Jewish Music Cataloging: The Offenbach Collection and Beyond

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Isaac Offenbach (1779-1850)

- Born Isaac Juda Eberst in Offenbach, 1779
- Left his hometown in 1799 to become wandering musician thus gaining the nickname Offenbach, which was kept as the family surname
- Eventually became hazan in Cologne for many years
- Famous composer in his own right, also father to the famous composer Jacques Offenbach among his nine children
Eduard Birnbaum (1855-1920)

- Born in Cracow in 1855
- He was recognized as having musical talent at an early age, eventually he was sent to study hazanut with famous cantors Salomon Sulzer in Vienna, and Moritz Deutsch in Breslau
- Became hazan in Koenigsburg in 1879
- Devoted many years to collecting Jewish music from all over Europe, amassing an incredible array of music scores as well as other materials relating to Jewish music of the time period, became internationally renowned for this collection, providing the most comprehensive collection of Jewish music from around Europe
Eduard Birnbaum
Birnbaum Mus.101 (Italy, 17th century, 21 items for Shabbat, also Simhat Torah and other occasions)
What is really interesting about Mus.101 is that there no consensus as far as I know as to authorship/composition, and that the watermark contained within is similar to a watermark from 1583. It is one of the most important items in the Birnbaum collection.
Birnbaum Mus.102 (a-b) (c.1760’s-1780’s)
Various composers
Levy Sheet Music Collection at Johns Hopkins