

SHAPERO

RARE BOOKS



SHANAH TOVAH  
JEWISH NEW YEAR BOOKS





**I. ASHKENAZI, JACOB BEN ISAAC. Tzena U'rena Bnot Zion. [Illustrated commentary on the Pentateuch with Prayer-book, for women].**  
*Amsterdam, Herz Levi and Kashman, 1766.*

£1500 [ref: 97707]

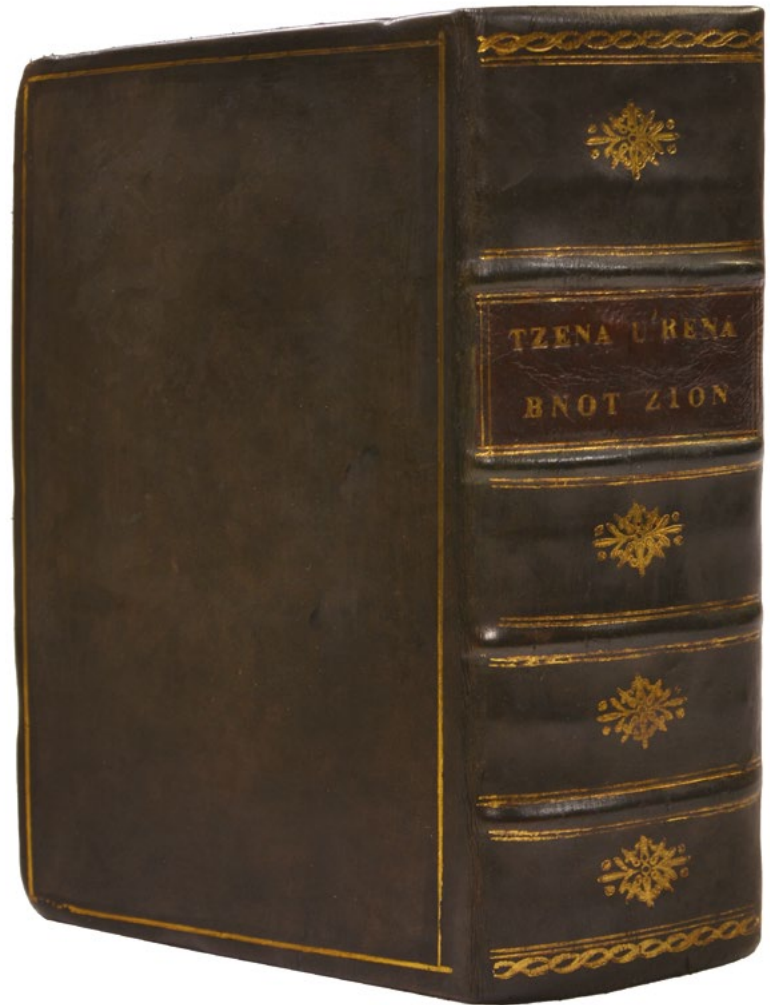
The work, sometimes called The Women's Bible, is a didactic prose work written in Yiddish circa 1590s, whose structure parallels the weekly Torah portions of the Pentateuch and Haftarot which are read in the weekly synagogue services. The work mixes Biblical passages with teachings from the Oral Torah, such as the Talmud's Aggadot and Midrashim (allegories, legends, tales and commentary and interpretations of the Torah). Includes Sabbath prayers at the beginning of the book.

The name of the book derives from a verse of the Song of Songs that begins: *Tz'ēnhā ur'ēnhā bənōt Tziyyon* ('Go forth and see, O ye daughters of Zion', Song 3:11). The nature of the source of the name indicates that the book was intended for women, who at the time would have been less versed in the Hebrew language and less educated than men.

The author, Rabbi Jacob ben Isaac Ashkenazi (1550-1624) was born near Lublin, Poland. He would tour the neighbouring communities and to publicly read the weekly Torah portions (Parashat HaShavua). He has written a few works on the Halacha and the interpretations of the scriptures, but *Tzena U'rena* remains his most famous work.

*8vo (19 x 11.5 cm); [2], 510 ll.; woodcut illustrations in the text; text in Hebrew and Yiddish in Tzena U'rena font; contemporary-style 20th-century calf boards, morocco label and gilt decoration to spine.*

*Vinograd, Amsterdam 1905.*



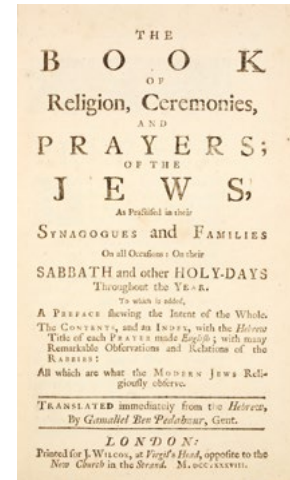
## FIRST ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF ANY PART OF THE SIDDIR

2. MEARS, ABRAHAM. The book of religion, ceremonies, and prayers of the Jews, as practised in their synagogues and families on all occasions: On their Sabbath and other holy days throughout the year, to which is added, a preface showing the intent of the whole. The contents, and an index, with the Hebrew title of each prayer made English; with many remarkable observations and relations of the rabbis: All which are what the modern Jews religiously observe. Translated immediately from the Hebrew, by Gamaliel Ben Pedahzur, Gent. London, Printed for J. Wilcox, 1738.

£3750 [ref: 94056]

THE EARLIEST TRANSLATION TO ENGLISH OF THE JEWISH PRAYER-BOOK.

This comprehensive, and occasionally rather critical, study of Jewish life and practices is dominated by the first English translation of any part of the Siddur, the definitive Jewish prayer-book. Translated by Abraham Mears (under the pseudonym of Gamaleil Ben Pedahzur, according to Roth), an apostate member of the English Ashkenazi community, it was intended as an exposition of Judaism rather than a service book, but



in providing phonetic translations of the Hebrew title of each prayer Mears explicitly promotes its use 'to Beginners in the Hebrew Tongue' and 'all Persons that resort to the Synagogues'. The transliterated Hebrew title for each prayer is found in the margins, enabling the curious non-Hebrew reading Christian to attend and follow a synagogue service. The transliteration of the Hebrew characters provides a clue as to how Hebrew was pronounced in the eighteenth-century Ashkenazi community of London.

The book was not intended for liturgical use, but rather for scholarly readership, so it is not in effect a prayer-book. It reflects the growing interest in Judaism on the part of non-Jewish Englishmen of the eighteenth century.

*First edition, 8vo (20.5 x 13 cm); xiv, 96; 291, [7] pp.; contemporary polished calf, gilt, contrasting red morocco lettering-piece, early inked initials letters and shelfmark to front pastedown, nineteenth-century ink inscription to rear pastedown; slightly rubbed, with a small chip to head of spine and some light scuffing to boards, one or two paper-flaws to page numbers, small hole to 12, barely touching a single character of text, occasional mark, light damp-staining to rear endpapers, else a very crisp and clean copy.*

ESTC T86072; Roth B8:6.



FIRST HEBREW PENITENTIAL PRAYERS BOOK PRINTED IN LONDON

3. [PRAYER BOOK]. Selichoth mi'Kol Hashana. [Penitential prayers for the whole year, according to the rites of Poland, Bohemia, Hungary and Moravia]. London, William Tooke (printer), 1770.

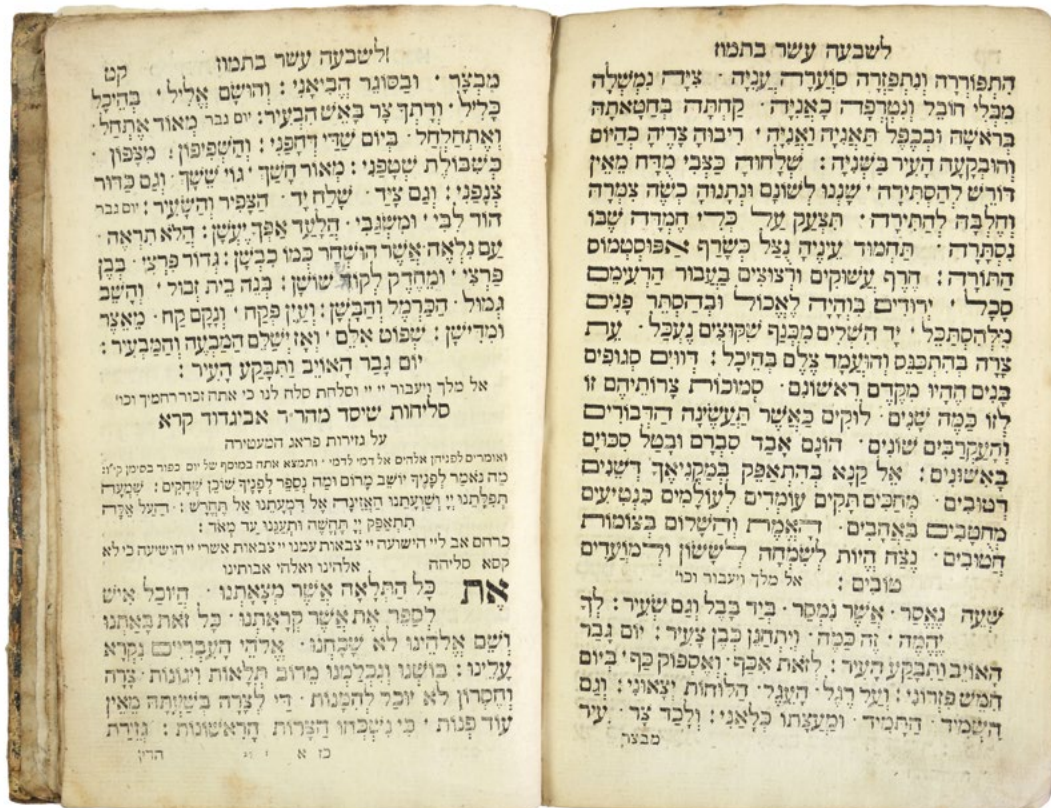
£3500 [ref: 91 | 28]

In the 1770s, several Hebrew prayer books were printed in London for the first time by three different Jewish publishers: A. Alexander & Son, David Levi and a new Jewish publishing house, responsible for publishing this book, established by Isaac ben Yedidi, Moshe ben Gershon and Ya'akov ben Issaschar. Unlike Levi and Alexander this group printed books exclusively

in Hebrew and Yiddish. Their first publication is said to have been the Toledoth Jacob, a work written by an immigrant Polish scholar named Jacob Eisenstadt. It was followed by a portly liturgy book with Yiddish translation published in 1770/1 in three quarto volumes. All three publications are considered to be very rare, with only a small number of surviving copies.

First edition; 4to (20.5 x 13.5 cm); 114 leaves; pagination in Hebrew; leaves browned, wear and occasional small tears to margins of leaves. Half cloth marbled boards, hinges and corners restored.

Roth B8:13.



T E P H I L L O T H,  
CONTAINING THE  
FORMS OF PRAYERS  
Which are Publicly read in the  
S Y N A G O G U E S,  
AND USED IN ALL FAMILIES.  
FAITHFULLY TRANSLATED  
FROM THE  
O R I G I N A L H E B R E W.

To which is added,  
An Account of what Chapters of the five Books of Moses are  
read every Sabbath and Holy Day throughout the Year.

A L S O  
The Account of the Sections out of the Prophets, read every  
Sabbath and Holy Day throughout the Year.

Together with,  
AN ALPHABETICAL INDEX;  
AND THE HEBREW TITLE OF EACH PRAYER.

Translated by B. MEYERS, and A. ALEXANDER.

L O N D O N.  
PRINTED BY W. TOOKE,  
FOR THE TRANSLATORS.

A. M. 5520.

סדר התפלה

לפאר ותהלה

מראשית השנה עד אחריתה  
אשר לא נדפס מעולם כמתכונתה

הועתק ע"י הב"ח התורני הר"ר בענדיט זושט  
מהלברשטט. וע"י התורני הר"ר אלכסנדר בר  
יהודא ז"ל מלונדן. מלשוננו הקדושה ללשון  
ענגלישערי. בצרור הדקדוק והעיון נצררה.  
למען ידעו כל ערת בני ישראל האנשים  
והנשים והטף ויבינו בכל מלה ומלה  
את אשר ידברו בשפה ברורה.  
בהתפללם לנורא עליה.  
ולרצון תפלתם  
יעלה:



נדפס

בלונדן

לסדר ולפרט. ההום אל תהום קורא לקול



FIRST HEBREW-ENGLISH PRAYER BOOK PRINTED IN ENGLAND

4. [PRAYER BOOK]. MEYERS, B. & ALEXANDER A. (TRANSLATORS). *Tephilloth, Containing the Forms of Prayers Which are Publicly Read in The Synagogues, and Used in All Families.* London, W. Tooke for The Translators, 1770.

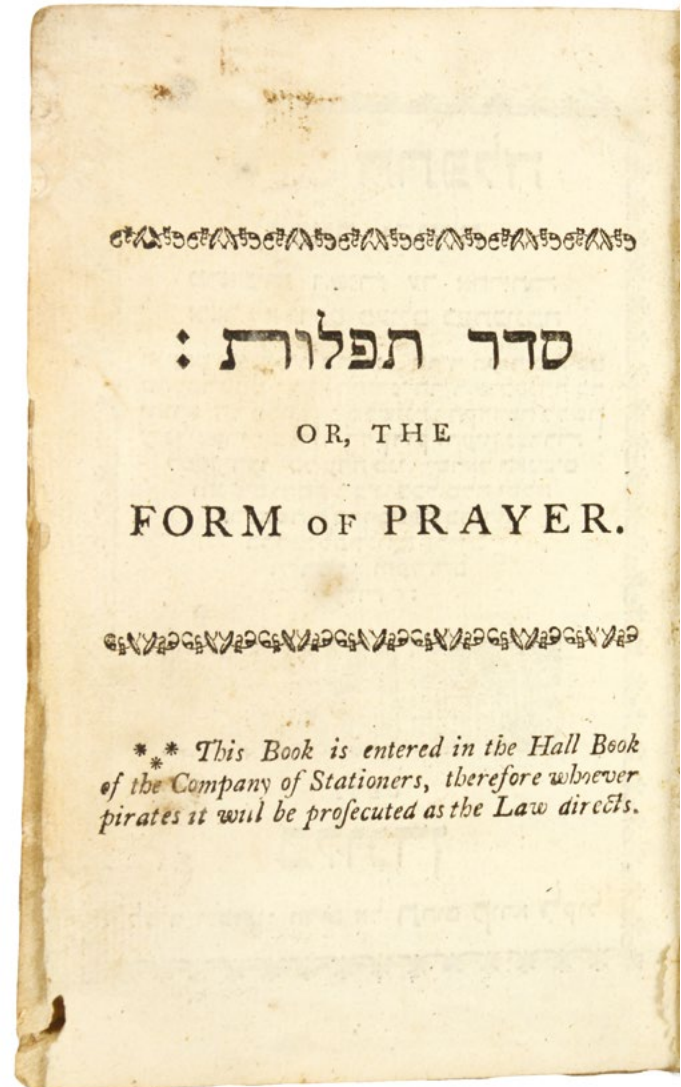
£12,500 [ref: 91151]

In 1770, Alexander Alexander, pioneer of the Hebrew press in London, produced this liturgy according to the Ashkenazic rite in partnership with Benedict Meyers (Jost) of Halberstadt. The first English translation of the daily prayer-book, it was printed on a subscription basis and interestingly, the list of subscribers included many non-Jews.

The translators Alexander and Meyers took note in their preface, that despite the cultural and religious significance of the Hebrew language, 'being imperfectly understood by many, by some not at all, it has become necessary to translate our prayers into the language of the country wherein it has pleased Divine Providence to appoint our lot. They also belittled the earlier attempt at an English translation of a Hebrew prayer-book, which was published in London in 1738 by the apostate Abraham Mears under the pseudonym Gamaliel Ben Pedahzur, titled 'The Book of Religion, Ceremonies, and Prayers...'

First edition, 8vo, (17.5 x 11 cm); [1], 213, [16] pp. Text in Hebrew and English, worm marks and small marginal tears to a few pages, contemporary brown calf, light wear, edges rubbed. A very good copy.

Vinograd, London 60; Roth B8:10.



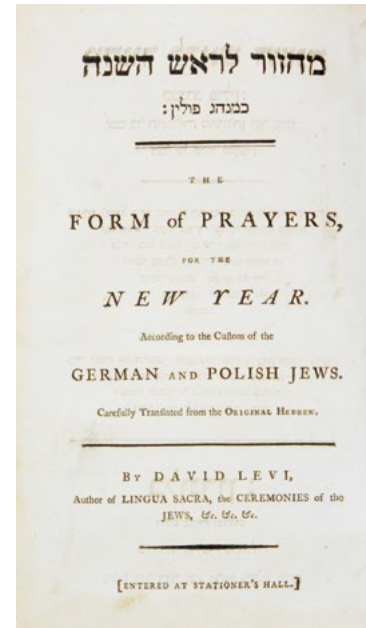
SET OF FESTIVAL PRAYERS BY ONE OF THE PIONEERS OF  
HEBREW PRINTING IN LONDON

5. [PRAYER BOOK]. LEVI, DAVID (TRANSLATOR).  
Machzor [Set of Festival Prayers]. The Form of Prayers for  
The New Year. According to the custom of the German and  
Polish Jews. London, David Levi, 1795.

£9500 [ref: 101521]

The volumes are divided according to the five most important holidays in the Jewish calendar: Vol. I. New Year (Rosh HaShanah); Vol. II. & III. Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur); Vol. IV. Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot); Vol. V. Feast of Passover (Pesach); Vol. VI. Feast of Pentecost (Shavuot).

David Levi (1740-1801), an English-Jewish writer, translator and one of the pioneers of Hebrew printing in London was in fact an erudite Whitechapel cobbler and one of the most remarkable characters of 18th-century English Jewry. He was born in London and after failing to make a living as a shoemaker, went to the other extreme and became a hatter, meanwhile continuing his studies at the Great Synagogue of London. In 1783 he produced, for the enlightenment of the



Gentile world, a succinct account of the Rites and Ceremonies of the Jews, in which their religious principles and tenets are explained. From that date onwards, he was constantly engaged in literary work, in the intervals of trying to earn his livelihood. He produced grammars, dictionaries, apologetics, pamphlets and polemics. For years on end he was a one-man Anti-Defamation Committee, always prepared to fight with his quill whenever the good name of Jews or Judaism was impugned. In addition, he produced a series of liturgical and other translations, considered to be superior to A. Alexander's. Alexander, who was a well known and established rival London-Jewish publisher, saw in Levi an imitator.

Second(?) edition; 6 vols, small 4to (24 x 15.5 cm); parallel English and Hebrew text, age-toning with the very occasional spot otherwise very clean, fine contemporary tree calf, morocco labels to spines, spines richly gilt, with personalised green lettering pieces to all spines, reading 'S. Samuel 1804'; a trifle rubbed at extremities, a very handsome set.



FROM THE LIBRARY OF DAVID SASSOON

**6. [PRAYER BOOKS]. Set of Machzorim for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, according to Sefardi Italian rite.**

*Livorno, Moshe Yehoshua Tobyana; Eliyahu ben Amozeg and friends, 1832 & 1837.*

£4500 [ref: 98759]

SET OF SEPHARDIC RITE FESTIVAL PRAYER BOOKS (MACHZORIM) WITH EXQUISITE GILT BINDINGS, MADE FOR DAVID SASSOON, THE TREASURER OF BAGHDAD.

David Sassoon (1792-1864) was a Baghdadi Jewish businessman, philanthropist and the first of the European Sassoon dynasty to be referred to as 'Rothschilds of the East' (in fact one of his sons later moved to England, became a Baronet and married into the Rothschild family). David Sassoon was born to a wealthy family of bankers and served as the treasurer of Baghdad between 1817 and 1829; his father had also served as treasurer before him. Later the family fled to Bombay (now Mumbai), following increasing persecution of Baghdad's Jews, where Sassoon became a naturalised British citizen in 1853.

From Bombay Sassoon managed his extensive trade with China. His various business interests included textiles, oil, cotton and other popular goods. Throughout his busy business life Sassoon remained an observant Orthodox Jew. He built three synagogues in India, the most beautiful in the country—the Magen David in Byculla, Bombay, the Knesset Eliyahoo Synagogue in Colaba, Mumbai and the Ohel David in Pune. All still exist and form an important part of India's cultural heritage.

*Provenance: David Sassoon.*

*8vo; all three volumes signed and dated in Hebrew by David Sassoon on title-pages and also include later bookplates in English, added by Sassoon's great grandchild. David Sassoon's name also appears in gilt letters on the spine of Rosh HaShanah volume, text in Hebrew; contemporary morocco bindings with fine, gilt ornamental tooling to spine and boards, embossed endleaves and all edges gilt, slightly rubbed; Rosh HaShanah Machzor: one vol., 114 ll.; Yom Kippur Machzor: two vols., 130 ll. & 166 ll.*



## LOUIS-PHILIPPE'S COPY - THE DEDICATION COPY

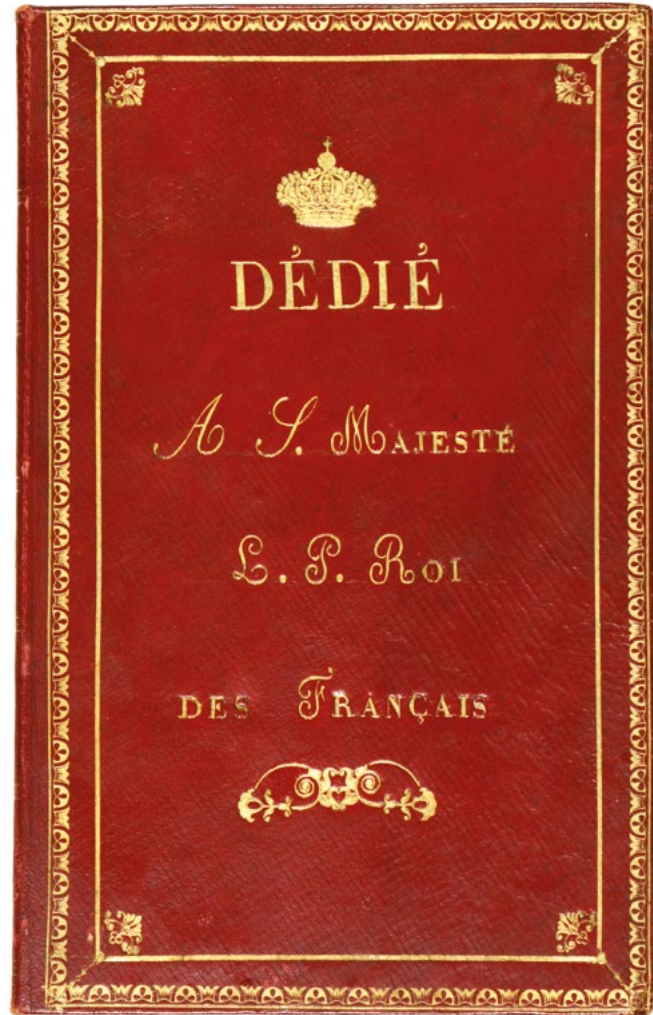
7. BELAIS [BELAISH], ABRAHAM; WOGUE, LAZARE (TRANSLATOR). *Odes et prière hébraïques, traduites en français en l'honneur de S.M. Louis-Philippe, Roi des Français, ainsi que de toute sa famille, par son serviteur Abraham Belais, ex-trésorier du Bey de Tunis, grand-rabbin de Nice et d'Alger, traduit en français par Lazare Wogue. [Odes and prayers... in honour of S. M. Louis-Philippe...]* Paris, J. Smith, 1835.

£11,000 [ref: 93844]

MAGNIFICENT EXAMPLE OF THIS GREAT RARITY - A PRESENTATION COPY FOR THE DEDICATEE, LOUIS-PHILIPPE (1773–1850), KING OF THE FRENCH (RULED 1830–1848). ONE OF ONLY THREE KNOWN COPIES. The identically bound companion to the present copy, a presentation copy for Louis-Philippe's wife Maria Amalia of Naples and Sicily (1782-1866), was sold at auction in 2003; another copy - the only other we could locate - is held in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

With the original Hebrew text handwritten next to the printed text. The printed dedication to Louis-Philippe is followed by six compositions by Belais. Each of them includes the original Hebrew text in manuscript in ink (presumably in Belais' own hand, or in the hand of Elazar Wahague, the author of the introductory praise poem, printed in Hebrew on the back of the title page).

The Hebrew manuscript text appears either on the right hand page or in the right hand column, with the parallel French translation by Lazare Wogue (scholar of the Beth Midrash Hagadol in Metz) printed in letterpress either on the left hand page or in the left hand column. Each composition has a separate title in bold: [1] Ode orientale d'Abraham Belais, tunisien, en l'honneur du Roi des Français, de la Reine son épouse, des Princes leurs enfans et du peuple [sic] français; [2] Hymne acrostiche a la gloire de notre seigneur le Roi des Français; [3] Au Roi. Cantique (with engraved tail-piece of a cornucopia); [4] Acrostiche; [5] Au Roi des Français, à la Reine et à leur Auguste Famille. Acrostiche; [6] Prière; two of



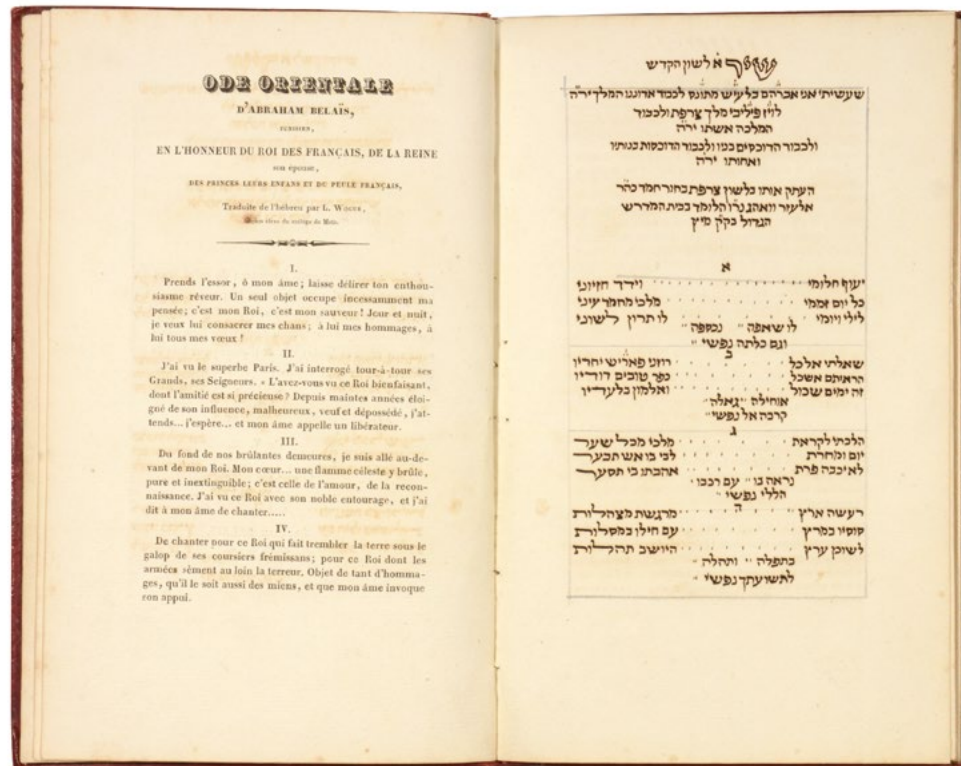


the three acrostics spell the name ABRAHAM and the other BALAIS (not Belais).

'Abraham Belais (Belaish; 1773–1853) was treasurer to the Bey of Tunis when he had to leave the country following business reverses and settled in Jerusalem. For a time he was rabbi in Algiers, then, moving to Europe, he managed to secure the patronage of persons high in public life. He was appointed by the king of Sardinia rabbi of Nice, against the wishes of the community [...] In 1840, he went to London where [...] he was ultimately given a minor communal office and sat occasionally on the bet din. He published a large number of books, apart from his sycophantic odes in honor of European crowned heads and other influential persons.' (Encyclopaedia Judaica. Detroit, 2007. vol. 3, p.277).

Provenance: Louis-Philippe, King of the French (stamp to title of the Bibliothèque du Roi, Palais Royal; sale of his library in December 1852, lot 1150, with handwritten inscription confirming this; see the Catalogue de livres provenant des bibliothèques du feu roi Louis-Philippe, vol. 2, p.113).

8vo. ff. [1 blank], pp. [3], [6], [2], [4], [1], [1 blank], [4], [4], [1 blank], with manuscript text next to the printed pages. Original gilt tooled full red morocco, upper board with Dédié a Sa Majesté L.P. Roi des Français surmounted by the royal crest in gilt, lower board with embossed floral device, original marbled endpapers, all edges gilt.



## REMARKABLE WORK ON THE TABERNACLE

**8. RHIND, W.G. The Tabernacle in The Wilderness; The Shadow of Heavenly Things. Four engravings, coloured and inlaid with gold, silver, and brass, according to the texts of scripture: with explanatory notes. London, Samuel Bagster & Sons, 1842.**

£1000 [ref: 98177]

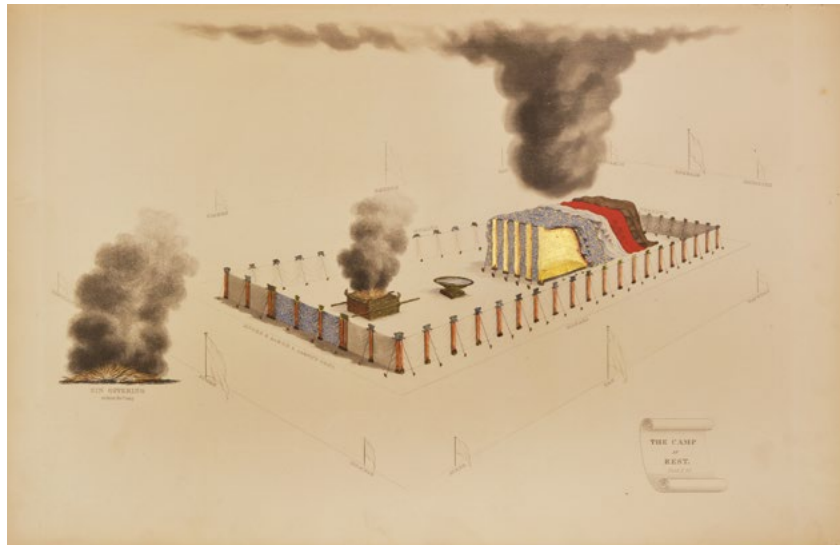
The Tabernacle (called the Mishkan in Hebrew) was the portable sanctuary in which the Jews carried the Ark of the Covenant through the desert (as described in the books of Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers of the Hebrew Bible). This book contains detailed hand-coloured illustrations and explanations of the structure and function of the Tabernacle, with references to the scripture.

William Graeme Rhind (1794-1863) was born at Gillingham, Kent, to a Naval family, and as such was destined for the Navy. In fact his name was enrolled as a first-class volunteer at the age of seven. At twelve he entered actual service as a midshipman, witnessed the horrors of war while fighting against the

Americans. He was eventually taken prisoner, together with a few other survivors from his ship, and was held in America for two years. In the winter of 1816-17 after peace had been proclaimed, he retired from active service as First Lieutenant, subsequently obtaining the rank of Commander.

Having settled at Plymouth, he found Christ, and becoming a diligent student of the Holy Scriptures he enrolled at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, in 1822, where he studied for three years, subsequently buying a sailing boat, filling it with holy books and becoming a floating preacher. He would visit the boats and war ships in Plymouth Harbour, preaching in the open air as well as in naval hospital. Besides this work, Rhind wrote *The Testimony of the Times* and a children's book entitled *The Six Days of Creation*, all of which were issued in several editions.

*Second edition; folio, [3], ii, 2-36, [1] pp., 4 fine coloured plates, each hand-coloured and inlaid with gold, silver and brass and protected with tissue guard; contemporary dark blue cloth embossed boards with gilt title, corners and spine rubbed.*





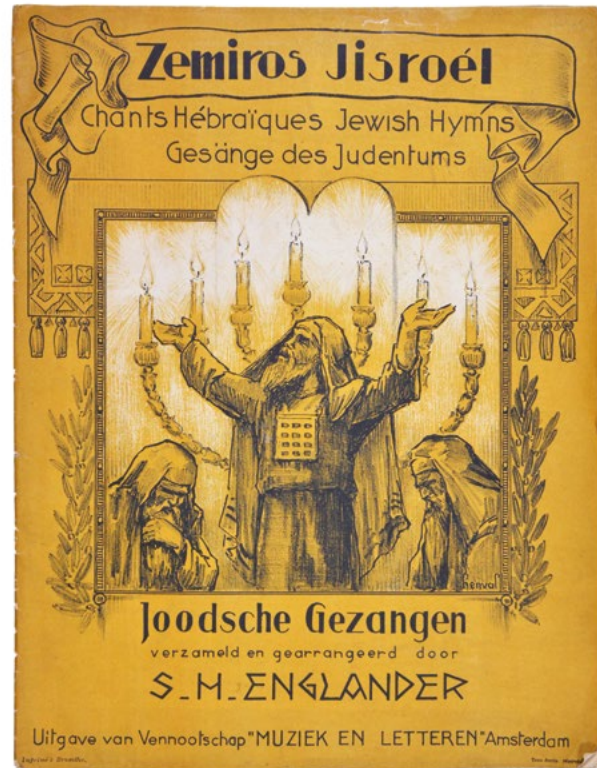
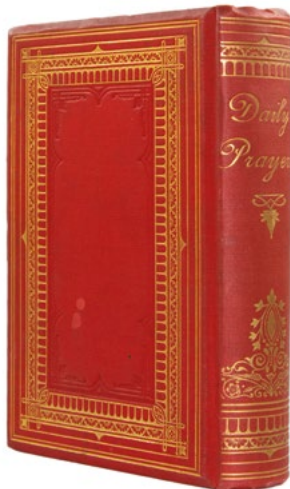
9. [PRAYER BOOK]. The Form of Daily Prayers, according to the custom of the German and Polish Jews. With a new translation in prose and verse by Henry A. Franklin. Frankfort-on-the-Maine, J. Kauffmann, 1890.

£350 [ref: 104027]

Scarce fourth edition of this Hebrew / English prayer book, bound in a fine decorative binding, first published in the 1880s. Includes a special prayer for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

Isaac Kauffmann (1805–1884) was born in Bouxwiller; Alsace; in 1832 he moved to Frankfurt where he first set up a bookshop, and later in 1850 founded the Jewish publishing house named J. Kauffmann. He was succeeded by his son Ignatz who in 1900 took over the printing house of M. Lehrberger and Co., successor to Wolf Heidenheim's Hebrew publishing house. In 1909 Ignatz son Felix succeeded the business, which he continued to maintain even after his emigration to the USA during the Nazi era. The company published works of all fields of modern Jewish scholarship, art, music and Jewish religion.

Fourth edition; 8vo (18 x 11.5 cm); richly decorated publisher's contemporary red cloth boards gilt, edges slightly rubbed; Hebrew with English translation on facing page. vi, 629, [1] pp. A fine copy.



10. ENGLÄNDER, S.H. Zemirots Jisroel; Jewish Hymns. Amsterdam, Muziek en Letteren, c. 1930.

£450 [ref: 98994]

Rare music album, containing sheet music with lyrics of twenty Jewish songs, including famous prayers, such as Adir Hu, Shir Ha'maalot and Kol Nidre, and songs for various Jewish holidays, including Chanukkah, Sukkot, Simchat Torah and Purim.

Folio; original pictorial paper wrappers; 3-22 pp. (complete), unstitched as issued; edges slightly rubbed.



11. [HEBREW BIBLE]. Torah, Nevi'im ve'Ketuvim.  
[Hebrew bible in a Palbell binding]. Tel Aviv, Sinai, 1950s.

£600 [ref: 103975]

An elegant, full, illustrated Hebrew Bible, bound in a magnificent embossed yellow metal (brass?) binding with a clasp, by Palbell, Israel, depicting Moses with the tablets of the covenant, a sofer and a prophet.

Illustrated with reproductions of H. Pisan engravings, which were based on the illustrations of Gustave Doré, that were first published in the Doré Bible (aka La Grande Bible de Tours) in 1866. Dore published a series of 241 wood engravings for the deluxe edition of the 1843 French translation of the Vulgate



Bible, popularly known as the Bible de Tours. This new edition was known as La Grande Bible de Tours and its illustrations were immensely successful.

8vo (17 x 10 cm), yellow metal embossed binding, with clasp by Palbell; all edges gilt, stamp 'made in Israel' to the inner side of the clasp. [4], 1384, 16 pp. A fine and crisp copy.



**HEBREW-ENGLISH ROSH HASHANAH PRAYER BOOK IN A BEZALEL BINDING**

**12. [PRAYER BOOK]. Machzor Yerushalaim le'Rosh Hashanah.** Tel Aviv, Lidor (printers) for Meir Cohen, [1950s].

£500 [ref: 103571]

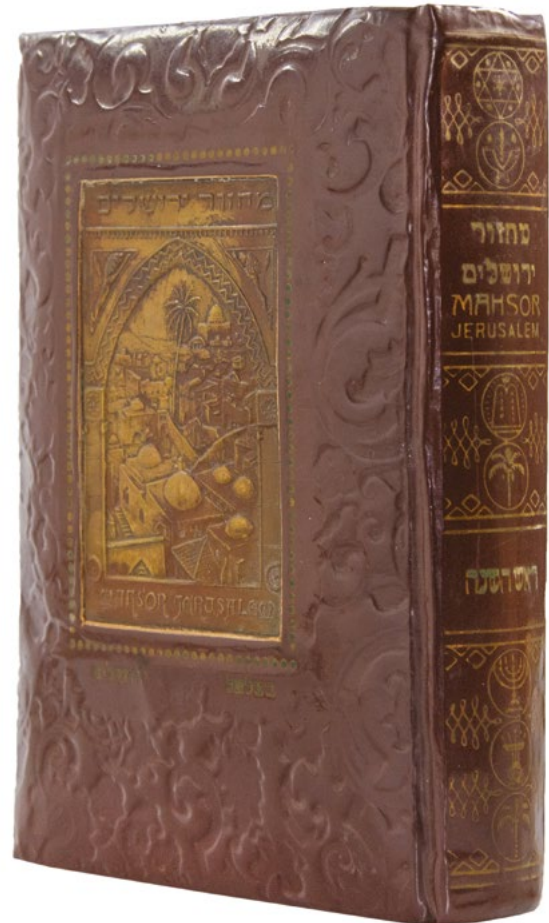
A HEBREW-ENGLISH ROSH HASHANAH PRAYER BOOK BOUND IN A MAGNIFICENT BLIND TOOLED BEZALEL BINDING.

The Bezalel school was founded in 1906 in Jerusalem by the artist and Professor Boris Schatz, and was the first art school to be established in the Holy Land in the twentieth century. Schatz discussed his vision of opening an art school in the Land of Israel with Herzl, when the two met in Vienna in 1903 at the sixth Zionist Congress.

Schatz chose to call the school 'Bezalel' after the biblical artist Bezalel ben Uri ben Hur, mentioned in the book of Exodus as the artist chosen by God to build the Tabernacle (Hamishkan in Hebrew). According to the scripture this artist worked in silver, gold, copper, stone and wood. In founding this art school Schatz aimed to establish a national style of art, blending classical Jewish, European and Middle-Eastern traditions. In addition to training in traditional sculpture and painting, the school ran craft workshops that produced decorative art objects in silver, leather, wood, brass and fabric, which were sold at exhibitions in Europe and the United States.

Schatz's school was closed in 1929 and then reopened in the mid-1930s as the 'New Bezalel'. In 1955 the school was declared an Academy of Art and today the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design is Israel's National School of Art, as well as its oldest higher education institution. The art created by Bezalel's students and professors in the first decades of the 20th century is considered the stepping stone for Israeli visual arts.

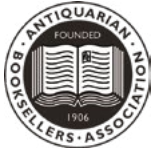
8vo (17.5 x 13 cm); blind tooled brown contemporary boards, by Bezalel school artists, with a copper plate insert to the front cover, depicting the old city of Jerusalem; small marginal tears to the first three leaves, crisp and clean pages; text in Hebrew and English; 531 pp.



# SHAPERO RARE BOOKS

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Title page image - item 10

This page image - item 8

NB: The illustrations are not equally scaled. Exact dimensions will be provided on request.

Compiled by Bela Goldenberg Taieb

Edited by Jeffrey Kerr

Design by Bela Goldenberg Taieb

Photography by Magdalena Wittchen, Ivone Chao, Natasha Marshall

