Judaica in “Early European Books”

Digitising UCL’s pre-1700 Jewish books

Caroline Kimbell and Vanessa Freedman
University College London
Early European Books from ProQuest
Early European Books place of publication as at 2023
The Mocatta Library

• Founded 1906, based on the library of Frederic David Mocatta
Provenance: individuals

• Frederic David Mocatta (1828-1905), philanthropist, historian and bibliophile.
• Asher Myers (1848-1902), editor of the Jewish Chronicle.
Provenance: individuals

• Sir Hermann Gollancz (1852–1930), Professor of Hebrew.

• Aaron David Meldola de Sola (1853-1918), Canadian rabbi.

• Lucien Wolf (1857–1930), journalist and lobbyist.

• Albert Montefiore Hyamson (1875-1954), historian.
Provenance: organisations

- Guildhall Library.
- Jewish Museum of London.
- Judith Lady Montefiore College (on loan from the Montefiore Endowment)
Hebrew printing

• incunabula

Makre Dardeke
Naples: Joseph ben Jacob Ashkenazi
Gunzenhauser, 1488
INCUNABULA QUARTO 11 c

Pirke Avot with commentary by Maimonides.
Soncino: Joshua Solomon Soncino, c1484
INCUNABULA 11 a
Hebrew printing

• First editions

Shmuel Arkevolty, Arugat ha-Bosem. Venice: Di Gara, 1602. STRONG ROOM MOCATTA 1602 A7
Signature of [Leopold] Zunz on flyleaf
Hebrew printing

- Places of publication

Venice

STRONG ROOM MOCATTA QUARTO 1568 M1
Non-Hebrew material

- Josephus
- Christian scholars of Hebrew and Judaism
- Christian polemics and evangelism

Santes Pagnini, Epitome Thesavri Lingvæ sanctæ. Leiden: Franciscus Raphelengius, 1588. STRONG ROOM C 1588 P1
Non-Hebrew material

- Works by Jewish authors
- Translations of Hebrew works

Manasseh ben Israel, Miḳveh Yisra’el, Esto es, Esperança De Israel. Amsterdam: Samuel Ben Israel Soeiro, 1650.
STRONG ROOM MOCATTA 1650 M1 (3)
Signature of Robert Southey on title page
Illustrations

Illustrations

The testament of the Twelve Patriarchs the sons of Jacob. London: Printed by Andrew Clark, for the Company of Stationers, 1677.
STRONG ROOM MOCATTA 1677 T2
Bindings

Shmuel Arkevolty, Arugat ha-Bosem. Venice: Di Gara, 1602. Blind tooled goat skin binding with 2 brass clasps. STRONG ROOM MOCATTA 1602 A7

Humash, bound with Hebrew calendar. Amsterdam: David de Castro Tartaz, 1666. Dutch morocco binding, with gilt gauffred edges. STRONG ROOM MOCATTA QB 12 TAR c1
Annotations

• Owners’ inscriptions
• Annotations to text
• Doodles
• Censors’ marks

Censor’s signature
Makre Dardeke
Naples : Joseph ben Jacob Ashkenazi Gunzenhauser, 1488
INCUNABULA QUARTO 11 c
The testament of the Twelve Patriarchs the sons of Jacob
STRONG ROOM MOCATTA 1677 T2

All blank paper is useful...
A compendious and most marueilous history of the latter tymes of the Iewes commune weale: London : Imprinted .. by Iohn Daye for Richarde Iugge, 1558. SR MOCATTA 1558 J6 (2)

Not all annotations are learned… or the right way up
Psalterium [in Hebrew]


Liber Genesis [in Hebrew]
Bibliographic name/number: USTC 198024
Anonymous.
M. Quick look

Opus quattuor evangelista [sic]... [-Apocalipsis]
Bibliographic name/number: USTC 186469
Ruffi, Antoine.
France: 1520.

Apparat de la Bible, ou Introduction à la lecture de l’Ecriture sainte,
traduit du latin du R. P. Lamy,... [par ... Bibliographic name/number: USTC 6123859.
Lamy, Bernard, 1640-1715 (Lamy, Bernard; Lamy, Bernard, de l’Oratoire...).