

INTERNATIONAL JUDAICA COLLECTIONS SPANNING THE GLOBE: PART I

Description: Important collections of Judaica span the globe. In this session, we will learn about libraries in Israel, Russia, and Budapest.

Presenters:

Michal Gruenwald from National Library of Israel

Anna Nizza Caplan from Jewish Art and Life Wing at The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

Ekaterina Oleshkevich from Russian State Library

Zsuzsanna Toronyi from Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archives

Balazs Tamasi from Library of the Rabbinical Seminary, Budapest

Michal Gruenwald is the project coordinator in the Judaica Department of the National Library of Israel.

Anna Nizza Caplan is a curator and researcher of Jewish art at The Israel Museum, Jerusalem. Anna has been specializing in medieval Hebrew Illuminated manuscripts for 21 years, beginning with her academic studies in art history at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem where she earned her BA and master's documenting and researching Hebrew illuminated manuscripts at The Center for Jewish Art where she contributed to catalogues of these collections in Vienna and Munich. Her research on early illuminated Hebrew manuscripts has taken her throughout Europe. Anna wrote her academic thesis on early school of Hebrew manuscripts illumination in Rome at the end of the 13th century. The most recent exhibition Anna curated is "Maimonides: A Legacy in Script" in 2018-2019 at The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, as a joint project with the National Library of Israel. Anna was born and raised in Milan, Italy. She lives in Jerusalem with her husband and children.

Ekaterina Oleshkevich holds BA and MA degrees in Jewish studies from the Lomonosov Moscow State University. From 2013, she has been working in the Schneerson library (a branch of the Russian State Library, Moscow) as chief librarian and research fellow. From 2018, she has been a PhD student at Bar Ilan University, Israel, where she won the President's Scholarship. She is working on her dissertation "History, Culture and the Experience of Jewish Childhood in late Imperial Russia."

Dr. Zsuzsanna Toronyi PhD is an archivist and museum expert specialized in Judaica. Since 2015, she has been the Director of the Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archives, where she has been working since 1994. She is an associate professor at the Cultural History department of the Rabbinical Seminary – University of Jewish Studies, Budapest, and lectures on Jewish material culture at the Jewish Studies Department of the ELTE University, Budapest as well.

Balázs Tamási has been Library Director and Assistant Professor at Budapest University of Jewish Studies (formerly Budapest Rabbinical Seminary) since 2016. Previous to his current positions, he served as the curator of Kaufmann Collection at the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences from 2011 to 2014. Prior to joining the Library of the Academy, he was Head of Department of the Collection of Posters and Printed Ephemera at the Hungarian National Library from 2008 to 2011. Tamási received his master's degrees in history and Hebrew studies from Pázmány Péter Catholic University of Hungary, and earned his PhD there. His research focuses on late Second Temple Jewish literature, in particular Qumran and Jewish Apocrypha. His other research interests include the Hebraica and Judaica collections in Hungary. Tamási has taught Jewish history and other courses at various Hungarian universities including Budapest University of Jewish Studies, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, and Eötvös Loránd University.

