

Yiddish Publications from the Netherlands



An extreme wide range of works including:

- Fiction, Purim plays, textbooks
- Books on community life
- Bible editions
- Rules and regulations
- Yiddish broadsheets
- Humoristic Yiddish publications



Title list available at: www.idc.nl

Editor: Mirjam Gutschow, Menasseh Ben Israel Institute and Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana, Amsterdam.

Yiddish Publications from the Netherlands

In the 1970s, IDC Publishers published a collection of Yiddish books, under the supervision of the late Chone Shmeruk (1921-1997). Since then, this outstanding edition has served as a corpus for many a scholar. The new collection is more than a mere supplement. Together, the two underscore Amsterdam's importance as a place where Yiddish books were printed and for whom, reflect the taste of the reading audiences, clarify whose books were commissioned and for whom, teach us about their printers, and show us what was for sale. Thus, they will form a solid basis for new research into this fascinating chapter in the history of the Jewish book.



Ma'aleh bet horin ve-hu seder Hagadah shel Pesah. ... / ... 'im targum Ashkenazi min ... Yo'el Bril ve-r. David Fridlender. Amsterdam, [1810].

Amsterdam: centre of Yiddish printing

Amsterdam was a thriving centre of Yiddish printing from the mid-seventeenth until the mid-nineteenth century. Nearly all the Yiddish books published in the Netherlands were printed in Amsterdam, unlike manuscripts and printed Hebrew books, which were produced throughout the country. Some of the items included in this collection date back to the seventeenth century: The oldest are the 1661 edition of the *Bovo-Bukh* and the 1663 edition of *Megilat Ester*. The bulk of the books in this collection date from the eighteenth century, a time of great activity for Amsterdam's printers of Yiddish. By the 1820s, Yiddish printing in Amsterdam had practically come to an end; only rules and regulations were still being printed in that language. It was only after the arrival of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe that Yiddish literature was again published in the Netherlands. Some examples are Chaia Raisman's *Nit in Golus un nit in der heim* (printed in Latin characters; 1931), the two booklets by Jacob Rothstein (ca. 1920 and 1922; printed in Rotterdam), Gedalja Frenkel's *Shriftn*

(an oblong booklet; 1932), and *Undzer brik* (an extremely rare stenciled periodical; 1949).

Inventory of Yiddish Books from the Netherlands

This new collection is based on the *Inventory of Yiddish Books from the Netherlands*, which was compiled by Mirjam Gutschow and is scheduled to appear in 2005. The *Inventory* lists all the Yiddish books that have been printed in the Netherlands, regardless of their content. The new collection aims to contain all the Amsterdam Yiddish material that has not yet been filmed; that is, material that does not appear in either the first IDC edition of Yiddish books or in the microfiche collection of Hebraica and Judaica from the Tychsen Collection and the Rostock University Library (Rostock University Library, eds. Hermann Süß and Heike Tröger). Most of the books are extremely rare.

So far, books have been filmed at the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana in the Amsterdam University Library and the Ets Haim/Livraria Montezinos library in Amsterdam. IDC Publishers intends to publish a second collection in the future, comprising books held in libraries in other countries.

Extensive wide range of works

The extraordinary diverse collection comprises works of fiction such as *Falentin un' Orson* and *Eyn shen vunderlikh mayse fun eyner kale mit dray khasanim*. There are Purim plays and plays by the Amsterdam playwright and director Jacob Dessauer (*Di muzikanten, Arbeyt und flays*). Several textbooks were published, for example the grammar book *Luah ha-dikduk in Zivhe Toviya* or the mathematics primer *Yedi' at ha-heshbon*. The latter includes a table showing the reverse of several shilling coins. The historical writings are also important to mention, such as the 1771 re-edition of Amelander's *She'erit Yisrael* – which contains additions to the earlier version – and Solomon ben Moses Prinz's *Kronik min shenat 544 'ad shenat 548* (i.e. 1784-1788). A book like *Sefer ha-Hayim / Sefer Sha'ar Shimon*, which

appeared in 1714 and 1747, forms a valuable source for Jewish mourning customs and the community life, and provides the background to the regulations of the Jewish communities.

Guides to ethical behavior, like *Darkhe yesharim helek rishon* of 1758, are also included, as well as several Bible translations – two with Yiddish notes in the margins – and Bible commentaries, Tsenerene and prayer books. All these will be of interest to scholars studying the religious life of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, as well as to those researching the development of the Yiddish language.

The collection also contains editions of the rules and regulations of Jewish communities between 1708-1846. For these, see also IDC's collection *Rules and Regulations of Dutch Jewish Communities and Associations, 1726-1943*. These two collections complement each other, and together provide a rich insight into Jewish communal life in the Netherlands, mainly Amsterdam.

A special collection of sixteen Yiddish broadsheets forms another part of the collection (others are included with the Rules and regulations and the



Rodelsum, El'azar Zusman ben Yitshak. Mikra meforash. Amsterdam, [1749].

humoristic Yiddish publications). Some of these broadsheets announce the titles of forthcoming books.

All booklets and broadsheets in the 'Humoristic Yiddish publications' section are in the Ets Haim library. Most were printed for Purim. Many were written by Shloume Duikelaar, but there are two booklets by Jacob Dessauer. Some of the broadsides bear an especially elaborate headpiece. They all are extremely rare.

The collection also contains *Pesach Haggadot*. Here a small selection of eleven books from the holdings of the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana was included, most of which are nicely illustrated.

Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana and Ets Haim Library

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana – the special collection of Hebraica and Judaica donated to the city of Amsterdam in 1880 and now held by the Amsterdam University Library –



Ashkenazi, Yaakov ben Yitzchak. Tse'engah u-re'engah benot Tsiyon. Amsterdam, [1782].

concentrates on collecting all items printed in Amsterdam, of which it owns a substantial collection. The library also holds several smaller collections of, for example, broadsheets and the rules and regulations of Dutch Jewish Communities and Associations (both collections also contain Yiddish documents).

Although the Ets Haim/Livraria Montezinos library – which was founded in 1616 and has been housed in the Portuguese Synagogue complex in Amsterdam since 1675 – collects mainly books and manuscripts with a Sephardic background, it also contains a splendid collection of Yiddish books. A number of these (mainly humoristic texts) are included in the new IDC collection.

Mirjam Gutschow

Researcher at the Menasseh Ben Israel Institute, and cataloguer at the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana, Amsterdam University Library

Cover illustrations from:

- Frankfurter, Moses. Sefer Sha ar Shim on. Amsterdam, [1797].
- Hamishah humshe Torah : kefi minhag ha-Sefardim vaha-Ashkenazim. Amstelerdam, [1674].
- Yiddish Rules and Regulations of Jewish Communities and Associations in the Netherlands.

General information

Scope	92 titles (including three titles that contain 86 short works in total)
Number of fiche	289
Size of fiche	105 x 148 mm.
Film type	Positive silver halide
Reduction ratio	Varies depending on the size of the original
Internal finding aids	Eye-legible headers on every fiche indicating the author, abbreviated title, place and date of printing of each item
External Finding aids	Bibliographic records for all titles ordered are supplied in AACR2/MARC21 format with the microfiches

Title list

The title list can be downloaded from www.idc.nl

If you prefer a printed list, please contact us by e-mail at info@idc.nl

Publisher's note

The Yiddish Publications from the Netherlands that were published by IDC in the 70s, have also been included in the title list as a separate section.

108 titles on 601 fiches.



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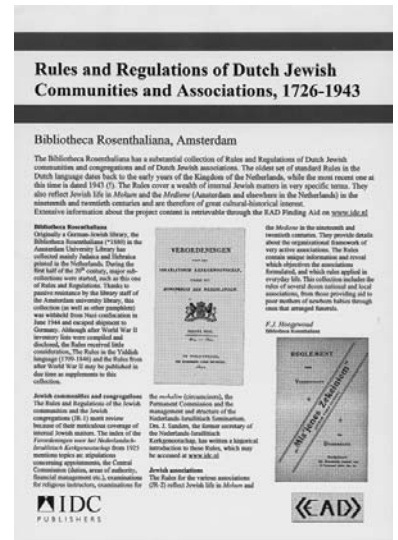
RULES AND REGULATIONS OF DUTCH JEWISH COMMUNITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS, 1726-1943

Editor: F.J. Hoogewoud, Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

The Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana has a substantial collection of Rules and Regulations of Dutch Jewish congregations and communities and of Dutch Jewish associations. The oldest set of standard Rules dates back to the early years of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, while the most recent one at this time is dated 1943 (!).

The Rules cover a wealth of internal Jewish matters in very specific terms. They also reflect Jewish life in *Mokum* and the *Mediene* (Amsterdam and elsewhere in the Netherlands) in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and are of great cultural-historical interest in this respect.

- 550 documents
- 189 microfiche
- Including EAD Finding Aid at www.idc.nl

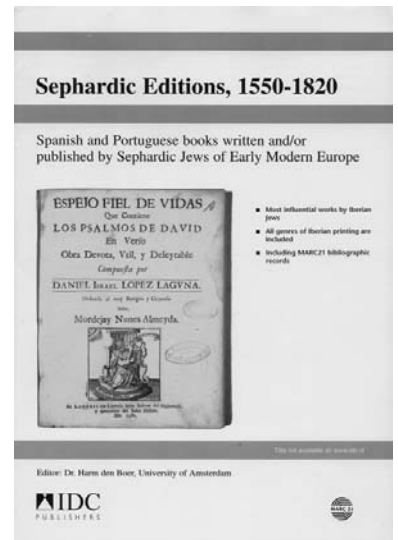


SEPHARDIC EDITIONS, 1550-1820 (INSTALLMENTS 1 AND 2)

Editor: Dr. Harm den Boer, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Meyer Kayserling's *Biblioteca española-portuguesa-judaica* (1890) is a hallmark of Iberian and Jewish bibliography. It reveals the importance, richness, and variety of the culture produced by the Jews of Spain and Portugal, both the exiles of 1492 and the many converted Jews - the "New Christians" or "conversos" - who returned to Judaism between the sixteenth and the eighteenth centuries. Many of the editions included in Meyer Kayserling's bibliography are exceedingly scarce. With this collection of Sephardic editions, IDC Publishers makes the Sephardi heritage generally available to modern research.

- 234 titles
- 643 microfiche
- Including MARC21 bibliographic records



HEBREW AND JUDEO-ARABIC PRINTING IN BAGHDAD

Advisor: Brad Sabin Hill, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York

The Hebrew and Judeo-Arabic books from Baghdad comprise an unparalleled resource for the study of oriental printing, Hebrew liturgical history, Judeo-Arabic literature, and the history and culture of the most ancient Jewish diaspora community. With this publication IDC Publishers makes this important collection generally available to modern research.

- 346 titles
- 617 microfiche
- Including MARC21 bibliographic records

