

PUBLICATIONS OF THE ISRAEL ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

SECTION OF HUMANITIES

GUIDE TO
HEBREW MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

GUIDE TO
HEBREW MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Second, revised edition

by

BENJAMIN RICHLER

JERUSALEM 2014

THE ISRAEL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Copy Editor: Deborah Greniman
Production: Yehuda Greenbaum

Cover illustration:
“Catalan Mahzor” (thirteenth century)
National Library of Israel, MS Heb. 8° 6537, fol. 4v.
Reproduced by permission of the National Library of Israel.

ISBN 978–965–208–185–8

©

The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, 2014
First edition © 1994
Typesetting: Mostoslavsky Veronika
Printed in Israel at the Old City Press, Jerusalem

In memory of my beloved parents
Joseph V. and Sarah R. Richler

CONTENTS

Preface	ix
Preface to the First Edition	ix
Introduction	1
List of Abbreviations	5
THE GUIDE	11
Hebrew Entries: Abbreviations, Names, Cognomens and Titles	235
APPENDIXES	237
Appendix I: Present/Last-Known Locations or Call-Numbers of Manuscripts in Collections Treated in the <i>Guide</i>	239
1. MSS Asher	239
2. MSS Benzian	240
3. MSS Berenstein	241
4. MSS Biema	242
5. MSS Breslau	243
6. MSS Carmoly	248
7. MSS Coronel	252
8. MSS da Costa	255
9. MSS Cracovia	256
10. MSS in Florence (Italy), Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana	256
11. MSS Gagin (Gaguine)	257
12. MSS Geiger	257
13. MSS Ghirondi	258
14. MSS Goldsmid	260
15. MSS Listed in <i>Hapalit</i>	261
16. MSS Heidenheim	261
17. MSS Henriques de Castro	262
18. MSS Fischl Hirsch	262
19. MSS Jacobson	264
20. MSS Jessurun Cardozo	264
21. MSS Jacob Wolf de Jonge	265
22. MSS Kennicott and de Rossi	265
23. MSS Lehren	282
24. MSS de Lima	283
25. MSS Loewe	283
26. MSS London, Beth Din and Beth Hamidrash Library	284
27. MSS Lotze	284
28. MSS Luzzatto	285
29. MSS Merzbacher	287

30. MSS Montefiore	291
31. MSS Paris, Collège de Clermont	294
32. MSS Pinsker	294
33. MSS Porges	295
34. MSS Barend Rubens	295
35. MSS Sassoon	295
36. MSS Schocken	301
37. MSS Schulting	302
38. MSS Listed in <i>Cat. Schwarz</i> , Austria, and <i>Cat. Schwarz–Loewinger–Róth</i>	303
39. MSS Sussex	307
40. MSS from Tunis	307
41. MSS in Turin, Biblioteca Nazionale Universitaria	308
42. MSS Wagenaar	310
43. MSS Wijnkoop	310
Appendix II: List of Collections Microfilmed for the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts (IMHM)	311
INDEXES	347
Index of Individual Manuscripts Mentioned in the <i>Guide</i>	349
Index of Names of Libraries, Persons and Places	387

PREFACE

A new edition of the *Guide* has been a desideratum for several years. Even though less than twenty years have passed since the publication of the first edition, many of the entries need to be updated or corrected. During this short span of time several new catalogues of important collections have been published, hundreds of manuscripts (MSS) have changed ownership as private and public collections have been sold, and previously unknown MSS have been discovered. Thousands of MSS from Eastern Europe that were made accessible to researchers shortly before the first edition was published have now been catalogued, enabling the identification of MSS hitherto considered lost. Advances in technology have made it possible to trace the present locations of additional 'lost' MSS: The now-computerized catalogues of the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts and other libraries enable complex searches, while the plethora of resources on the Internet and the ubiquity of electronic mail have facilitated the search for information. About twenty percent of the entries in the first edition have been corrected or revised, and new entries and appendixes have been added.

I wish to extend my gratitude to all those who helped me in the preparation of the first edition of this *Guide*; most of them have continued to contribute valuable information that has been incorporated in the entries in this edition. My sincere thanks to Prof. Yohanan Friedmann, former Chairperson of the Publications Committee of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and to the Academy's Publications Department: to its Director, Tali Amir, to Deborah Greniman, Senior Editor of English-Language Publications, who went over the manuscript, corrected many errors, and prepared the book for publication, and to Yehuda Greenbaum, who oversaw its production. Thanks also to Evelyn Katrak, who again contributed a round of proofreading, and to Esther Rosenfeld, who expertly read the proofs.

B. R.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

This *Guide* began as an offshoot of my work at the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts in the Jewish National and University Library. Over the years I amassed information concerning Hebrew manuscript collections and their histories and began to arrange my findings on index cards. In 1973 I was awarded part of the grant offered by the Ruth Cahan-Ever scholarship for Librarianship and Bibliographic Research by the Israel Ministry of Education and Culture for a projected guide to Hebrew manuscript collections. Over the years I continued to revise and enlarge the *Guide*. One of its versions served as a thesis presented to the Graduate Library School of the Hebrew University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Library Sciences degree.

At one time I submitted an earlier version of the *Guide* to Ktav Publishers, but I later withdrew it. For their remarks and corrections, which have certainly improved this book in many respects, I would like to thank Dr. Herbert Zafren of Ktav and especially Mr. Myron Weinstein, lately retired from the Library of Congress Hebraic Section and one of the most erudite bibliographers I have ever had the pleasure of meeting.

I also wish to extend my gratitude to all those who helped me over the years by providing me with information or by reading and correcting my typescripts. Prof. Malachi Beit-Arié, while still Director of the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts, encouraged me to complete the project and offered many helpful suggestions and corrections. Prof. Yaakov Sussman and Dr. Mordecai Glatzer read the typescript and added valuable observations. My associates at the Institute, Prof. I. Ta-Shema, Drs. Nahum Weissenstern, Avraham David and T. Y. Langermann, Mrs. Rachel Nissan and Yael Okun were all of constant assistance. Yehoshua Mondshein of the Manuscripts Department in the Library brought to my attention much information concerning the provenance of manuscripts and many interesting booklists he discovered in the course of his work. I am also grateful to the Graduate Library School for allowing me free access to its personal computers in order to transcribe my typescript onto diskettes.

My heartfelt thanks to the Publications Department of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and especially to Mr. Shmuel Reem, who prepared the book for publication, to Mrs. Evelyn Katrak, who edited the manuscript, to Mr. Zion Busharia, who was responsible for the computer typesetting, and to Ms. Zofia Lasman, who supervised the final stages of the production process.

I could not have completed this work without the constant support of my wife, Carmelit, who bore with me while I laboured over this project through most of our married life, and of my children, Rivka, Yuval and Yael, who grew up constantly aware that their father was apt to be occupied with what they must have regarded as the Sisyphean task of revising yet another proof. I only regret that my parents, who probably looked forward to the publication of this book more than anyone else, passed away before it was completed.

As this *Guide* was being set, political upheavels were taking place in eastern Europe; empires and countries were splintered into many parts, cities adopted new or former names, and the official names of libraries were changed. Unfortunately, technical difficulties made it impossible to incorporate more than a few of these changes into the text. The majority are noted in the Addenda et Corrigenda at the end of the *Guide*.

B. R.