

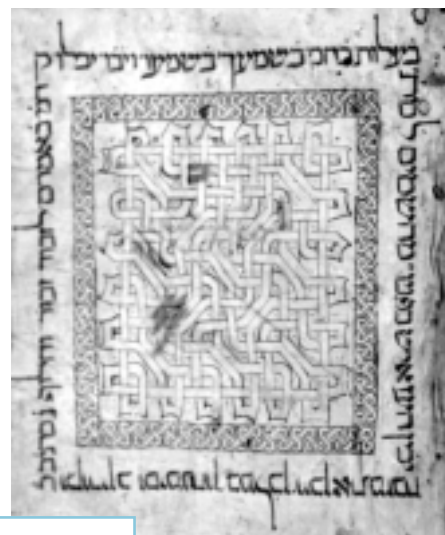
When Hebrew Union College's Library was founded in 1875, all of its books could be fit into a single metal trunk – and every night they actually were, to prevent them from being gnawed on by the rats that plagued the river levee district of Cincinnati where the College was then located. Today, with 436,000 printed books and many thousands of special collection items including manuscripts, computer files, microforms, maps, broadsides, bookplates, tablets, and stamps, the Klau Library in Cincinnati has the largest Judaica collection in the western hemisphere and is second in size only to the Judaica collection at the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem.

The Mission

The Mission Statement of the HUC-JIR Library system, approved by HUC-JIR's Board of Governors, mandates the Library system to "collect, preserve, and provide access to the total record of Jewish thought and experience." The Klau Library in Cincinnati functions both as a campus library and as the main research library within the HUC-JIR Library system. It supports the teaching functions of the Rabbinical and Graduate pro-

grams of the campus, and provides its depth of resources and various library services to the other HUC-JIR libraries – the Abramov Library in Jerusalem, the Frances-Henry Library in Los Angeles, and the Klau Library in New York. It also serves as a resource for the University of Cincinnati Judaic Studies department and for other local educational institutions through its membership in the Greater Cincinnati Library Consortium.

Pentateuch. Haftarat. Megillot. Lisbon. 1475. Ms. 2. This work is also known as the *Ibn Musa Bible* from its copyist, Samuel ben Samuel ibn Musa. It is bound in a box-binding and it is the earliest of only six box bindings on Jewish books known to have survived from medieval times. The intricate design in the image above is known as a "carpet page."



To Collect, Preserve,
and Provide Access to the
Total Record of Jewish
Thought and Experience:

THE KLAU LIBRARY IN CINCINNATI

The first in a series on HUC-JIR's network of Libraries

The Klau Library has always been a leader in making its resources available to as wide a user community as possible, both locally and worldwide. The Library has use and circulation policies unique among American scholarly collections: everyone is welcome to register and use the Library's resources in person; and local residents of the tri-state area may also borrow books from the collection. The interlibrary loan department sends materials to libraries around the world, while HUC-JIR alumni may borrow directly. Rare and precious items are loaned for exhibitions at the great museums of the world, and less rare items are made available to UAHC congregations for local display.

The Treasures

The Dalsheimer Rare Book Building contains a great heritage of the Jewish people, bibliographic and artistic. Highlighting its Hebrew manuscript collection are a 10th century Bible commentary; an 11th century illuminated Bible Codex; fifty-nine booklets written by the Jews of Kaifeng, China, including the unique Chinese-Hebrew *Memorial Book*,



The Second Cincinnati Haggadah. Moravia. 1717. Ms. 444.1

Produced by Moses Judah Loeb, son of Benjamin Wolf Broda, from Trebitsch, Moravia. This elegant Haggadah features miniatures in oil on parchment which are most often based on the copperplate engravings found in the printed Amsterdam Haggadah of 1712. In 1723, the artist created a nearly identical manuscript known as the *Van Geldern Haggadah*, which is held in a private collection. The Klau Library, Cincinnati, is developing an interactive CD-ROM facsimile edition which will include both HUC-JIR's Haggadah and the Van Geldern Haggadah.

Charting The Vision

The greatness of a library must be measured by the quality of the individuals who staff it as well as the size, depth, and quality of its collection. For more than a century, the Klau Library has been under the leadership of exceptional individuals: **Sigmund Mannheimer**, 1884 to 1902; **Judah L. Magnus** (a graduate of the College in 1900), 1902 to 1904; **Adolph S. Oko**, 1906 to 1933; **Walter Rothman**, 1933 to 1945; and **Herbert C. Zafren**, 1950 to 1994, who became the College-Institute's first Director of Libraries in 1968.

Under **Professor Herbert C. Zafren**, the Klau Library's holdings doubled in size from 100,000 volumes to 200,000 between 1950 and 1965, and then doubled again by his retirement. Professor Zafren was the

founding President of the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) and served twice as President of the Council of Archives and Research Libraries in Jewish Studies (CARLJS) of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture. He also established the Library's monographic series, *Bibliographica Judaica* (*BJ*), and was founding editor of *Studies in Bibliography and Booklore* (*SBB*), the only Judaica/Hebraica bibliographic journal in English.

Dr. David J. Gilner was named Librarian of the Klau Library, Cincinnati, in 1991 and Director of Libraries in 1994. His career at the Library spans twenty-four years and has been marked by the introduction of innovative ideas and technology, most notably the establishment of the Klau Library's digitizing initiative in 1995 and the online public access catalog in 1999. Dr. Gilner succeeded Professor Zafren as Chairman of the Boards of Editors of both *BJ* and *SBB*. During sixteen years of service to the AJL, Dr. Gilner's various offices have included a recent term as President; he is currently serving as President of CARLJS.

The entire College-Institute benefits from the dedication and tireless efforts of the Klau Library's fine professional and support staff. All of the professional librarians of the HUC-JIR Library system have graduate degrees in library and information science; several have subject Masters' and Doctorates. The staff of the Klau Library in Cincinnati is supervised by **Ellen Kovacic**, Senior Associate Librarian for Technical Services, and by **Arnona Rudavsky**, Senior Associate Librarian for Public Services. **Laurel S. Wolfson** was appointed Deputy Librarian in 2000 to manage the day-to-day operation of the Klau Library, Cincinnati. She has served on the Board and Council of AJL since 1990, and is the current treasurer. She has been Managing Editor of *BJ* and *SBB* since 1998.



and two beautifully illustrated *haggadot*, the late 15th century *First Cincinnati Haggadah* created in southern Germany and the early 18th century *Second Cincinnati Haggadah* produced in Moravia. The fifty-two manuscripts from the Samaritan community include a Pentateuch written in 1479. Its collection of illuminated scrolls, especially Esther scrolls, include examples of both the oldest of such works and the most beautiful and unusual. The Eduard Birnbaum Collection of Jewish cantorial music is the world's largest collection of Jewish music manuscripts, including sheet music and indices to the different liturgical melodies used by the Jews of Europe.

Among the 14,000 rare printed volumes housed in the Dalsheimer Rare Book Building are significant collections of Hebrew and non-Hebrew incunabula (books printed before 1501), 16th and 17th century books printed in Hebrew, and Yiddish and Ladino works. The building holds important Josephus and Spinoza collections, as well as the early imprints of the Library's Judaica Americana collection, which is the world's largest – and a third larger again

than the second largest collection held by the New York Public Library. A large map collection includes the famous chart of the Mediterranean world produced by Judah Abenzara in Cairo in 1500, the only known specimen in the western hemisphere from the great school of medieval Jewish cartographers. The collection of broadsides – a sheet printed on one side only – includes 10,000 pieces documenting community activities, theater posters, government announcements, and private occasions, e.g., wedding poems and eulogies. There are also important collections of bookplates, bindings, miniature books, cuneiform tablets, and Israeli stamps.

The Library also continues to acquire rare books and manuscripts using special gifts and endowed funds. Last year, for example, it was able to acquire three important manuscripts in this fashion: an 11th century Bible commentary in Hebrew and Aramaic, thanks to a gift

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Haggadah. Hamburg. 1740/41. Ms. 445. "Who knows four? I know four! Four are the Matriarchs..." Beneath the Hebrew text, the scribe has included a Yiddish version written in a Hebrew script popularly known as Rashi script. Throughout the text of this Haggadah, the ritual instructions are written in Hebrew, Yiddish, and Ladino, which served to increase the potential market for this work.

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from Susan Shapiro in honor of her husband, L. Dennis Shapiro, a former member of HUC-JIR's Board of Governors; a collection of prayers, hymns, and private petitions, written in Cochin, India, in 1690, thanks to the generosity of Stuart Rose through the Stuart Rose Foundation Endowment; and the Responsa of the MaHaRaM of Rothenberg, a 14th or early 15th century manuscript on vellum, that contains fifty previously unpublished responsa, which was acquired with funds allocated to the Klau Library by the Judaica Conservancy Foundation. Such items are not purchased simply to enhance the status of the Library; they are acquired to meet the research needs of our various core user communities: faculty, students, and alumni, as well as to support the publication efforts of our faculty. For example, since the Klau Library has the world's largest collection of printed responsa in its Freehof Collection, it was very appropriate to add a manuscript from a most important rabbinical author that contains fifty responsa not found in the printed editions.

The Audience

"Books are for use" is the first law of librarianship, and the Klau Library prides itself on making its collections accessible to as wide an audience as possible; it has a justly earned international reputation as the "lender of last resort" for Hebraica and Judaica. The Klau Library is regularly asked to send its treasures for display at other libraries and museums. Over the years, it has lent materials for exhibitions at the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.,

the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora in Tel Aviv, the New York Public Library, the Jewish Museum in New York, and the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. In 2000, the Klau Library lent forty rare or unique items touching on the celebration of Passover to the Bridwell Library at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

The Preservation

The Library also holds these precious treasures in trust for future generations and must ensure their survival. Over the years, the Library has upgraded the heating, ventilating, and air



Liturgy. Cochin, India. 1690. Manuscript on paper. Ms. Acq. 2000-4 An unusually early work from this exotic community, it contains prayers, hymns, and private petitions unique to this community. This illustration appears at the beginning of a collection of songs for the marriage ceremony. Acquired through the generosity of Mr. Stuart Rose through the Stuart Rose Foundation endowment.

conditioning systems (HVAC) for its rare book facilities. In the Dalsheimer Rare Book Building, the temperature is kept at 63 degrees and the humidity between 40% and 50% through the use of a state of the art low-pressure HVAC system. The East Wing stack – constructed in 1925 as the College's second

library – holds 200,000 items published between 1610 and 1900 and has a new HVAC system and duct work, but additional work is yet required to maximize preservation of its collections. In the Klau Library building, opened in 1961, the HVAC has been upgraded several times since its initial construction, but the binary air-handling system needs upgrading to a modern unitary system to provide the recommended atmospheric conditions in the book stacks which hold over 220,000 items.

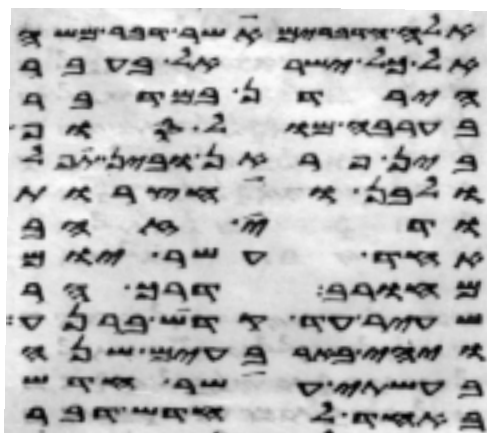
The Innovations

The Klau Library, Cincinnati, has been a leader in implementing new technologies for the preservation and dissemination of HUC-JIR's unique and precious resources. In 1955, it established the American Jewish Periodical Center (AJPC) and

became the first Jewish library – and one of the first libraries worldwide – to preserve its periodical collection on archival-quality microfilm. Currently, the AJPC includes some 1,350 newspaper, periodical, and Reform temple bulletin titles, comprising 14.5 million pages of text on microfilm. Over the years, it has performed a major service to Jewish and American scholarship by disseminating its large and varied resources to institutions and individuals engaged in research: scholars, journalists, film makers, novelists, historians, genealogists and individuals researching the history of North American Jewish communities.

In 1967, the Library became a founding member of the Ohio College Library Consortium (OCLC) and began to enter its holdings into an online, shared bibliographic database. The Klau Library regularly contributed the highest percentage of new records to this database over the years. In 1989, the Library became a member of the Research Libraries Group, which had just implemented a Hebrew vernacular script component available for its Research Library Information Network (RLIN). In 2001, the Klau Library provided global access to all of its roman alphabet holdings via a web gateway to its VTLS online, integrated library system.

In 1995, the Klau Library became the first Judaica library to make selections from its rare book and illuminated manuscript holdings available using the Pro3000 digital planetary camera system developed at IBM's T.J. Watson Laboratories. During the first days of Passover 1996, over 160,000 visits from thirty-six countries – including four Arab countries – were



Samaritan Pentateuch. 1479. Sam. Ms. 1
Only the Five Books of Moses are included in the Samaritan canon of the Bible, and they employ a version of the most ancient Hebrew script to write their sacred texts. Here, at the beginning of Deuteronomy, the scribe has divided the text into two columns; the letters between the columns form a colophon giving the scribe's name and the date of his work.

recorded by Congregation Emanu-El in the City of New York's website, to whom the Library had lent thirty-two digitized images from four important illuminated Haggadah manuscripts.

During 1997, the Klau Library mounted a virtual tour of the Rare Book Room on the College-Institute's website. At Passover 2000, the Klau Library helped prepare an interactive CD-ROM edition of its treasured *First Cincinnati Haggadah* manuscript, which was distributed to all of the congregations in the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, as well as to HUC-JIR alumni and the many friends of the College-Institute.

Several other CD-ROM projects are currently in process: a CD with the Klau Library's codex manuscripts of the Jews of Kaifeng, China, including a Torah scroll from the collection of the Bridwell Library at Southern Methodist University; a CD which will include the *Second Cincinnati Haggadah* and

its "sister," the *Van Geldern Haggadah*, which is held privately; and a CD which will include many of the beautiful and rare illuminated Esther scrolls held in our collection.

The Collection
"Most acquisitions come from book dealers and publishers, but in the 1950s, Professor Herbert Zafren came up with an inventive way to develop the collection and to pay for it at the same time. He arranged for the College-Institute to purchase a Jewish bookstore on the lower East Side of Manhattan that was up for sale. While he was going through the stock of the store for items needed by the Klau Library, he kept it open and sold remaining stock to customers, paying much of the cost of this venture," recalls Dr. Gilner.

On average, the Klau Library adds some 6,000 new monographs to its collection each year. In addition, the Library currently has 2,250 subscriptions to newspapers and journals. As they become available, maps, broadsides, printed music, and ephemera are added to the collection. Also acquired are a wealth of non-printed material, including new Israeli stamps and covers, Jewish texts and reference works on laser CD-ROM, cantorial sound recordings, and microform materials. These acquisitions are mostly covered by the acquisitions budget allocated to the Library. But the cost of books has been going up some ten per-

cent each year for over a decade. If the Library's collections are to continue to grow, additional funds to support its acquisitions budget must be secured.

The Challenges

Unfortunately, for the past decade, the Klau Library has been plagued by a single challenging reality – it has run out of space: space for its varied collection; space for personnel; and space needed for new programs and technologies. The Library has coped with the problem by shifting collections to the other Libraries in the HUC-JIR system, selling duplicate collections to other scholarly libraries, and moving collections to off-site (and less-accessible) storage. But the Klau Library in New York has no more spare room and the Frances-Henry Library in Los Angeles, built to hold 75,000 volumes, now holds 105,000 books and is also facing a severe space crisis. Off-site storage can mean more than reduced access; in January 2000, a burst water main in the basement of the New Dormitory destroyed 480 boxes of Library periodical materials held there in storage.

More specialized storage space is needed for rare books, maps, broadsides and other special collections. New space is required for a computer center and for a conservation laboratory, and more workspace is needed for technical processing. The Library no longer has the shelf space necessary to unpack large gifts for sorting and processing; they must be removed immediately to offsite storage. There is insufficient space to house the books currently out on loan from the collection. And while the Library continues to house some 200,000 volumes in the Library stacks built in 1925, it can come as no surprise that this area needs structural and environmental upgrades. If the Klau Library in Cincinnati is to cope successfully with a problem that has been aborning for well over a decade, then all the resources available to the College-Institute must be brought to bear to deal with this problem. It is with this support that the College-Institute will be able "to collect, preserve, and provide access to the total record of Jewish thought and experience" for the generations to come.



Birds are common in medieval illumination, including those found in Jewish manuscripts. The front panel of this Esther Scroll includes various animals; the most unusual is the pair of turkeys found atop the initial column.