

Hebrew Incunabula at the Library of Congress: A Short-Title List



Illustration from Moses ben Nahman, *Perush ha-Torah* (Lisbon, 1489)

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Introduction:

Amongst the crown jewels of the Hebraic Section at the African, Middle Eastern and Hebraic Division of the Library of Congress are its thirty-seven Hebrew books printed before the year 1501. These Hebrew “cradle books” or incunabula, as they are more generally known, offer a truly representative view of early Hebrew printing, with works ranging from rabbinical commentaries and responsa to poetry, belles-lettres, and Arabic philosophy. They come from the presses of some of the best-known Hebrew printers of late fifteenth-century Europe and span the three major centers of Hebrew printing during the first crucial decades of its existence: Spain, Portugal, and Italy. Thus, it is not only a well-rounded collection but also an important one, with such treasures as the unique holograph from the greatest of early Hebrew printers, Gershom Soncino, and the curious hand drawing which embellishes the frontispiece of a *Book of Roots* from 1491.

The following descriptions capture only the more salient features of each individual book and are drawn from a variety of sources: handwritten notes by Myron M. Weinstein, Head of the Hebraic Section from 1980-1984, scattered anonymous notes found in the cases housing the books, the invaluable comments and contributions of Dan de Simone of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division at the Library of Congress, and the observations made by the writer of these lines herself. In offering these brief descriptions, we hope not only to make these incunabula available to a wider public but also to encourage scholarly work on these little-known gems of early Hebrew printing.

Note:

The 37 Hebrew incunabula in the Library of Congress are divided between the Hebraic Section, with 24 books, and the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, with 13. Altogether, they represent 30 different titles, 7 of which have copies in both sections. Those books with two copies are marked with an asterisk in the list below.

The incunabula have been listed chronologically, a decision facilitated by the practice of early Hebrew printers in giving not only the year of publication but also the month and day. In the few cases where dates are conjectural, these have been listed with a question mark.

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Hebraic Area Specialist, The Library of Congress
November 11, 2011

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviations of works mentioned below:

- Goff F. R. Goff, *Incunabula in American Libraries: A Third Census of Fifteenth-Century Books Recorded in North American Collections*. New York, 1964.
- Hain L. Hain, *Repertorium bibliographicum in quo libri omnes ab arte typographica inventa usque ad annum MD. Typis expressi ordine alphabetico enumerature etc.* 2 Vols. Stuttgartiae et Lutetiae Par. 1826-1838.
- Iakerson S. M. Iakerson. *Catalogue of the Hebrew Incunabula from the Collection of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America*. 2 Vols. New York and Jerusalem, 2004.
- ISTC *The Incunabula Short Title Catalogue: an online database of 15th century European printing created and maintained by the British Library.*
- Karp A. Karp, *From the Ends of the Earth: Judaic Treasures of the Library of Congress*. Washington, 1991.
- Offen A. K. Offenbergl, *Hebrew Incunabula in Public Collections: A First International Census*. Den Haag, 1990.
- Popper W. Popper, *The Censorship of Hebrew Books*. New York, 1968.
- Wiener S. Wiener, *Catalogus librorum impressorum hebraeorum in Museo Asiatico Academiae Scientiarum Rossicae asservatorieum*. Petropoli 1893-1918.

A Short-Title List

* Titles marked with an asterisk indicate books with two copies; one in the Hebraic Section and one in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

1. Solomon ben Abraham ibn Adret [Rashba]
Teshuvot She'elot le-Rashba [Responsa]
[Rome?]: [Obadiah, Manasseh and Benjamin of Rome, 1469-1472?]
Hebraic Section. 4^o

Goff: Heb-95; Hain: 14245; Offen: 55; Iakerson: 5; ISTC: is00625100

The copy in the Library of Congress is missing fols. 1, 2, 7, 8; eleven leaves apparently from the end of the volume, and the two leaves containing *simanim* 290-295. Several pages have hand-written notes in margins. No signs of censorship. Bound in ancient brown leather boards, beautifully embossed but considerably cracked in places.

- *2. Levi ben Gershom
Perush ha-Torah [Commentary on the Pentateuch]
[Mantua]: Abraham ben Solomon Conat and Abraham Jedidiah ha-Ezrahi, [1475-1476].
Hebraic Section. 2^o
Rare Book and Special Collections Division. 2^o

Goff: Heb-69; Hain: 10060; Offen: 50; Iakerson: 16; ISTC: il00189700

The Library of Congress has two copies. The copy in the Hebraic Section is bound in nineteenth century half leather with grained cloth sides and marbled end papers, and the title tooled in gold letters on the spine: *Levi ben Gershon. The Pentateuch*. The binding has come loose from the text itself; most pages are somewhat stained but completely legible. Fols. 1-5 are laminated and have come loose from the first gathering. The margins of some leaves have been restored to size with paper.

The copy in the Rare Book Division is bound in light grey boards, and the text is complete and in very good condition. Some leaves have a running title added in by hand, but apart from these, and an owner's inscription on fol. 1r, there are no hand-written notes. There is a censor's signature on 342r: Gio Domenico Irosolimitano, followed by what appears to be part of the word "Anno," but without any visible date. The opening word "אמר" on fol. 1r appears to be written in manuscript (in brown ink) rather than printed, and is enclosed by a rather

shakily-drawn cartouche. At the top of the leaf (fol. 1r) is a hand-written title in black ink: פירוש הרלב"ג. Foliation in a modern hand, in pencil.

3. Levi ben Gershom
Perush le-Sefer Ayov [*Commentary to the Book of Job*]
[Ferrara]: Abraham ben Hayyim [de Tintori] of Pesaro, Sivan 4, 5237 [May 16, 1477].
Rare Book and Special Collections Division. 8°

Goff: Heb-70; Hain: 10061; Offen: 51; Iakerson: 17; ISTC: il00189750

The Library of Congress copy is bound in wooden boards, apparently quite ancient and rather crudely repaired, but the book itself is beautifully preserved and complete, though the paper is somewhat darkened. There are a very few marginal notes lightly penned in.

4. David Kimhi
Perush le-Tehillim [*Commentary to Psalms*]
[Bologna ?]: Meister Joseph, Neria Hayyim Mordecai and Hezekiah Montero
Elul 20, 5237 [Aug. 29, 1477].
Hebraic Section. 2°

Goff: Heb-28; Hain:13451; Offen: 34; Iakerson: 73; ISTC: ib00525860

The copy in the Library of Congress is complete in twentieth-century goatskin binding, but fols. 1 and 143-153 have been supplied in facsimile and blend almost seamlessly into the book. The text has undergone considerable censoring in at least the beginning of the book (e.g., fols. 4r and 21v); the last page (fol. 153), which is in facsimile, does not have a censor's signature. Due to the washing and surface cleaning of the book by the Library of Congress' Conservation Division, the iron gall ink used by the censor has largely corroded, leaving the printed text underneath fully legible. The colophon on 153v is intact.

5. *Ḥamishah Ḥumshei Torah* [*Pentateuch*],
with *Targum Onkeles* and commentary by Solomon ben Isaac [Rashi].
Bologna: Abraham ben Hayyim de Tintori of Pesaro for Joseph ben Abraham Caravita, Adar 5, 5242 [Jan. 25, 1482].

Rare Book and Special Collections Division. 2^o

Goff: Heb-18; Hain:12568; Offen: 13; Iakerson: 19; ISTC: ib00525570

Bound in leather; the leaves are printed on vellum, and though heavily soiled and dotted with worm holes are entirely legible and clear. There appear to be only a few marginal notes, all of which have practically faded. This copy was at one time owned by Giovanni Bernardo de Rossi (1742-1831), the noted Christian Hebraist and bibliophile. On a page preceding the book itself, on paper which has been sized to fit, is an inscription and signature of De Rossi himself. Pasted onto the inside cover is a four-page memo by De Rossi, hand-written on letterhead of the Commune di Bologna and the Museo del Risorgimento, in which, among other things, he calls this edition “rarissima.”

6. Solomon ibn Gabirol
Mivḥar ha-Peninim [A Choice of Pearls]. Trans. Judah ben Saul ibn Tibbon.
[Soncino]: Joshua ben Solomon Soncino, Shevat 17, 5244 [Jan. 14, 1484].
Hebraic Section. 4^o

Goff: Heb-98; Hain: 9369; Offen: 57; Iakerson: 21; ISTC: is00625250

Bound in nineteenth-century marbled boards. LOC copy in very good state of preservation with only a few light stains and some discoloration of paper, but lacking the opening first page [blank in all extant copies] and ff. 48-60 [and hence lacking the colophon on fol. 59v-60r]. The leaves were tightly rebound by the LOC Conservation Division in 2009. The book has been foliated in a modern hand, in pencil, and is uncensored and without comments in the margins. There is a hand-written remark in Hebrew at the bottom of the first page noting that this work was printed by Soncino in 1484 (שנת רמ"ד) and signed “Ephraim Deinard.”

- *7. Jedaiah ben Abraham Bedersi Ha-Penini
Behinat °Olam [Contemplation of the World] with anonymous commentary
Soncino: [Joshua ben Solomon Soncino], Kislev 24, 5245 [Dec.12, 1484].
Hebraic Section. 4^o
Rare Book and Special Collections Division. 4^o

Goff: Heb-61; Hain: 9368; Offen: 76; Iakerson: 23; ISTC: ij00218530

The Library of Congress has two copies. The copy in the Hebraic Section is bound in twentieth-century green cloth, somewhat discolored. It is in a fairly good state of preservation though the paper is brittle and stained, and one

persistent worm hole goes right through the entire text at about line 6. This copy is missing the last leaf with its colophon (fol. 20v).

The copy in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division is bound in nineteenth-century brown calf rimmed in gold, and is a clean, excellent copy. It is complete, and unlike the copy in the Hebraic section does indeed contain the colophon (fol. 20v). There are three hand-written notes (1r, 6v, 7a).

8. *Pirke Avot* [*Chapters of the Fathers*], with commentary by Moses ben Maimon [Maimonides]
[Soncino: Joshua ben Solomon Soncino], [ca.1485?].
Rare Book and Special Collections Division. 4^o

Goff: Heb–83; Hain: 13011; Offen: 93; Iakerson: 24; ISTC: im00624800

Bound in twentieth-century black morocco with title tooled in gold: *Mischna Pirke Aboth mit Kommentar*. There are no visible notes or marginal corrections. Fols. 2r – 4r show repair at the top, and the text (including the title to the introduction on 2r) has been filled in by hand. The Mishnaic text begins on 17r, and the initial word משה has a raised hand with a pointing index finger on either side, drawn in by hand.

- *9. *Sefer Kol-Bo* [*Compendium*]
[Naples?]: printer unknown, [ca. 1485?].
Hebraic Section. 2^o
Rare Book and Special Collections Division. 2^o

Goff: Heb–67; Hain: --; Offen: 81; Iakerson: 78; ISTC: ik00038300

The Library of Congress has two copies. The copy in the Hebraic Section is bound in red leather with red marbled endpapers and title tooled in gold on the spine in Hebrew: כל בו. Leaves are considerably soiled and in some cases the marginal area has been restored to size with paper.

The extant text begins from fol. 2r and is badly torn at the top. There are a very few hand-written notes (e.g., 17v) and the colophon on 179v is intact.

The copy in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division is bound in light tan boards with the title hand-written on the spine in brown ink: *Kol Bo. Neapel (sic), 1490*. Fols. 1-2 are missing; extant text begins on fol. 3 with *siman* 16, and there are several hand-written notes at the top of this page, including two notations of the title (כל בו) in different hands. Fols. 3-9 have been reinforced with strips of

paper on the outer margin, as have some of the bifolia on the inner margin. The main text begins on 7r and has a brief inscription at the top of the page in Hebrew. This is a very clean copy with no notes apart from those already noted and no signs of censorship.

10. *Biblia Hebraica*
Nevi'im Rishonim [Early Prophets], with commentary by David Kimhi
Soncino: [Joshua ben Solomon Soncino], Marheshvan 6, 5246 [Oct. 15, 1485].
Rare Book and Special Collections Division. 2^o

Goff: Heb–22; Hain: 13408; Offen: 27; Iakerson: 25; ISTC: ib00525760

This copy is in excellent condition and beautifully bound in tooled leather with Latin title on binding: *Prophetae Prior cum Com Rabbin Sonc.* 1486. From Library of Duke of Sussex, with his bookplate. Fol. 1r, originally blank, has a hand-drawn title-page with the word נביאים, now almost completely faded, as is the hand-written note in Hebrew at the top. The watermark of the hand holding a sword on fols. 166 and 168 (the end of the text), unique amongst Hebrew incunabula, is noted by Shimon Iakerson as being extremely rare and found again only in eighteenth-century paper (Iakerson, Vol. I, p. 96, note 9).

- *11. Joseph Albo
Sefer ha-^cIqarim [Book of Basic Principles]
Soncino: *Benei* [“the sons of”] Soncino, Heshvan 22, 5246 [Dec. 29, 1485].
Hebraic Section. 2^o
Rare Book and Special Collections Division. 2^o

Goff: Heb–64; Hain: 606; Offen: 3; Iakerson: 27; ISTC: ij00479800

The Library of Congress has two copies. That in the Hebraic Section is beautifully bound in twentieth-century tan goatskin binding; the original binding of calf over pasteboards has been preserved intact in the box housing the book itself. Text is complete and in good condition, with no signs of censorship and no written notes apart from owners' (?) signatures on first and last leaf. The colophon on fol. 108r is intact.

The copy in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division is bound with the pages of an old Hebrew book; the title is tooled in gold on the spine over a square of brown leather: *Albo. Sefer Iccarim. Soncino 1485*. The margins of some leaves have been repaired to size (e.g., fols. 2-7) and others have been reinforced with tape on the outer margins (e.g., fols. 12-13). The leaves have been foliated in a

modern hand in the lower left-hand corner but these numbers are inaccurate; the printer's introduction on fol. 1v is missing and the printed text actually begins from fol. 2r. The lovely woodcut *שמע* at the top of 2r is intact but the surrounding paper shows considerable repair. There are two blurred inscriptions on fol. 108r (here mis-numbered as 103) above and below the colophon, and two bookplates pasted down on the end-paper indicating the Vollbehr Collection. There are only a very few hand-written notes and no sign of censorship.

12. *Nevi'im Aḥaronim [Later Prophets]*, with commentary by David Kimhi [Soncino: Joshua ben Solomon Soncino, 1486?].
Hebraic Section. 2°

Goff: Heb-24; Hain: 13410; Offen: 29; Iakerson: 26; ISTC: ib00525780

Bound in twentieth-century black goatskin. Title page and fol. 1 slightly torn and repaired. There are a few censor's marks, now faded. Censor's signature: Luigi da Bologna (date illegible). From the Library of Duke of Sussex.

13. *Maḥzor Minhag Roma [Festival Prayers according to the Roman Rite]*
Soncino and Casal Maggiore: *Benei* ["the sons of"] Soncino, Tishrei – Elul 20,
5246 Sept. 10, [1485] – Aug. 21, 1486.
Rare Book and Special Collections Division. 2°

Goff: Heb-73; Hain: 10425; Offen: 83; Iakerson: 30; ISTC: im00007850

This edition was printed in two volumes in both paper and parchment copies; the Library of Congress has only Volume II and this is printed on paper, somewhat brittle and stained. The copy is bound in marbled boards, with leather corners. The text shows censor's marks, which have largely faded, and bears the censor's signature at the end [fol.154v]: Domenico Irosolimitano [Hierosolymitano], 1571 (though it should be pointed out that this is several years earlier than any of the other dates noted by Popper for this censor, and may perhaps be more correctly read as 1591).

14. Jacob ben Asher
Tur Yoreh De'ah [Teacher of Knowledge]
Hijar: Eliezer ben Alantansi, 5347 [1486/1487].

Hebraic Section. 2°

Goff: Heb–56; Hain: 1882; Offen: 72; Iakerson: 94; ISTC: ij00000700

The copy in the Library of Congress is missing *simanim* 1 through the first half of 17. *Simanim* 17-52 are written in manuscript; 137-138 are torn and missing a large part of the text. Paper is somewhat stained. Bound in black and white marbled cardboard (rather like a student's copy-book of old). No hand-written notes or signs of censorship.

15. David Kimhi

Perush le-Tehillim [*Commentary to Psalms*]

Naples: Joseph ben Jacob Ashkenazi [Gunzenhauser], Nisan 4, 5247 [March 28, 1487].

Hebraic Section. 2°

Goff: Heb–29; Hain: 8346 (I); Offen: 35; Iakerson: 44; ISTC: ib00525870

Bound in nineteenth-century half leather with grained cloth sides of maroon, and title tooled in gold on the spine: *D. Kimchi on Psalms XXII – CL. Naples, 1487*. It is missing 19 leaves at the beginning (Psalms 1-21: 5) as well as the leaves from Psalms 38: 9 – 49:19. Only a very few hand-written notes (e.g. at the end of Ps. 24) and no signs of censorship; a few psalms have been numbered (in Hebrew letters) in a modern hand.

16. *Biblia Hebraica*

Mishlei [*Book of Proverbs*], with commentary by Immanuel [ben Solomon of Rome].

Naples: [Joseph ben Jacob Ashkenazi Gunzenhauser between Nisan 4, 5243 and Tishrei 9, 5244] [March 28 – Sept. 26, 1487].

Rare Book and Special Collections Division. 2°

Goff: Heb–34; Hain: 8346 (III); Offen: 43; Iakerson: 45; ISTC: ib00525940

The Library of Congress copy is beautifully preserved and bound in nineteenth-century black grained cloth sides, with a very few lightly penned-in notes and corrections in the margins.

- *17. Moses of Coucy
Sefer Mitzvot Gadol
[Soncino]: Gershom ben Moses Soncino, Tevet 15, 5249 [Dec. 19, 1488].
Hebraic Section. 2^o
Rare Book and Special Collections Division. 2^o

Goff: Heb–85; Hain: 9796; Offen: 95; Iakerson: 36; ISTC: im00866240

There are two copies in the Library of Congress. The copy in the Hebraic Section is bound in twentieth-century black cloth. Missing first two leaves (including the opening poem with the acrostic משה at the beginning of Book I); the extant text begins on fol.3 with the list of negative commandments (from the end of no. 16 on). Paper is highly brittle and stained and has many worm holes. The beginning of Book II is intact with verses from Psalms arranged in an acrostic and the decorative wood print of the word הַגְּבִי. Last few leaves missing from Book II, including the colophon.

The copy in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division is of considerable interest. On the end flyleaf is pasted a bill of sale written and signed by “Gershom ben Moshe Soncino of blessed memory, printer.” It was issued to one Moshe ben Shmuel Diena on 25th of Tevet (December 29, 1488), and stipulates that the buyer may not resell the volume for a period of two years (Karp, p. 13).

18. Moses ben Nahman [Nahmanides]
Hiddushe ha-Torah [Novellae on the Pentateuch]
Lisbon: Eliezer [Toledano], Av 18, 5249 [July 15, 1489].
Hebraic Section. 2^o

Goff: Heb–87; Hain:11670; Offen: 97 [*Perush ha-Torah*]; Iakerson: 100; ISTC: im00866160

Bound in two volumes: Vol. I (Parts 1-2); Vol. II (Parts 3-5). Vol. I is unbound and in a very poor state of preservation, with many missing leaves and a few fragments preserved in mylar. Extant text begins from the pericope *Toldot*. Vol. II is bound in marbled boards tipped in leather and begins from *Ve-Yikra*. Pages stained with a few tears that do not, however, affect the text. Signs of censorship, now faded, and only a very few hand-written comments (e.g. fol. 119r-v). Last leaf, repaired with tissue laminate, is heavily damaged with a minor loss to text on the recto side that does not affect the poem printed on the verso.

19. Behai ben Joseph ibn Paquda

Ḥovot ha-Levavot [*Duties of the Heart*]. Trans. Judah ben Saul ibn Tibbon
Naples: Joseph [ben Jacob] Ashkenazi [Gunzenhauser], Kislev 25, 5250 [Nov. 19,
1489].

Hebraic Section. 4^o

Goff: Heb-7; Hain: 2727; Offen: 9; Iakerson: 50; ISTC: ib00296660

The title page is beautifully drawn in by hand with an architectural border; the first three leaves are also in manuscript. There are some occasional hand-written comments and corrections in the margins. Bound in nineteenth-century red calf with title tooled in gold: חובת הלבבות *Naples, 1489*. Leaves stained and discolored with conspicuous worm-holes, and show repair. No hand-written notes or signs of censorship.

20. David ben Joseph Abudarham
Perush Seder Tefillot [*Commentary on the Prayers*]
Lisbon: Eliezer [Toledano], Tevet 1, 5250 [Nov. 25, 1489].
Hebraic Section. 2^o

Goff: Heb-36; Hain: --; Offen: 1; Iakerson: 101; ISTC: id00101800

The copy in the Library of Congress missing ff. 1-2, and blank leaves have been inserted for ff. 140-141; 154-159; 163; 169-170. Fols. 3-4 are damaged and missing text. A very few hand-written notes in margins (e.g., 34r; 137v). LOC copy bound in twentieth-century leather with title tooled in gold: *Abudarham Lisbon 1489*. No signs of censorship.

21. Jacob ben Asher
Arba'ah Turim [*Four Orders of the Law Code*]
[Soncino]: Solomon ben Moses Soncino [1490?].
Hebraic Section. 2^o

Goff: Heb-48; Hain: 1880; Offen: 62; Iakerson: 42; ISTC: ij00000250

Complete text in fairly good condition, though bound in ancient boards badly in need of preservation (and in some cases coming unbound). Occasional notes in margins (some quite lengthy); no sign of censorship.

- *22. Jacob Baruch ben Judah Landau
Sefer Agur [The Book of Agur] and *Sefer Hazon [The Book of Vision]*
[Naples: Azriel ben Joseph ben Jacob Ashkenazi Gunzenhauser, ca.1490-1492].
Hebraic Section. 4^o
Rare Book and Special Collections Division. 4^o

Goff: Heb-68; Hain: 9865; Offen: 82; Iakerson: 56; ISTC: ij00000100

The Library of Congress has two copies. That held in the Hebraic Section is without *Sefer Hazon* but has all the approbations [*haskamot*] indicated in Wiener (142a), as well as an approbation by David ben Judah Messer Leon and one and-a-half pages of corrections. This copy also contains at least four extra leaves in the approbations section (as indicated by the catch-word on the last extant leaf). The extant text begins from fol. 3, which is torn at the top and at the margins, affecting the text. It is bound in worn grey cloth over boards, coming away from the spine.

The copy held by the Rare Book and Special Collections Division is a paste-up collation, beautifully bound in vellum. Neither copy bears censors' marks.

23. Moses ben Maimon [Maimonides]
Mishneh Torah or *Yad HAZakah [The Strong Hand]*
Soncino: Gershom ben Moses Soncino, Nisan 1, 5250 [March 23, 1490].
Hebraic Section. 2^o

Goff: Heb-77; Hain: 10523; Offen: 88; Iakerson: 43; ISTC: im00079500

Bound in two volumes in identical light grey boards with hand-written titles on the spine in large black letters: היד החזקה להרמבם. Vol. I is missing the first eight leaves, including the printer's preface and the author's introduction, and the beginning of the list of the book's contents. It ends in the middle of the list of laws pertaining to sacrifices (no. 13); Vol. II continues directly with law no. 14, and goes on without loss of text till fol. 380, with its colophon. In both volumes there are running titles on many leaves written in by hand at the top of the page, generally just a single word or two. There are no hand-written notes in the margins, and no sign of censorship.

24. Moses ben Nahman [Nahmanides]
Perush ha-Torah [Commentary on the Pentateuch]
[Naples: Joseph ben Jacob Ashkenazi Gunzenhauser], Tammuz 13, 5250 [July 2, 1490].

[Alternately: Joshua ben Solomon Soncino and Isaac ben Judah ben David Catorze?] [or Quatorzi?]

Hebraic Section. 2^o

Goff: Heb–88; Hain:11671; Offen: 98; Iakerson: 52; ISTC: im00866180

Bound in worn, nineteenth-century black grained cloth sides; the case binding has come detached. There is a large tear on fol. 1 but it does not affect the lovely opening woodcut. Leaves stained and often creased with considerable insect damage, but a highly legible copy even so. Some of the bifolia have been reinforced with strips of paper.

*25. David Kimhi

Sefer ha-Shorashim [*The Book of Roots*]

Naples: [Joshua ben Solomon Soncino for Isaac ben Judah ben David] known as ben Catorze [or Quatorzi?], Thursday, Rosh Hodesh Adar 5251 [Feb. 10, 1491].

Hebraic Section. 2^o

Rare Book and Special Collections Division. 2^o

Goff: Heb–40; Hain: 6034; Offen: 106; Iakerson: 59; ISTC: id00102740

The Library of Congress has two copies. The copy in the Hebraic Section is bound in green velvet, heavily worn. Missing fol. 1; fols. 2-8 are given in manuscript, as are fols. 123, 127, and 130. This copy has been censored twice: Domenico Irosol[imitano] 1597; Domenico Carretto, 1618 (and cf. Popper, p. 140, no. 61). Inscription of ownership on the end leaf: יצחק אוריגיה בן אדוניה. The colophon in this book (167v) is known for having two different versions, one which gives the printer's name and one which does not. Both copies in the Library of Congress belong to the second group, like the copy termed "59b" in Iakerson, Vol. I, pp. 289-290.

The copy in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division is complete and in excellent condition, though some of the leaves are rather wrinkled, particularly at the beginning. It is bound in camel-colored leather which does not, however, close entirely shut. The beautiful ornamental border (missing in the Hebraic Section copy) has some changes unique to this copy. It has the usual two winged and naked cherubs, or *putti*, in the lower part of the border, but the third cherub is missing from its usual place in the upper right-hand corner, as the paper here is torn. This tear has been carefully taped over with a piece of paper on which a figure is lightly sketched in, depicting a naked crouching man (his left leg modestly drawn forward) with a full beard, a pleasant expression, and what appears to be a turban around his head. The round medallion between the two winged cherubs, which was left empty by the printer and intended for the owner's name or coat-of-arms, is here filled in with a somewhat roughly hand-drawn

flower in orange-colored pencil or crayon. There are two owners' (?) signatures in Hebrew and various scribbles on this same leaf (1r), but otherwise very few hand-written notes (e.g., 40r; and 166v in Italian). Like the copy of this book in the Hebraic Section, the colophon does not contain the printer's name (see above), and has been censored twice: Domenico Irosolimitano 1597; Dominico Carretto, 1618.

26. Biblia Hebraica
Ḥamishah Ḥumshei Torah [Pentateuch]. With Targum Onkelos and commentary by Solomon ben Isaac [Rashi].
Lisbon: Eliezer [Toledano], Av 5251 [July 8 – August 6, 1491]
Hebraic Section. 2°

Goff: Heb–20; Hain: 12570; Offen: 17; Iakerson:102; ISTC: ib00525640

Currently in the Conservation Division for treatment and rebinding (as of February 2010).

27. Immanuel ben Solomon of Rome
Sefer ha-Maḥbarot [The Notebooks]
Brescia: Gershom ben Moses Soncino, Heshvan 26, 5252 [Oct. 30, 1491].
Hebraic Section. 4°

Goff: Heb–43; Hain: 9137; Offen: 58; Iakerson: 66; ISTC: ii00059500

This copy is missing much of the printer's introduction as well as most of the author's preface in rhymed prose (fols. 1-2). Book has been rebound by the Conservation Division of the Library of Congress to approximate the earlier nineteenth-century half-vellum binding with decorative paper sides, which has also been preserved intact in the box housing the book. No hand-written notes or signs of censorship.

28. Avicenna [Ibn Sīnā]
Ha-Qanon [Canon medicinae]. Trans. Joseph ben Joshua Lorki and Nathan ben Eliezer Ha-Me^oati.
Naples: Azriel ben Joseph [Ashkenazi Gunzenhauser], Kislev 7, 5252 [Nov. 9, 1491].
Hebraic Section. 2°

Goff: Heb-4; Hain: 2212; Offen: 6; Iakerson 54; ISTC: ia01417300

Bound in a single volume and encased in an envelope-binding of brown leather which, though clearly ancient, is probably not contemporary with the book itself as the pages have been trimmed. The book is missing fols. 1-2, 4 and all of Part 3. Paper heavily stained and creased, particularly in Part 1, which shows considerable signs of use and has the greatest number of hand-written notes. There is a lengthy hand-written note on the blank verso of the leaf ending Part 1 (69v). No signs of censorship.

29. [Mishnah] *Pirke Avot [Chapters of the Fathers]*, with commentary by Moses ben Maimon [Maimonides], trans. Samuel ben Judah ibn Tibbon. [Naples: Joshua ben Solomon Soncino, Iyyar 11, 5252] [May 8, 1492].
Hebraic Section. 2°

Goff: Heb 82; Hain: 11243; Offen: 92; Iakerson: 60; ISTC: im00624700

This copy is a 13-page fragment of the 1492 *Mishnah* and contains the complete text of *Pirke Avot*. Its presence in the Library of Congress is not noted in any of the standard reference works. Unlike other known copies of the 1492 *Mishnah*, where the text to *Pirke Avot* is printed from ff. 202v-214v (unfoliated in the original), here the text begins and ends on the recto side of the paper. This fragment is bound in nineteenth-century brown marbled boards with green and gilt end-papers of a Florentine design. The paper is crisp and well-preserved apart from what may be water stains on the bottom of the last nine leaves, and a small worm-hole at the very edge of a few leaves in the middle part of the fragment. There are no hand-written remarks or signs of censorship.

30. *Nevi'im Rishonim [Early Prophets]*, with Targum Yonatan and commentaries by David Kimhi and Levi ben Gershom. Leira: [Samuel d'Ortas and his] three sons, Shevat 19-21, 5254 [Jan. 27 – Feb. 1, 1494].
Hebraic Section. 2°

Goff: Heb-23; Hain: 13409; Offen: 28; Iakerson:106; ISTC: ib00525770

This copy is only a fragment; the extant text comes from the Book of Judges alone (47 leaves). Text begins from Judges 6: 12 and continues till the end of Levi

ben Gershom's commentary on Judges (166v). A number of leaves are missing in between: Judges 9: 30 - 9: 56; 11: 8 - 11: 39; 17: 1 - 18: 6. The book is bound in rust-colored cloth from which a number of leaves have come loose; the final six leaves show repair.

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