The Jewish Book: Material Texts & Comparative Contexts

May 1-3, 2006

Logan Hall, Terrace Room
249 S. 36th Street
University of Pennsylvania

Sessions

• The Author
• The Censor
• The Printer
• The Jewish Reader
• The Christian Reader
• The Material Text and Jewish Cultural History

Speakers
Michela Andreatta
Israel Bartal
Jean Baumgarten
Malachi Beit-Arie
Shlomo Berger
Menahem Blondheim
Francesca Bregoli
Cedric Cohen Skalli
Evelyn Cohen
Naomi Feuchtwanger-Sarig
Talya Fishman
Federica Francesconi
Anthony Grafion
Joseph Hacker
Joel Hecker
Arthur Kiron
Scott Mandelbrote
Vera Moreen
Ann Moyer
Benjamin Nathans
Iris Parush
Nurit Pasternak
Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin
Jason Rosenblatt
Moshe Rosman
David Ruderman
Adam Shear
Stefanie Siegmund
Peter Stallybrass
David Stern
Margo Todd
Chava Turniansky
Piet van Boxel
Joanna Weinberg

http://www.cajs.upenn.edu
Welcome

Welcome to the twelfth annual Gruss Colloquium of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. The annual colloquium, which is made possible by the generosity of Martin Gruss, is the culmination of an entire year of study by twenty scholars from around the world on a theme carefully selected by the advisory committees of the Center.

This year’s seminar, which has been co-sponsored by Penn’s seminar on the history of the book, has focused on the history of the Jewish book as a material text, and has included experts on Hebrew manuscripts and printed books from antiquity to the present. Throughout the year, CAJS fellows, along with local faculty and graduate students, and leading scholars in the field of the history of the book, have explored and debated a wide range of topics akin to those under discussion at this conference.

The program of the colloquium before you was created by the fellows. The papers represent the products of their ongoing research at the Center, which has been enhanced by access to the Center’s vast library holdings and by the daily encounters among the fellows. Like the colloquia of past years, this conference will lead to new publications by individual participants as well as a collective volume to be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

I hope you will enjoy both the individual papers presented and the vivid sense of collegiality and fellowship created by the Center’s magical environment as this closely-knit group of scholars, both young and old, enjoy the last days of their collective intellectual interchange.

Cordially,

David Ruderman,
Ella Darivoff Director, CAJS
Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History
University of Pennsylvania
**The Censor 3:00 pm**

Chair: Ann Moyer, University of Pennsylvania

**Malachi Beit-Arie**  
Hebrew University/CAJS and

**Nurit Pasternak**  
Hebrew University

Secular State Censorship in 15th-Century Florence: The Expurgation of Hebrew Manuscripts by Officials of Lorenzo il Magnifico

**Joseph Hacker**  
Hebrew University/CAJS

16th-Century Jewish Censorship in Italy

**Piet van Boxel**  
Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies/CAJS

A Christian Version of the Talmud: Censorship of the Jewish Book under Pope Gregory XIII

**Federica Francesconi**  
University of Haifa/CAJS

Culture, Reading and Censorship of Modenese Jewry in the 16th and 17th Centuries

Respondents:  
**Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin**  
Ben-Gurion University/CAJS

**Peter Stallybrass**  
University of Pennsylvania

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**Tuesday, May 2**

Logan Hall, Terrace Room,  
University of Pennsylvania,  
249 S. 36th St.

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**The Printer 9:30 am**

Chair: Stefanie Siegmund, University of Michigan/CAJS

**Michela Andreatta**  
Ca’ Foscari University, Italy/CAJS  
Hebrew Devotional Typography in 17th-Century Italy: Prayer Books Printed for the Shomerim la-Boker Societies

**Shlomo Berger**  
University of Amsterdam/CAJS  
The Ever-Evolving Tradition of Yiddish Book Production in Early Modern Europe

**Francesca Bregoli**  
University of Pennsylvania/CAJS  
The Business of Printing in Livorno in the Late 18th Century

Respondent:  
**Arthur Kiron**, University of Pennsylvania

11:30 am  Lunch Break

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**The Jewish Reader 1:00 pm**

Chair: Talya Fishman, University of Pennsylvania

**Jean Baumgarten**  
Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales/CAJS  
Writing and Reading Ethical-Mystical Texts in Yiddish (17th-18th Centuries)

**Moshe Rosman**  
Bar-Ilan University/CAJS  
Who Read Hebrew Books in Early Modern Ashkenaz?
Iris Parush  
*Ben-Gurion University/CAJS*  
Reading and Writing As a Male Rite of Passage in 19th-Century Eastern-European Jewish Society

**Respondent:** Benjamin Nathans, *University of Pennsylvania*

**3:00 PM**  
**Coffee**

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**The Christian Reader**  
**3:30 pm**

**Chair:** Margo Todd, *University of Pennsylvania*

**Joanna Weinberg**  
*University of Oxford, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies/CAJS*  
The Crucifixion of Jesus According to the Jews: Isaac Casaubon’s Reconstruction

**Jason Rosenblatt**  
*Georgetown University*  
On John Selden’s Books

**Scott Mandelbrote**  
*Cambridge University*  
Jewish Books and Christian Readers in Late 17th-Century Cambridge: The Case of Isaac Newton

**Respondent:** Anthony Grafton, *Princeton University/CAJS*

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**Wednesday, May 3**  
Logan Hall, Terrace Room,  
University of Pennsylvania, 249 S. 36th St.

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**The Material Text and Jewish Cultural History**  
**9:00 am**

**Chair:** Evelyn Cohen, *Jewish Theological Seminary/CAJS*

**Naomi Feuchtwanger-Sarig**  
*CAJS*  
Image, Custom and Text in the Passover Haggadah

**Adam Shear**  
*University of Pittsburgh/CAJS*  
Reading the Kuzari: Text and Book

**Joel Hecker**  
*Reconstructionist Rabbinical College/CAJS*  
The Magic of the Book: Sefer Raziel ha-Malakh in the Modern World

**Respondent:** David Stern, *University of Pennsylvania/CAJS*

**11:00 AM**  
**Coffee**

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**Concluding Session**  
**11:45 am**

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

**Anthony Grafton,** *Princeton University/CAJS*  
Joseph Hacker, *Hebrew University/CAJS*  
Moshe Rosman, *Bar Ilan University/CAJS*  
Joanna Weinberg, *University of Oxford, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies/CAJS*

**1:15PM**  
**Concluding Luncheon (by invitation)**  
Houston Hall, Hall of Flags  
University of Pennsylvania, 3417 Spruce Street