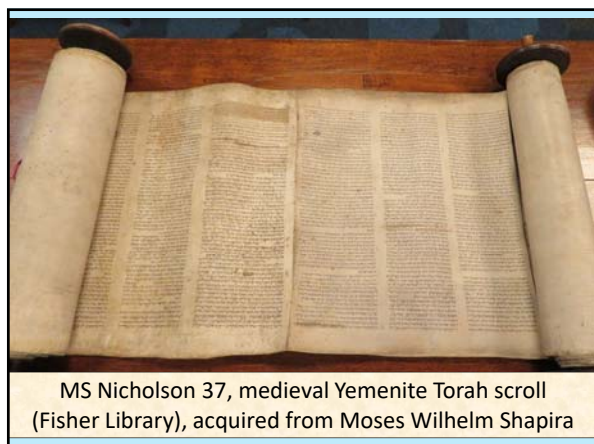
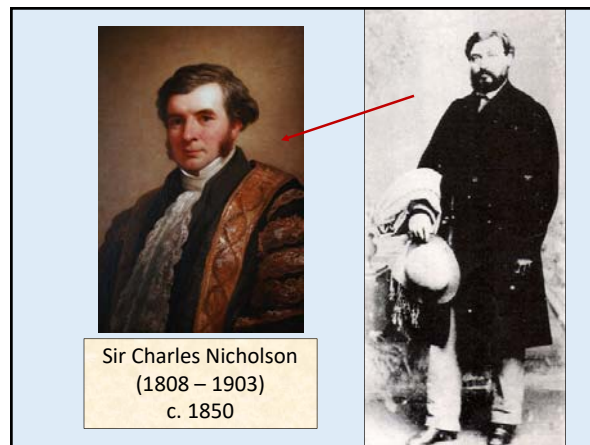
BL Add. 27031, fol. 231v, colophon

Plus censor's signature:

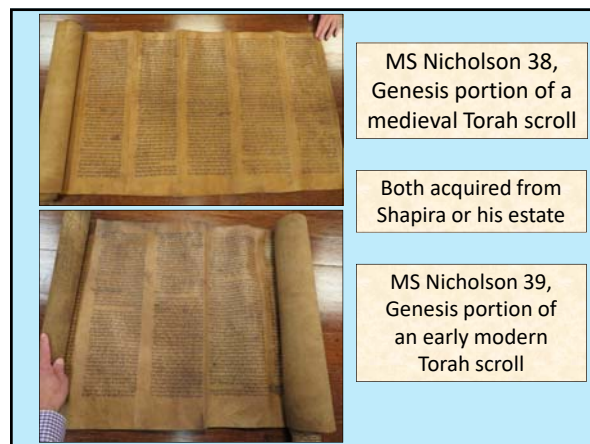
Domenico Irosolimitano (1550 – 1620), 1598



Sir Charles Nicholson
(1808 – 1903)
c. 1850



MS Nicholson 37, medieval Yemenite Torah scroll
(Fisher Library), acquired from Moses Wilhelm Shapira

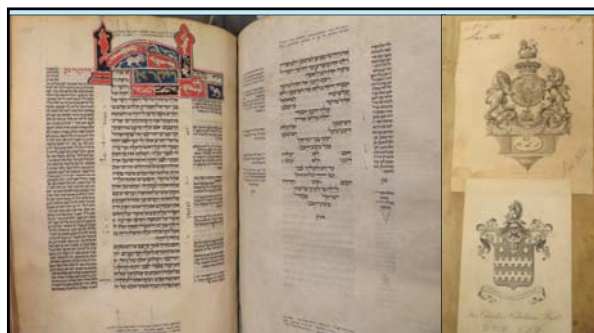


MS Nicholson 38,
Genesis portion of a
medieval Torah scroll

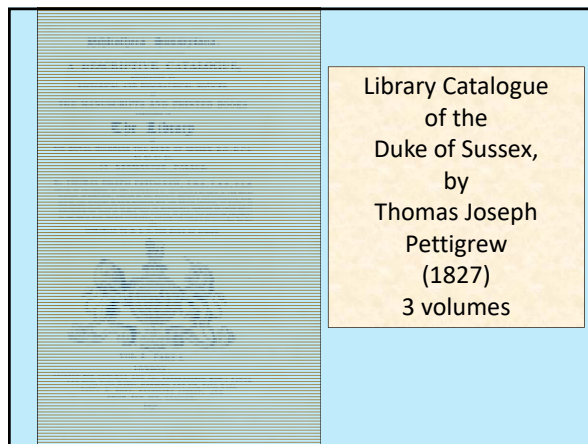
Both acquired from
Shapira or his estate



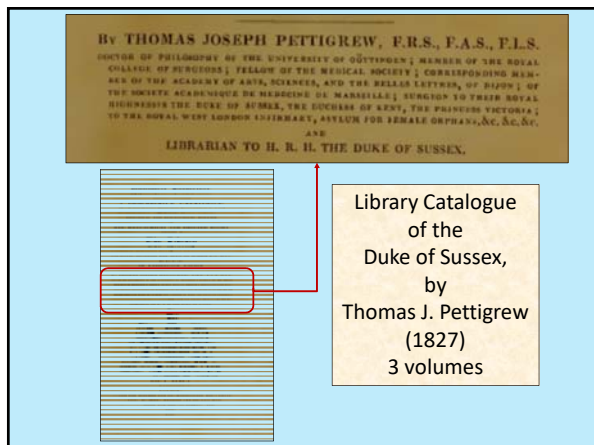
MS Nicholson 39,
Genesis portion of
an early modern
Torah scroll



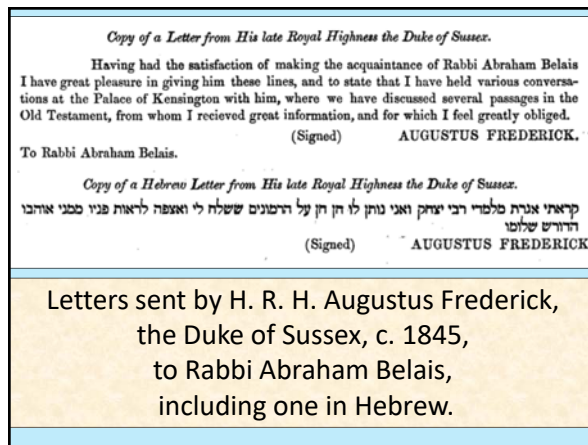
MS Nicholson 33, Torah, Haftarat, and Megillot
(Italy, 1272), formerly owned by the Duke of Sussex



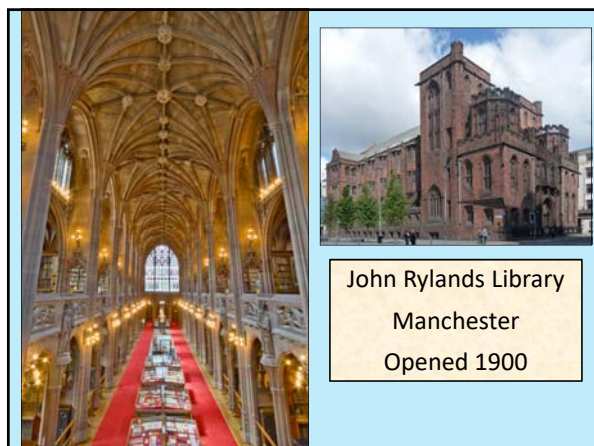
Library Catalogue
of the
Duke of Sussex,
by
Thomas Joseph
Pettigrew
(1827)
3 volumes



Library Catalogue
of the
Duke of Sussex,
by
Thomas J. Pettigrew
(1827)
3 volumes



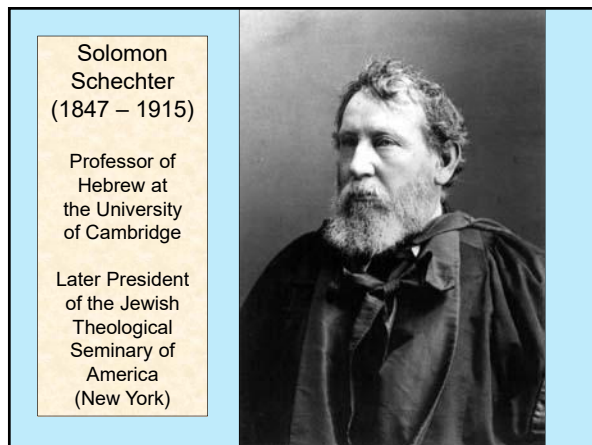
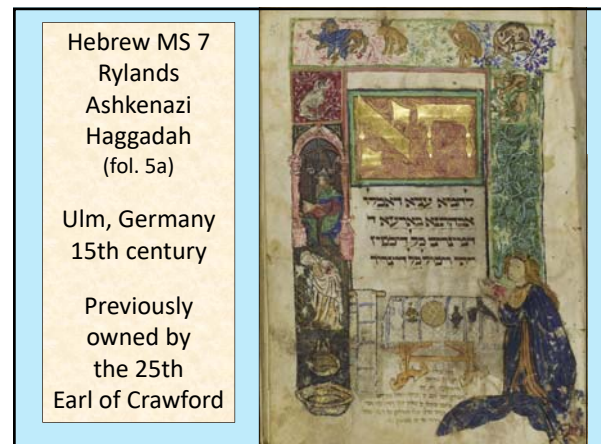
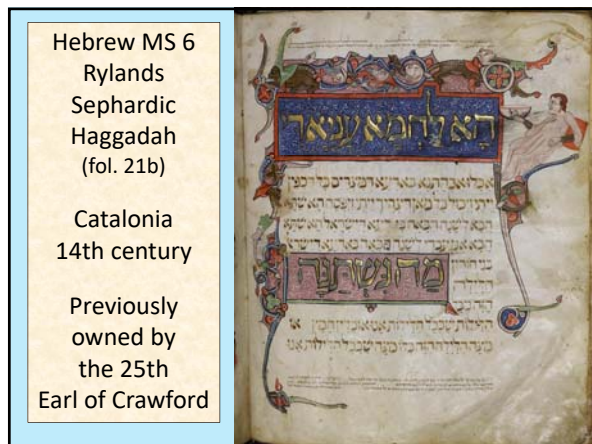
Letters sent by H. R. H. Augustus Frederick,
the Duke of Sussex, c. 1845,
to Rabbi Abraham Belais,
including one in Hebrew.



John Rylands Library
Manchester
Opened 1900



2nd century
B.C.E.





Solomon Schechter at the (old) Cambridge University Library, sorting Cairo Geniza documents



Elkan Nathan Adler
(1861 – 1946)

- Son of Chief Rabbi Nathan Marcus Adler
- Brother of Chief Rabbi Herschel Adler

Obtained 25,000 Cairo Geniza documents
1888-1895

Cairo Geniza – c. 300,000 documents

University of Cambridge:	200,000
Jewish Theological Seminary:	30,000
(New York)	
Bodleian Library (Oxford):	25,000
John Rylands Library:	11,000
(Manchester)	
Russian National Library	5,000
(St. Petersburg)	
University of Pennsylvania	2,000

Cambridge University Library
(C.U.L.)



West Four
Rare Books
Genizah Research Unit
Manuscripts

Gary Rendsburg
Ben Outhwaite
Melonie
Schmeirer-Lee
Kim Phillips
July 2017





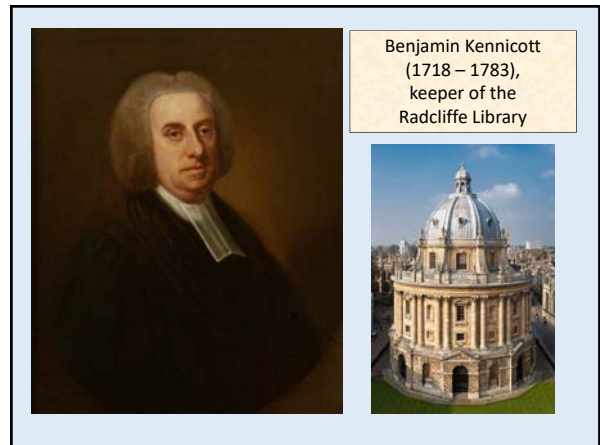
Cambridge – July 2017



The Weston Library (opened 2014):
across Broad Street from the Old Bodleian Library



Oxford – July 2017



Benjamin Kennicott
(1718 – 1783),
keeper of the
Radcliffe Library



Kennicott Bible

Written in
La Coruña,
Spain, 1476

Now in the
Bodleian Library
(Oxford)

opening page of
the biblical text

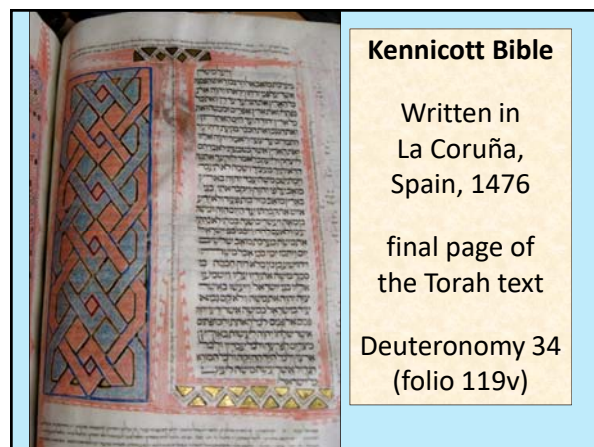
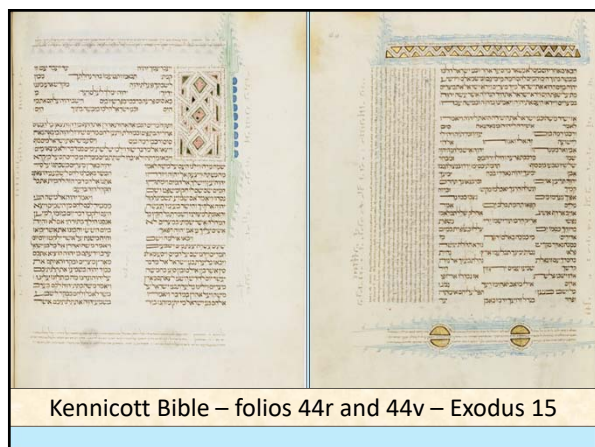
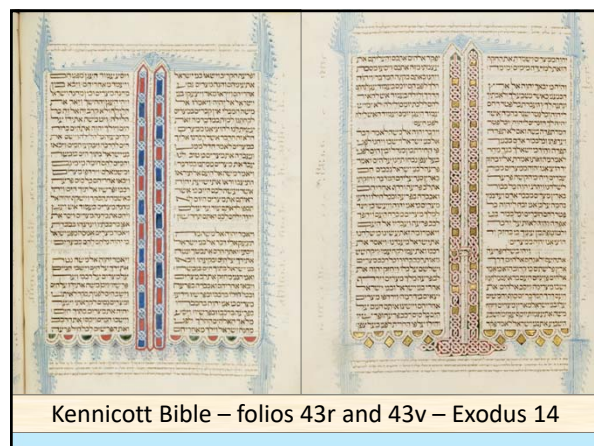
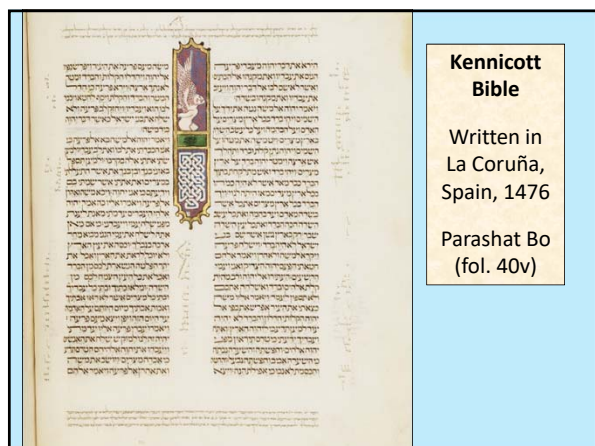
Genesis 1
(folio 9v)

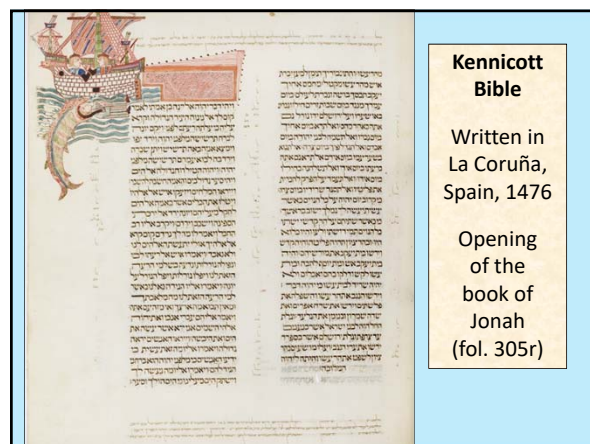
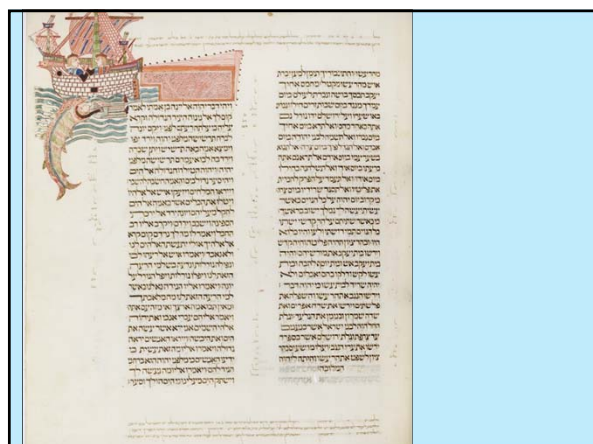


Kennicott Bible

Written in La Coruña,
Spain, 1476







Kennicott Bible

Written in
La Coruña,
Spain, 1476

Opening
of the
book of
Jonah
(fol. 305r)



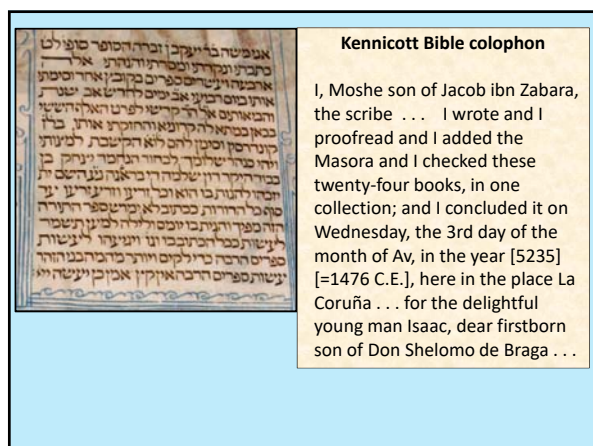
Kennicott Bible colophon (folio 438r)

with names,
place, date,
etc.



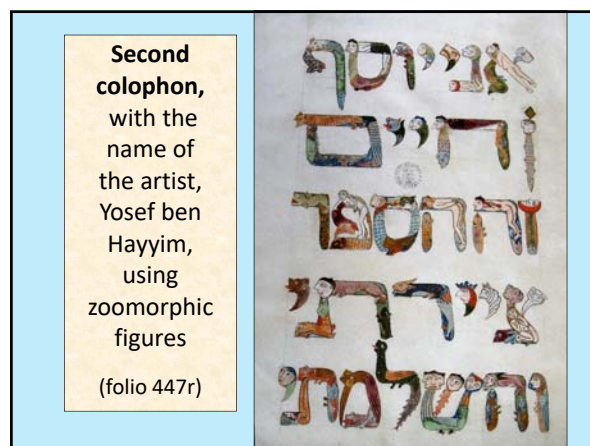
Kennicott Bible colophon (folio 438r)

with names,
place, date,
etc.



Kennicott Bible colophon

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,
using
zoomorphic
figures
(folio 447r)

