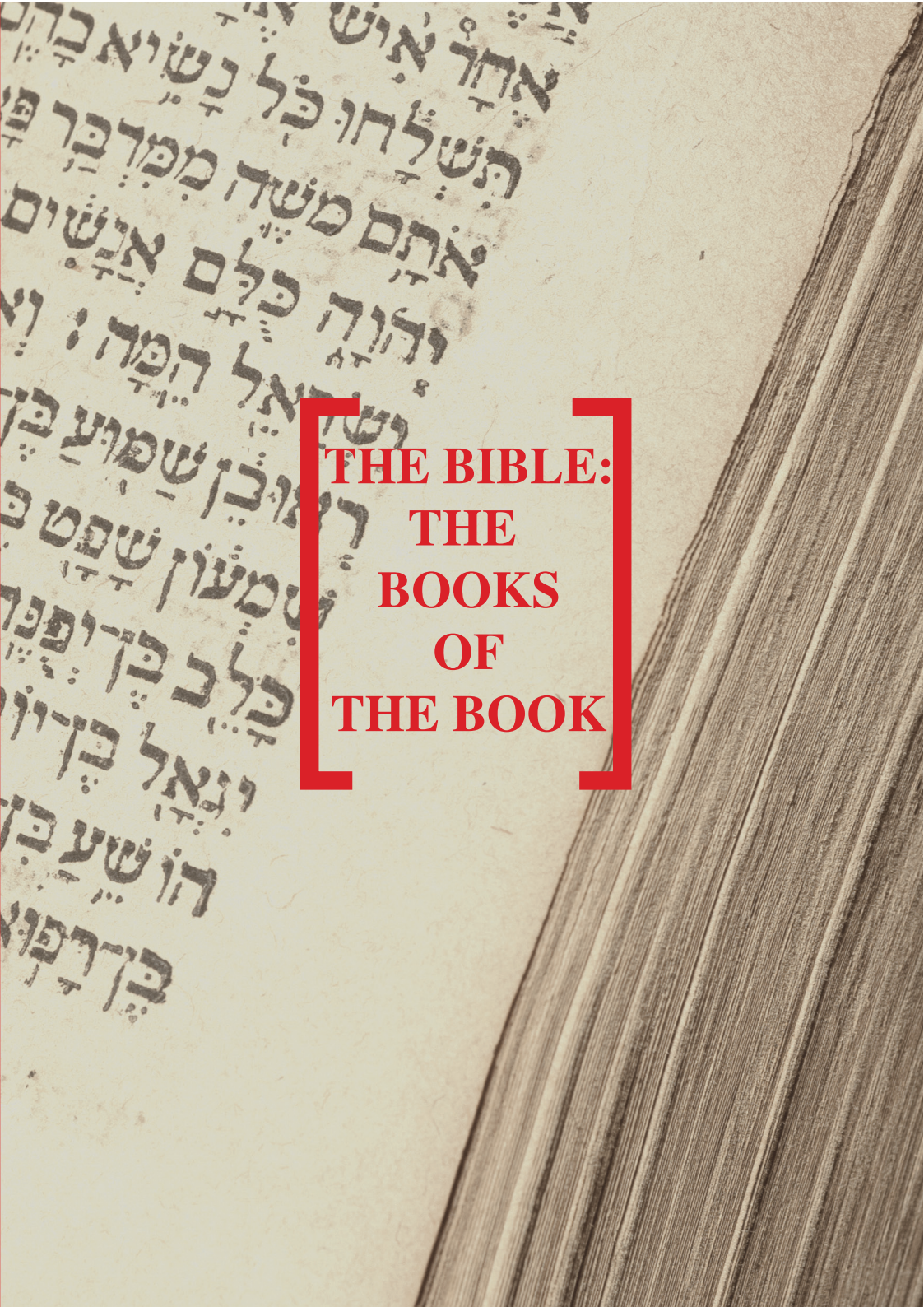
Patronat Call de Girona presents a batch of editions of the Bible and around the Bible which are part of the Ancient Books Collection from the Library Eliezer Eljanan Schalit.

These are very valuable and interesting pieces because of their age (the oldest one dates back to 1595) as well as their content: facsimile editions of medieval Hebrew bibles, maps and illustrations of the lands and people of the Bible, comments and approximation to the study of the biblical writings, grammatical treatises on the biblical languages, as well as many different editions addressed to children.

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THE BIBLE: THE BOOKS OF THE BOOK

01
THE BIBLE

The Bible is the collection of Holy Scriptures of Judaism. The word comes from the Greek *biblion* for "collection of writings". It's also the translation of the Hebrew word *ha-Sefarim* (the books); also called *Tanakh*, acronym that stands for the collection of the Torah, the *Nevi'im* and the *Ketuvim* (the Law, the prophetical books and the writings).

The Jewish tradition tells us that the Bible was written by divine inspiration for more than six hundred years, through sixty generations, by more than forty different authors and in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The oldest biblical manuscripts known are the Dead Sea Scrolls, also called Scrolls of *Qumran* (from 3rd to 1st centuries BCE). During the middle ages, in Hispanic lands, beautiful illuminated Hebraic bibles were created, and are still preserved in libraries and museums around the world.

In the Jewish homes of the medieval Girona there were Hebraic bibles, described in several inventories such as "*la Vivria*" (Bible) which Nathan Mossé des Portal owned in 1410; or "*el livre appelat casovim*" (the book called *Ketuvim*, writings) that is described among Tolrana's books in 1415; or the "*bulum dels cinc libres de Moysès*" (Moses' compilation of five books) owned by Nassim Ferrer at the beginning of 15th century. Moreover, Girona's archives have preserved some very interesting fragments of biblical writings in Hebrew, probably from these private libraries of the medieval Jewish quarter.

Lisbon Bible, 1482 : British Library Or. 2626 / *introduction by Gabrielle Sed-Rajna*
Facsimilar reproduction
Tel Aviv : Nahar-Miskal ; London : The British Library, 1988
Collection AHMG, 1997

Biblia de Ferrara / *[edited by Iacob M. Hassán ;facsimilar edition by Uriel Macías Kapón]*
Facsimilar reproduction of Ferrara's Edition 1553
Madrid : Sociedad Estatal Quinto Centenario, 1992
Anonymous donation, 1997

Torà; Neviïm ; Ketuvim (Tanaj)
Frankfurt-am-Main : 1695
Acquisition MHJ, 2003

Biblia hebraica / *adjuvantibus professoribus G. Beer, ... [et al.] ; edidit Rud. Kittel*
Editio altera emendatior stereotypica
Leipzig : J.C. Hinrichs, 1909
Collection Christa Casals, 2008

Biblia hebraica / *edidit Rud. Kittel ; textum masoreticum curavit P. Kahle ; auxerunt et emendaverunt A. Alt et O. Eissfeldt*
Editio decima emendata typis editionis septimae expressa
Stuttgart : Privilegierte Württembergische Bibelanstalt, 1937
Collection Josep Ribera i Florit, 2011

Sefer Torah Neviïm ve-Ketubim
London : Lowe and Brydone, 1946
Collection Josep Ribera i Florit, 2011

02
INTERPRETATIONS OF THE BIBLE

The Sacred Scriptures have been fully interpreted by the two monotheist religions around us, both Jewish and Christian, since far-off times.

From the Christian point of view, there are many studies devoted to the Bible, its lecture, interpretation and approximation from different perspectives. Books like these would appear all over the medieval Europe. Later, there would be studies widely known, like the works by Bernard Lamy, a French philosopher from the 17th century.

On the other hand, we can also find a lot of Jewish commentaries and interpretations of the biblical writings since the Middle Ages. Several Jewish wise men and philosophers from Catalonia wrote works that were used by the Jewish communities all over the world, and some of them are even used nowadays. One of the most important and significant works is the Commentary on the Torah by Rabbi Moses ben Nahman of Girona (1194-1270). This monumental work is considered one of the most memorable Hebrew writings and one of the most beautiful literary creations of the whole medieval Hebrew exegesis.

Apparatus biblicus, sive Manuductio ad Sacram Scripturam tum clariùs tum faciliùs intelligendam / *auctore R.P. Bernardo Lamy*
Editio novissima magis ac magis adaucta cum figuris aeneis
Lyon : apud Jacobum Certe..., 1723
Acquisition, 2000

Histoire du peuple hebreu, tirée de l'Ecriture Sainte, depuis la Création du Monde jusqu'à la ruine entiere de la Sinagogue sous Tite et Vespasien / *[Texte imprimé] par le P. Bernard Mahy*
Liège : Everard Kints, 1742
Acquisition, 2001

Introduccion á la Sagrada Escritura, ó Aparato para entender con mayor facilidad y claridad la Sagrada Biblia / *traduccion de la obra que escribió en lengua latina el célebre P. Bernardo Lamy ; revisada por D. José Palau*
Barcelona : Pons, 1846
Acquisition, 2000

Historia de la Tierra Santa desde la más remota antigüedad hasta el año 1839 [: 2] / *por el abate Martin ; adornada con hermosas láminas grabadas en acero ... y acompañada de un hermoso atlas geográfico-histórico ... ; dirigido por A. Houzé ; traducida por M.O. y J.C.*
Barcelona : Imprenta de Brusi, 1840
Colección: El Mundo: historia de todos los pueblos ; 2
Acquisition, 2000

03

STUDY OF THE BIBLICAL LANGUAGES

The study and learning of Hebrew to achieve the “Hebraic truth” from the Bible is a very prolific topic whether in the Jewish and the Christian cultures. There was an idea which circulated through theology schools and universities that the knowledge of the Hebrew language will allow to go deeper in the understanding of the Holy Scriptures, and therefore in theology.

The study of the biblical languages had the most splendor time in Europe during the Enlightenment, when several works were published regarding grammar books, dictionaries and Hebrew translations and other biblical languages like Aramaic (or “Chaldean”, its ancient name). Hebrew and Aramaic grammar books, Hebrew-Latin dictionaries and high quality translations of the Bible were published in Catalonia during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

The medieval Catalan Jews got used to translate the biblical writings to the vernacular, so that they could be easier to understand and learn. Furthermore, the wise men and rabbis were very interested in the study of the original languages of the Bible and its writings. One example would be one of the most important grammatical studies, such as the one titled *Ma'aseh Efod*, written by Profiat Duran, a Jewish grammarian from Perpignan, at the end of the 14th century. In its careful introduction, the author expresses the need to know the Hebrew language in order to study completely the Torah and therefore to achieve the path of perfection and the happiness in life.

Lexicon hebraicum et chaldaicum : complectens omnes voces, tam primas quam derivatas, quae in Sacris Bibliis, hebraeâ et ex parte Chaldaeâ lingua scriptis extant... ; Accessit Lexicon breve rabbinico-philosophicum, communiora vocabula continens, quae in commentariis passim occurrunt : cum indice locorum scripturae et vocum latino / *Johannis Buxtorfi*
Editio novissima, de novo recognita, et innumeris in locis aucta et emendata.
Basilea : In officina Episcopiana, 1735
Collection Christa Casals, 2008

Lexicon Hebraicum et Chaldaicum in libros Veteris Testamenti : ordine etymologico compositum in usum scholarum / *edidit E.F. Leopold*
Altera editio stereotypa.
Leipzig : Caroli Tauchnitii, 1850
Acquisition, 2000

Winer's Chaldäische Grammatik für Bibel und Targumim / *von Dr. Bernard Fischer*
3rd edition.
Leipzig : Johann Ambrosius Barth, 1882
Collection Christa Casals, 2006

Lecciones de lengua hebrea con nociones de caldeo ó arameo bíblico / por el Dr. Joaquín Gou Solá
Barcelona : Tipografia Católica, 1909
Donation of Josep M. Casas (Arxiu de l'Ajuntament de Caldes de Malavella), 1997

Documents aljamiats de jueus catalans : segle XV / *A. Duran i Sanpere*
Separata de Butlletí de la Biblioteca de Catalunya, V
Barcelona : Biblioteca de Catalunya (Impremta de la Casa de la Caritat), 1920
Acquisition, 2003

Manual de hebreo y arameo bíblicos : gramática cíclica y antología : versificación hebrea, léxicos completos hebreo y arameo-español / *Segundo Miguel Rodríguez. 4a ed., notablemente corregida por Guillermo G. Dorado.*
Madrid : El Perpetuo Socorro, 1951-
Notes: Conté: I. Gramárica hebrea. Libro primero / por Guillermo G. Dorado
Collection Josep Ribera i Florit, 2011

Grammatica aramaico-biblica ad usum scholarum, exercitiis, textibus et vocabulario ornata / *auctore: L. Palacios*
Roma : Desclèe, 1953
Collection Josep Ribera i Florit, 2011

Compendium Grammaticae Linguae Hebraicae Biblicae : exaravit Chrestomathia et Glossario auxit / *Petrus G. Duncker O.P.*
Editio tertia emendata
Roma : Institutum Pontificium Internationale Angelicum, 1960.
Collection Josep Ribera i Florit, 2011

04

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELLING TO THE BIBLICAL LANDS

Throughout Europe, since very distant times, the visit to the Holy Land was a true vital journey which both men and women did, whether they were Jewish or Christian. Some of them, when they came back, described what they had seen and lived through books and travel writings. Nowadays, this pages full of fantastic descriptions and beautiful drawings bring us closer to the collective imagination of those old generations.

In their book of travel from the middle of the 12th century, the Navarrese Jew Benjamin of Tudela describes Jerusalem as a "a small city fortified by three walls. It is full of people (…) Jacobites, Syrians, Greeks, Georgians and Franks, and of people of all tongues. (…) There are about 200 Jews (…). The lower portion of the wall of the Tower of David (…) is part of the ancient foundation set up by our ancestors".

Rabbi Moses ben Nahman from Girona also went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where he died and was buried around 1270. In the letters sent to his sons, he talks about Jerusalem: "I write to you this letter from the Holy City, where Blessed be the Lord, Rock of my salvation, I arrived in Elul the 9th (…). Many are its forsaken places, and great is the desecration (…). Who ever is privileged to see it in its destruction will be privileged to see it rebuilt and repaired when the Divine Presence returns to it".

Theatrvm Terrae Sanctae et biblicarvm historiarvm : cum tabulis geographicis aere expressis / *avctore Christiano Adrichomio Delpho*
[Colònia] : [in officina Birckmannica, sumptibus Arnoldi Mylii], [entre 1593 i 1613]
Acquisition, 2000

La Terre Sainte : ou, Description topographique tres-particuliere des saints lieux & de la terre de promission : avec un traitté de quatorze nations de differente religion qui l'habitent, leurs moeurs, croyance, ceremonies, & police : Un discours des principaux poincts de l'Alcoran, & ce que les santons leur preschent dans les mosqueés : L'histoire de la vie et mort de l'emir Fech-rreddin, prince des Drus : et Une relation veritable de Zaga-Christ, prince d'Ethyopie, qui mourut à Ruel prez Paris l'an 1638, le tout enrichy de figures / *par F. Eugene Roger, recollect, missionnaire de barbarie*
Paris : chez Antoine Bertier, 1664
Acquisition, 2000

Viaje de la Tierra Santa / *Bernardo de Breidenbach ; [prólogo Jaime Moll]*
Reproducció facsímil de Magúncia : [s.n.], 1486
Madrid : Instituto Bibliográfico Hispánico, [1974]
Acquisition, 2010

Atlas géographique et iconographique du cours complet d'Escriture Sainte / *gravé par vingt artistes distingués de Paris ; sous la direction de Théophile Blanchard et Barrère frères*
Paris : J.P. Migne, 1864
Acquisition, 2000

Tierra Santa , La : geografía histórica de Palestina para uso de las escuelas / *por Joaquín Maza Giménez*
Madrid : Imprenta de José Cruzado, 1883
Acquisition, 2011

05
THE BIBLE EXPLAINED TO CHILDREN

The main focus of children and juvenile literature has always been the transmission of a specific moral through its different genres: illustrated books, fiction and fantasy, biographies, poetry, children theatre and any kind of traditional tales. The Bible, moral book for the three monotheist religions as well as a fantastic and adventures work, meets this pedagogical objective. Especially since the second half of 20th century up until nowadays, we can find any kind of adaptations of the biblical stories for children. The latest news is an application on the Bible in comic for smartphones.

In the Jewish tradition, children became adults at thirteen years old, when they read a piece of the Bible in public (bar mitzvah ceremony). They have been preparing themselves several years for this, they have learned to read and pronunciate Hebrew. During the 20th century, in several congregations around the world, twelve-year-old girls also started celebrating a similar rite called bat mitzvah.

Quite some time ago, Jewish boys learned to read the Torah in the schools known as Talmud Torah. In Catalonia, they were called "*talmu-tora or school to learn the Hebrew word*". In the Jewish quarter of Girona, around the middle of the 14th century, there was one of this schools supported by Astruc Caravida, one of the richest Jews of that time. As he did, other devout Jewish people from other Catalan communities made sure that children of poor families were taught the Hebrew language, so they were able to properly study the Holy Scriptures and therefore follow Moses' Law.

L'alfabeto ebraico / Federazione Giovanile Ebraica d'Italia
Itàlia : Edizioni Tikvah, [[first half of 20th C]
Donation of Osanna Neri, 2008

Història sagrada : (grau superior) / *Manuel Trens*
Barcelona : Editorial d'Art Catòlic Josep Vilamala, 1932
Donation of Salvador Maluquer, 2006

Great Jewish women / *by Elma Ehrlich Levinger; illustrated by Marcile Weist Stalter*
New York : Behrman's Jewish Book House, 1949
Acquisition, 2006

The Patriarchs : The story of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob / *by Behn Boruch ; illustrated by Bernard Springsteel*
New York : Hebrew Publishing Company, 1959
Collection Temple Beth-El (San Antonio, Texas), 1998

Atlas de la Bible. Histoire, Geographie, Chronologie / *H.H. Rowley*
Paris : Éditions du Centurion, 1969
Collection Josep Ribera i Florit, 2011

The Life of Moses [: a pop-up book] / *designed by John Strejan ; illustrated by Craig Nelson ; Paper engineering by Tor Lokvig*
Los Angeles (Calif.) : David C. Cook Publishing Co., [1970]
Collection Sue Goldberg, 2000

Mitologia jueva : àngels, profetes, rabins i reis / *text by José Patterson ; ; catalan version by Eva Perera Maneiro; il·lustrations by Claire Bushe*
Barcelona : Barcanova, 1991
Collection Jaume Marsé Farré, 2005

Cento storie dalla Bibbia / *ideazione e illustrazioni Lia Frassineti ; testi Daniela Di Castro*
Roma : Logart Press, [s.d.]
Acquisition, 2010

Vida y costumbres del pueblo de la Biblia / *Silvia Gastaldi, Claire Musatti*
Madrid : Sociedades Bíblicas Unidas, 2003
Acquisition, 2008