

THE
LONDON
LIBRARY

A guide to the Jewish collections

Introduction

Since its foundation in 1841 The London Library has been amassing books and periodical volumes on a broad range of subjects across the humanities and social sciences, in more than 50 languages. With material dating from the sixteenth century to the latest publications, the Library maintains international-standard research collections for use by the widest range of writers, scholars and general readers in the humanities. Amongst these is a remarkable collection of Judaica, which continues to grow every year and includes material across several subject areas. The collection comprises materials from the general, open access collections, as well as the outstanding Montefiore Pamphlets. For forty years, the Library looked after a Torah scroll from the community of Domažlice in Czechoslovakia. In 2019 the scroll was handed to the care of the Memorial Scrolls Trust (<https://www.londonlibrary.co.uk/about-us/latest-news/1913-new-chapter-for-rare-torah-scroll>).

General collections

These are readily accessible to our members and are arranged on our shelves according to our unique classification scheme. It is important to note that the arrangement was devised in the 1890s by Sir Charles Hagberg Wright (Librarian from 1893 to 1940) and is very much a product of its time. We regularly make minor adjustments to the scheme and at present we do not have the resource to undertake major changes to bring it up-to-date, such as creating sections for Israel in our History and Topography collections, but very much aspire to do so.

Literature

The collection of Jewish literature in **L. Hebrew** incorporates original editions of the standard works of the German *Wissenschaft des Judentums* from the 19th century, which are regularly reprinted to this day, such as Bacher's *Die Aggada der Tannaiten* and August Wuensche's translations of *Midrashim*, alongside many other 19th-century German translations of classical Jewish literature.

There is good representation of scholarship on the Dead Sea Scrolls dating from the 1950s and 1960s, while other particularly strong areas are the collection of translations of *Midrashim* and the collection of translations and originals of Yiddish authors such as Asch, Bialik, and Mendele Mocher Sfarim. The Library's Literature section also includes translations of Hebrew poetry from all periods and a selection of present-day scholarship on Modern

Hebrew Literature. There are some Yiddish plays in **L. Hebrew**, while works on Jewish drama in other languages are shelved elsewhere such as **L. Eng. Drama Colls.** There are also works on Jewish wit and humour in **L. Wit & Humour** and in **Anecdotes**.

History and biography

The extensive Jewish history collection, mainly under **H. Jews**, is particularly rich in books on the history of ancient and Biblical Israel, local histories of Jews in numerous countries and regions, and books about the Holocaust/Shoah, alongside a wide range of popular general overviews and introductions to the subject area. This section also contains studies of the history of Jewish Literature (such as Ginzberg's *Legends of the Jews*). Other relevant shelfmarks are:

- H. Army, Israeli
- H. Dreyfus Case
- H. European War II
- H. Jerusalem, Kingdom of
- H. Middle East
- H. Palestine & Syria
- H. Philistines
- H. Semites
- H. Sinai

Biographies and **autobiographies** of notable Jewish figures (including diaries, such as Anne Frank's, and collections of letters), excluding monarchs, can be found in the main Biography stacks. These include biographies of remarkable people in all walks of life, from art dealers and athletes to booksellers, composers, comedians, historians, journalists, philosophers, radicals, scientists and teachers, among many others.

Biographical works on monarchs such as King David are shelved in H. Jews rather than Biography because they include histories of their reigns. The Library holds extensive biographical material on literary authors, philosophers, artists, monarchs and statesmen. Please note that correspondence or autobiographical material of literary authors is sometimes

included as part of their collected or selected works, and will therefore be shelved in the Literature section.

Works containing collections of biographies of more than 2 persons can be found at the shelfmark **Biographical Colls.** Examples include *Prophets without Honour: a Background to Freud, Kafka, Einstein, and Their World; Essays in Jewish Biography; Biographical Notices of Some of the Most Distinguished Jewish Rabbies* [sic], *Twelve Jews* (about Benjamin Disraeli, Sigmund Freud and Leon Trotsky among others), *Jewish Parliamentarians; Jewish Women and their Salons: the Power of Conversation* and *Heroische Gestalten jüdischen Stammes*.

The Library also holds genealogical works such as *Wer einmal war: das jüdische Grossbürgertum Wiens, 1800-1938* or *The Jewish Community of Frankfurt: a Genealogical Study, 1349-1849* as well as family histories such as *The Goldschmidts* in the **Genealogy & Heraldry** section.

The Library's extensive collection of biographical dictionaries (shelved at **R.R. Biographical Dicts.** in the Reading Room) includes a number of works on important Jewish historic figures. Among these works are *The Dictionary of Jewish Biography, Who's Who in Jewish History, after the Period of the Old Testament*, and *Große jüdische National-Biographie mit mehr als 8000 Lebensbeschreibungen namhafter jüdischer Männer und Frauen aller Zeiten und Länder: ein Nachschlagewerk für das jüdische Volk und dessen Freunde*.

Art

The Library's extensive collection of art books includes a wide range of material on Jewish art and artists from the Greco-Roman period up to the present day. There are works on topics such as Jewish ceremonial art as well as folk art, on the illumination of the *Haggadah*, and on Jewish silverwork. Apart from monographs the Library acquires catalogues raisonnés of major artists and architects such as Marc Chagall, El Lissitzky, Alfred Stieglitz, Max Weber, Amedeo Modigliani, Sir Jacob Epstein, and Camille Pissarro. However, lesser-known artists such as Abraham Manievich, Max Liebermann, Felix Nussbaum and Charlotte Salomon are also represented. The collection includes a selection of catalogues of relevant exhibitions held in Britain and abroad as well as catalogues of major museums and art galleries, such as the Jewish Museums in Prague, London and New York and the Ben Uri Gallery in London.

Works by Jewish art historians such as Ernst Gombrich, Meyer Schapiro and Erwin Panofsky also feature prominently.

Most exhibition catalogues are shelved alphabetically under the exhibition title, and catalogues of museums can be found under the name of the museum. Throughout the art collections it is important to note that a significant number of books in each subject area will be found in the separate sequences for oversize books (labelled 4to., small folio, and folio). Books covering work in more than one medium are shelved at **A. Art** while books on individual artists will be found under the sub-section for the medium concerned (e.g. A. Painting, A. Sculpture) and then under the artist's name (e.g. A. Painting, Chagall). Also included in the Art collection are books on Jewish cinema such as *Laughter through the tears: the Yiddish cinema* by Judith N. Goldberg (A. Cinema &c.)

Topography and travel

The Topography collections include archaeology, architecture, geography, local history, travel writing, and some guide books. The large section in **T. Palestine & Syria** includes excavation reports of major sites in Israel and Jordan, and also classical volumes of the Discoveries in the Judean Desert and other items concerning the beginnings of Dead Sea Scrolls' research in the 1950s and 1960s. A number of travel guides can be found in **Guide Books, Palestine &c.**

Religion and philosophy

The Religion section forms a comprehensive library of standard Christian scientific commentaries, but is noteworthy also for its collection of classics of 19th-century German biblical scholarship in each of its separate sections for the different books of the Bible. The Psalms section - which is particularly extensive - includes, for example, a translation of David Kimchi's *Commentary*, while in the Prayer section one can find the latest publications on Jewish Prayer by Stefan Reif and Jeremy Schonfield. The Library also holds a remarkable and unusual collection of Hebrew Bible editions: alongside the common Letteris and Ginsburg texts, there is, for example, a rare 'pocket' chumash printed in Amsterdam in 1712. Many of the most remarkable works in this section come from the Allan Library, collected by Thomas Robinson Allan (c1800-84) to form the nucleus of a large central library for the Methodist

church, and rescued from dispersal when it was purchased in its entirety by the London Library in the 1920s. The relevant shelfmarks in Religion are:

R. Chronicles	R. Heptateuch	R. Minor Prophets
R. Daniel	R. Hexateuch	R. Numbers
R. Deuteronomy	R. Isaiah	R. Old Testament
R. Ecclesiastes	R. Jeremiah &	R. Pentateuch
R. England's Jewish	Lamentations	R. Proverbs (Book
Origin	R. Job	of)
R. Exodus	R. Joshua	R. Psalms
R. Ezekiel	R. Judges & Ruth	R. Samuel
R. Ezra, &c.	R. Kings	R. Septuagint
R. Genesis	R. Leviticus	R. Song of Songs
R. Hebrews	R. Lost Tribes	

The vast **Philosophy** section includes the works of Jewish philosophers such as Isaiah Berlin, Spinoza, Jacques Derrida, Solomon Maimon, Leo Strauss, Moses Mendelssohn, Martin Buber, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Karl Marx, Simone Weil, and Ayn Rand among many others. Please note that works by and about Maimonides and Claude Lévi-Strauss are mostly in **L. Hebrew &c.** and **S. Ethnology &c.**, respectively.

Language, dictionaries, etc.

The Library's philology section, **Philology Hebrew**, is an exceptional, scholarly resource, and includes loan copies of some rare editions of 18th and 19th century Christian philological research on Hebrew, such as J.D. Michaelis' *Supplementa as Lexica Hebraica* (Goettingen, 1792 and Philippo Ouseel's *Introductio in Accentuationem Hebraeorum Prosaicum*, (Lugdunum 1715). There are also some Yiddish textbooks and grammars in **Philology, Yiddish**.

There is a collection of Hebrew dictionaries available in the Reading Room at **R.R. Lang. Dicts., Hebrew**. These range from complete modern Hebrew-English dictionaries, to works on classical Hebrew, a lexicon of the Dead Sea Scrolls and *A*

dictionary of the Talmud, the Midrash and the Targum: with Quotations From the Sources as well as Gesenius' original Old Testament lexicon together with a modern English translation. **R.R. Lang. Dicts., Yiddish** boasts, among others, a Hebrew-English-Yiddish dictionary and the very amusing *Hooray for Yiddish!: a Book About English*.

Bibliography and Hebrew library catalogues

The Bibliography section contains a range of relevant bibliographies and library catalogues. Here subject and form take precedence over language, country and region, which is why, for example *The Babel Guide to Jewish Fiction* is shelved under **Bibliog. Fiction**, Esther Snyder's bibliography of books about Israel is in **Bibliog. Topography &. (Gen.)** and Elizabeth Eppler's *International Bibliography of Jewish Affairs, 1966-1967: a Select Annotated List of Books and Articles Published outside Israel* is in **Bibliog. History (Gen.)** together with Joseph Melzer's *Deutsch-jüdisches Schicksal: Wegweiser durch das Schrifttum der letzten 15 Jahre, 1945-1960*.

Bibliog. Hebrew is reserved for bibliographies of books and manuscripts written in Hebrew but not limited to any subject or form, such as *Treasures of Judaica* and *2000 Books and More: an Annotated and Selected Bibliography of Jewish History and Thought*. Library catalogues such as *Important Hebrew Books from the Library of the Late Salman Schocken* and *Catalogue of Hebrew Books in the British Museum Acquired during the Years 1868-1892* are also shelved here.

Bibliographies dealing with one particular person are shelved at **Bibliog. Biog.**, such as **Bibliog. Biog., Cohen**. For works on the publishing of Jewish literature see **Bibliog. Publishing**, and **Bibliog. Books, Booksellers &c.** for the Jewish book trade.

Science & Miscellaneous

In this section there are relevant works covering a myriad of subjects. Some examples are:

- *Il Cimitero Ebraico in Italia* by Andrea Morpurgo, in **S. Burial**

- *Rituals of Childhood: Jewish Acculturation in Medieval Europe* by Ivan G. Marcus in **S. Children &c.**
- *History of Jewish Coinage, and of Money in the Old and New Testament* by Frederic Madden, in **S. Coins &c.**
- *Death in Jewish Life: Burial and Mourning Customs among Jews of Europe and Nearby Communities* in **S. Death**
- *Dark Mirrors: Azazel and Satanael in Early Jewish Demonology* by Andrei A. Orlov in **S. Devil &c.**
- *Broken Threads: the Destruction of the Jewish Fashion Industry in Germany and Austria* in **S. Dress, 4to.**
- *The Victim's Fortune: inside the Epic Battle over the Debts of the Holocaust* by John Authers in **S. Finance &c.**
- *Leaves from the Garden of Eden: One Hundred Classic Jewish Tales* by Howard Schwartz in **S. Folklore &c.**
- *The Book of Jewish Food: an Odyssey from Samarkand and Vilna to the Present Day* by Claudia Roden in **S. Food &c., 4to.**
- *Gifts in Contemplation of Death in Jewish and Roman Law* by Reuven Yaron in **S. Law**
- *Forbidden Music: Jewish Composers Banned by the Nazis* by Michael Haas in **S. Music**
- *The Jewish Press and the Holocaust, 1939-1945: Palestine, Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union* by Yosef Gorny in **S. Newspapers &c.**
- *Hannah Arendt and the Jewish Question* by Richard J. Bernstein in **S. Political Science, Arendt**
- *The Treblinka Death Camp: History, Biographies, Remembrance* by Chris Webb in **S. Prisons &c.**
- *Exiled in Paradise: German Refugee Artists and Intellectuals in America, from the 1930s to the Present* by Anthony Heilbut in **S. Refugees**
- *Prostitution and Prejudice: the Jewish Fight against White Slavery, 1870-1939* by Edward J. Bristow **S. Sex &c.**
- *The Frankfurt School, Jewish Lives, and Antisemitism* by Jack Jacobs in **S. Social Science**
- *When Boxing Was a Jewish Sport* by Allen Bodner in **S. Sport**

- *Plumes: Ostrich Feathers, Jews, and a Lost World of Global Commerce* by Sarah Abrevaya Stein in **S. Trade**
- *You Never Call! You Never Write!: a History of the Jewish Mother* by Joyce Antler in **S. Women**

Reference works

In addition to its loan collections the Library holds a few key reference works such as *The Jewish Yearbook*, *Who's Who in Israel* and the annual of *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*.

Periodicals and Society publications

The Library has access to the following titles either as print copies or online. Please check the online catalogue to see full details of holdings as well as their locations. Some material is held offsite if online access is available, but it can be retrieved if required with 72 hours' notice.

- *European Judaism*
- *Transactions of the Jewish Historical Society of England*
- *The Jewish Annual*
- *The Jewish Quarterly*
- *Miscellanies of the Jewish Historical Society of England*
- *Kirjath Sepher: Bibliographical Quarterly of the Jewish National and University Library, Jerusalem*
- *Polin: a Journal of Polish-Jewish Studies*
- *Textus : Annual of the Hebrew University Bible Project*

Through JSTOR members can access the full text articles of the archives of almost 80 online publications on Jewish studies.

Montefiore Pamphlets

Provenance

Claude Joseph Goldsmid Montefiore (1858-1938), great-nephew of Sir Moses Montefiore and grandson of Sir Isaac Lyon Goldsmid, was a member of the Anglo-Jewish elite who broke with Jewish orthodoxy when he founded Liberal Judaism in Britain. Both Claude and his son

Leonard were members of The London Library, the former joining in 1884 and the latter in 1946. - After his death in 1938, the Library received a bequest of all the pamphlets he collected during his life.

Extent and scope

The ca. 5,000 titles (a combination of speeches, lectures, sermons, addresses, essays, offprints and tractates) bound into 664 volumes offer us a comprehensive insight into Montefiore's mind and all the subjects he was interested in, from theology to social welfare, education and even poetry. This explains the presence in volume 454 of a booklet of First World War poems by Janet Begbie, entitled *Morning Mist* and published by Mills and Boon in 1916 (a few years before the firm decided to concentrate on the publication of romance novels).

By scanning the contents of the pamphlet volumes, we can see not only what Montefiore read but more importantly what he chose to keep, perhaps for future reference. The collection covers all of his areas of interest and reflects many prominent interests and concerns of the time: modern Biblical scholarship, Judaism and Christianity, the development of Progressive Judaism, especially in Germany and later in Britain (reflected in the documents of the West London Synagogue), social welfare, education, the rise of Zionism and the fight for women's rights. ~~The Montefiore Pamphlets contain writings in all these areas and as the 19th century was the formative period for Biblical scholarship, progressive Judaism, education, Zionism, and women's rights, the pamphlets not only mirror what the father of liberal Judaism was interested in and might have known in his time, but they are at the same time important documents and sources for the formative period of important themes of general interest right up to the present day.~~

Authors

A total 161 of the pamphlets in the collection were written by Montefiore himself. Some examples are:

Is Judaism a Tribal Religion? (1882)

Optimism and Religion (1912)

Assimilation, Good and Bad (1914)

On Keeping Young and Growing Old
(1916)

The Dangers of Zionism (1918)

The English Jew and his Religion (1918)
Is There a Middle Way? (1920)
Has Judaism a Future? (1921)
Anti-Semitism in England (1921)
The Originality of Jesus (1929)

Jewish Emancipation and the English Jew (1934)
What a Jew Thinks about Jesus (1935)
Liberal Christianity and Liberal Judaism (1937)

Many others are written by his mentors and friends: *The Chassidim* and *On the Study of the Talmud* by Solomon Schechter, *Poetry and Religion* and *Jewish Life under Emancipation* by Israel Abrahams, *The German Soul and the Great War* and *Progress in Religion* by Baron Friedrich von Hügel.

Montefiore studied the works of his enemies too, which explains why the collection includes copies of *The Racial Conception of the World* and *The Nazi Party, the State and Religion* by Adolf Hitler; as well as *Chosen Peoples: the Hebraic Ideal Versus the Teutonic* and *A Land of Refuge* by the Zionist author Israel Zangwill.

As well as pamphlets written by individuals, there are numerous reports and conference proceedings issued by the various organizations Montefiore sympathized with, was a founder of, or actively supported such as the Jewish Association for the Protection of Girls & Women, the World Union for Progressive Judaism, the League of British Jews, the Anglo-Jewish Association, the Jewish Religious Union for the Advancement of Liberal Judaism, The Board of Guardians and Trustees for the Relief of the Jewish Poor, the Board of Education and the Froebel Educational Institute. The collection also includes many records of services held at the West London Synagogue and the Liberal Jewish Synagogue.

Date range

The earliest pamphlet is *Kritische Untersuchungen über den menschlichen Geist, oder, Das höhere Erkenntniss- und Willensvermögen* (*Critical Examinations of the Human Spirit, or, The Higher Knowledge and Volition*) by Salomon Maimon, which dates from 1797. The latest, *Public Development and Slump Control* by The Next Five Years Group, is from 1938, proof that Montefiore was actively interested in the welfare of others almost to the very end of his life.

The pamphlets are bound in rough chronological order and this arrangement allows us to trace the developments in scholarship and world events taking place around Montefiore.

Languages and places of publication

The breakdown of languages represented in the collection gives us an idea of Montefiore's linguistic ability and international scholarship. While most of the pamphlets, over 3,000, are in English some 1,400 are in German, almost 300 are in French, just under 100 titles are in Dutch and more than 30 are written in Hebrew. There are also a few titles in Latin and Italian and a handful of pamphlets were written in Danish, Swedish and Norwegian. The range of places where the pamphlets were published is also a clear indicator of the breadth of Montefiore's outlook. Although the majority of the pamphlets, ca. 2,300, were published in Britain more than half were published abroad: some 1,250 came from Germany, more than 300 from the United States and almost 250 were printed in France. Others came from (in quantity order) the Netherlands, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Belgium, Russia, Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Ireland, Sweden, Montenegro, Portugal, Denmark, Norway, Greece, Latvia, Romania and Croatia.

Significance

The Montefiore Pamphlets are an important record of Anglo-Jewish heritage. The materials included were in general not collected at the time of their publication and today comprise one of the most important historical sources for the development of Liberal, Reform, and Progressive Judaism. The Montefiore Pamphlets are relevant as a collection of materials of Jewish and general social history, mirroring the formation of a new social order that impacted all areas of society. They are important documents and sources involving themes that remain a part of our social discourse in the present day.