

Center for Advanced Judaic Studies
University of Pennsylvania



**Fifth Annual Gruss Colloquium
in Judaic Studies**

**DIALOGUES WITH THE
PAST AND PRESENT:
JEWISH CULTURAL FORMATION
FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO
THE ENLIGHTENMENT**

April 26-28, 1999

The conference represents a collaboration between two distinct research groups focusing on Poetry and Culture in Medieval and Renaissance Jewry; and on Enlightenment, Haskalah and European Society.

Monday, April 26 **International House, University of Pennsylvania**
Yarnell Conference Center, Europe Room 3701 Chestnut Street

1:00 pm

GREETINGS

David Ruderman, Director, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies
Samuel H. Preston, Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

1:15 pm

THE APPEAL OF ANTIQUITY – I

Chair: **Paul Guyer**, University of Pennsylvania

Zev Harvey, Hebrew University/CAJS

Mendelssohn's Aestheticizing the Medievals

Adam Shear, University of Pennsylvania/CAJS

Judah Halevi's Kuzari in the Haskalah: The Image and Function of a Medieval Work

Joseph Yahalom, Hebrew University/CAJS

Aesthetic Models in Clash: Classicism vs. Ornamentalism in Jewish Poetics

- 3:15 pm **Coffee**
- 3:45 pm **THE APPEAL OF ANTIQUITY – II**
Chair: **Simon Richter**, University of Pennsylvania
- Martin L. Davies**, University of Leicester/CAJS
A Classical Enlightenment: The Modernization of German-Jewish Culture in the Late Eighteenth Century
- Liliane Weissberg**, University of Pennsylvania/CAJS
Classic Lives
- David Sorkin**, University of Wisconsin
History in the Service of Belief: The Biblical Exegesis of the Religious Enlightenment
- 6:45 pm **Dinner** (by invitation)
Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, 420 Walnut Street
- 8:15 pm **AN EVENING OF MEDIEVAL HEBREW POETRY**
Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, 420 Walnut Street
- Chair: **Angel Badillos**, Universidad Complutense, Madrid/CAJS
- Raymond P. Scheindlin**, Jewish Theological Seminary of America/CAJS

Tuesday, April 27

International House, University of Pennsylvania
Yarnell Conference Center, Europe Room 3701 Chestnut Street

- 8:45 am **THE YEARNING FOR HOMELAND**
Chair: **David Stern**, University of Pennsylvania

Esperanza Alfonso, Universidad Complutense, Madrid/CAJS
Constructions of Exile and Domicile in Medieval Spanish Poetry

Arthur Kiron, Columbia University/CAJS
Golden Ages, Promised Lands: Sabato Morais' Italian Sephardic Program in Victorian America

Joshua Levisohn, Harvard University/CAJS
Vilna Maskilim and the Homeland of Hebraic Culture

- 10:45 am **Coffee Break**

- 11:00 am **REPRESENTATIONS OF GENDER AND CULTURAL IDENTITY**
Chair: **Beth Wenger**, University of Pennsylvania

Ross Brann, Cornell University/CAJS
Mapping Representations of Jews and Muslims

Tova Rosen, Tel-Aviv University/CAJS
Circumcised Cinderella: The Fantasies of a Fourteenth-Century Jew

Katrin Tenenbaum, La Sapienza, University of Rome/CAJS
Judaism, Gender, and the Problem of Diversity in the Haskalah

1:00 pm

Lunch Break

2:00 pm

SHIFTING CONTEXTS OF HEBREW POETRY IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN TIMES – I

Chair: **Kathryn Hellerstein**, University of Pennsylvania

Rina Drory, Tel-Aviv University/CAJS

The Social Context of Love and Love Poetry

Eleazar Gutwirth, Tel-Aviv University/CAJS

Hebrew Poetry or Jewish Poetry in Christian Spain?

Elisabeth Hollender, University of Duisburg/CAJS

The Aesthetics of the Ashkenazi Piyyut

3:45 pm

Coffee

4:00 pm

SHIFTING CONTEXTS OF HEBREW POETRY – II

Chair: **Kathryn Hellerstein**, University of Pennsylvania

Alessandro Guetta, National Institute of Oriental Languages, Paris/CAJS

The Crisis of Medieval Knowledge in the Work of the Fifteenth-Century Poet and Philosopher, Moses da Rieti

Dvora Bregman, Ben-Gurion University/CAJS

Their Rose in Our Garden: Romance Poetics in Italian Hebrew Literature

5:00 pm

AT THE INTERSECTION OF EARLY MODERN CULTURES

Chair: **Ben Nathans**, University of Pennsylvania

Fania Oz-Salzberger, Haifa University

A Republic of Letters? A Tower of Babel? Texts and Ideas on the Move in the European Enlightenment

7:00 pm

Dinner (by invitation)

International House, South America Room

8:45 pm

IMAGINING THE JEWISH ENLIGHTENMENT

Chair: **David Ruderman**, University of Pennsylvania/CAJS

Richard Cohen, Hebrew University/CAJS

Wednesday, April 28

International House, University of Pennsylvania

Yarnell Conference Center, Europe Room 3701 Chestnut Street

8:45 am

JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN VISIONS OF TRANSFORMATION IN THE EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURIES – I

Chair: **Jonathan Skolnik**, Columbia University/CAJS

Allan Arkush, State University of New York, Binghamton/CAJS
Dohm and the Jews Revisited
Adam Sutcliffe, University of Illinois/CAJS
Spinoza, Spinozism and the Self-Fashioning of the Enlightenment Philosopher
Alyssa Sepinwall, California State University, San Marcos/CAJS
Jews, Haitians, Women and Dialect-Speakers: The Abbé Grégoire and the Problem of Difference

10:30 am **Coffee Break**

10:45 am **JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN VISIONS OF TRANSFORMATION – II**

Chair: **Jonathan Skolnik**, Columbia University/CAJS

Nancy Sinkoff, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey/CAJS
Benjamin Franklin in Jewish Eastern Europe

Mordechai Zalkin, Ben-Gurion University/CAJS

“The Society for the Dissemination of the Haskalah among Russian Jews” (1863-1885): An Impossible Mission?

12:00 pm **CONCLUDING SESSION AND SUMMARY**

Chair: **Richard Cohen**, Hebrew University/CAJS

Raymond P. Scheindlin, Jewish Theological Seminary of America/CAJS

David Sorkin, University of Wisconsin

1:15 pm **Concluding Luncheon followed by Board of Overseers Meeting** (by invitation)
International House, South America Room

For further information, contact the

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University of Pennsylvania

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