

SOCIETY
FOR
JUDAEO-ARABIC
STUDIES



חברה לחקר
התרבות
הערבית-היהודית
של ימי הביניים

Fifteenth International Conference

Judaeo-Arabic Culture and the Arabic Speaking World: Linguistic, Textual and Social Crosspollination

Cripps Court, Magdalene College, Chesterton Road
Cambridge UK

15-18 August 2011

The conference is hosted by



In collaboration with

The Ben-Zvi Institute
of Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi
and the Hebrew University
of Jerusalem



The conference is held with the support of the following:



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

Monday 15 August 2011

3:00 Registration

3:45 Welcome by Ben Outhwaite

4:00 NEW FINDS FROM THE TAYLOR-SCHECHTER COLLECTION

Chair: **Daniel Davies**, Genizah Research Unit, CUL

Gabriele Ferrario, Genizah Research Unit, CUL

Alchemy in the land of Hermes: New evidence from the Taylor-Schechter Collection

Amir Ashur, Genizah Research Unit, CUL

New Maimonidean fragments – toward a catalogue of Maimonidean and Maimonides-related manuscripts in the Taylor-Schechter Collection

5:00 OPENING SESSION

Chair: **Geoffrey Khan**, University of Cambridge

Greetings

Haggai Ben-Shammai, President of the Society

Opening remarks: Judaeo-Arabic culture and the Arabic speaking world: Linguistic, textual and social crosspollination

Yaacov Choueka, Bar Ilan University and Genazim

A computerized comprehensive Judaeo-Arabic corpus: Aims, applications and first steps

Ronny Vollandt, University of Oxford

Christian-Arabic sources for the study of Saadia Gaon's commentary and translation of the Pentateuch

6:30 Dinner

7:45 SAADIA GAON

Chair: **Ronny Vollandt**, University of Oxford

Michael Wechsler, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago

The varied facets of conviviality in the lives of tenth-century Islamicate Jewry: Reflections from Saadia's commentary on Esther

Zvi Stampfer, Ben-Zvi Institute

Saadia Gaon's commentary of the talmudic exegetical principles

Tuesday 16 August 2011

9:00 BIBLE EXEGESIS I

Chair: **Robert Gordon**, University of Cambridge

Tamar Zewi, University of Haifa

On the Samaritan transmission of Saadya Gaon's translation of the Pentateuch

Marc Bernstein, Michigan State University

Internal glosses within Judaeo-Arabic Sharḥ tradition

Shimon Shtober, Bar Ilan University

The unconscious in the commentary of R. Isaac the Son of Samuel the Spaniard to the book of Samuel

Avi Tal, Tel Aviv University

Comparative linguistics as an exegetical method in the writings of Tanḥum ha-Yerushalmi

10:50 Coffee

11:20 BIBLE EXEGESIS II

Chair: **James Aitken**, University of Cambridge

Ilana Sasson, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield CT

Gender equality in Yefet ben Eli's commentary

Karin Almladh, University of Uppsala

MS Uppsala UB O Nova 791 – a rediscovered Ms of Japhet ben Eli's translation and commentary on the Song of Songs

Marzena Zawadowska, University of Warsaw

“God would not give the Land but to the obedient”: Mediaeval Karaite exegetes' response to the curse of Canaan in Genesis 9

1:00 Lunch

2:00 LITERATURE I

Chair: **Daniel J. Lasker**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Joseph Yahalom, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Judaeo-Arabic poetry: The social context

Tania Garcia Arevalo, Universidad de Granada

An approach to a Judaeo-Arabic legends collection: *Ma'aseh Zadiqim*

Nahem Ilan, Lander Institute, Jerusalem

Popular medieval Judaeo-Arabic literature: Another consideration

Yair Shiffman, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Ibn Tufail and Moshe Narboni on esoteric and exoteric motives in Hayy Ibn Yaqzan: The case of abiogenesis vis à vis natural genesis

3:50 Coffee

4:10 POLEMICS

Chair: **Dr. Yousef Meri**, Woolf Institute/CMJR

Dan Greenberger, Ben-Zvi Institute

Anti Karaite polemic in *Siddur Rav Saadia Gaon*

Gregor Schwarb, Freie Universität Berlin

Karaite-Samaritan relations in 5th/11th century Bilād al-Shām: Encounters, polemics, and intertextualities

Ehud Krinis, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Shi'ī context of Judah Halevi's polemic against Karaism

7:00 Dinner

Wednesday 17 August 2011

9:00 LANGUAGE I

Chair: **Maria Angeles-Gallego**, Instituto de Filología, CSIC

Gabriella Berzin, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Between *mefulpal* and *ḥakham*: Hebrew terminology among fourteenth century Jewish scholars in southern France

Barak Avirbach, University of Haifa and David Yellin College

R. Judah Ibn-Tibbon's translation of "Duties of the Hearts": Issues of version and lexicon

Nadia Vidro, Genizah Research Unit, CUL
The Hebrew linguistic terminology of Karaite grammatical texts and its Judaeo-Arabic origins

Ilana Wartenberg, University College London
Scientific vocabulary in the Cairo Genizah

11:00 LANGUAGE II

Chair: **Esther-Miriam Wagner**, Genizah Research Unit, CUL

Jose Martinez Delgado, Universidad de Granada
The use of standardization in the early Andalusí Judeo-Arabic lexicographical tradition

Arie Schippers, University of Amsterdam
Middle Arabic in Moshe Darʿī's Judaeo-Arabic poems

Elinoar Bareket, Ahva College, Israel
ʿAlāmas, signature frills, tiny letters, encrypted codes and other word games among writers of Genizah letters and the parallel Arab culture

12:30 Lunch

1:30 HISTORY I

Chair: **Marina Rustow**, Johns Hopkins University

Craig Perry, Emory University
The geography of the medieval Near Eastern slave trade

Dotan Arad, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The pious foundation among the Jews of Cairo in the 16th-17th centuries: New sources

Joseph Rivlin, Bar Ilan University
The absent husband – halakhic aspects

3:20 Coffee

3:40 HISTORY II

Chair: **Amir Ashur**, Genizah Research Unit, CUL

Norman Golb, University of Chicago

The role of Ḥasdai ibn Shaprut in the diplomatic and military strategy of ‘Abd al-Raḥmān III

Oded Zinger, Princeton University

“As my fortunes with women turned upside down”: The marital woes of a medieval Egyptian country physician

Ora Vaza-Molad, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

“I wish to have a burial attire since I have none with which I am satisfied” – Some thoughts on burial customs in the light of the Cairo Geniza

5:30 Dinner

7:00 *Cultural event: Outdoor Shakespeare: All's Well that Ends Well*

Thursday 18 August 2011

9:00 HISTORY/HALAKHA

Chair: **Stefan Reif**, St. John's College, Cambridge

Eve Krakowski, University of Chicago

Al-bikr al-bogeret: Economic support of unmarried adolescent girls in Geniza society

Mordechai Friedman, Tel Aviv University

House, wife and horse: A talmudic-ḥadith parallel

Gideon Libson, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The attitude of Muslim legal scholars regarding music and its reflections in Maimonides' writings

10:30 SJAS meeting

12:00 Lunch

13:00 Tour of Genizah Research Unit