

10. *Jewish Woman's Home Journal* [דער אידישער פרויען זשורנאל]. On display: Volume I, No. 2 (June, 1922) and No. 4 (August 1922).

An editorial in the April 1922 inaugural issue of the monthly illustrated magazine *Der Idisher froyen zshurnal* stated that the journal's focus would be on the "Americanization of the immigrant as well as the Americanization of the parent." Through the journal's retention of the Yiddish language to interpret modern culture, the editors hoped to acquaint young Eastern European Jewish women and their mothers with their newly adopted land and with the spirit of its institutions.

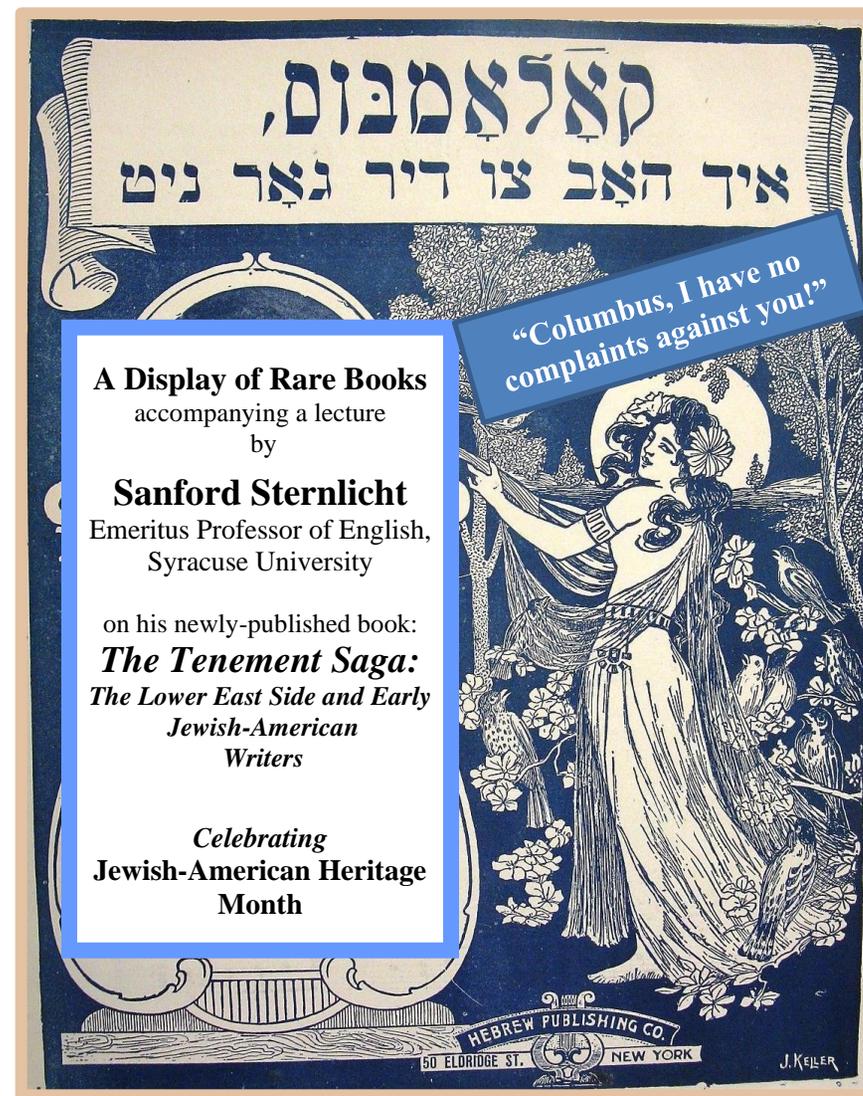
11. Wall plaque of the *Rodef Scholem Independent Podhaizer Sick and Benevolent Association*.

This elaborately decorated wall plaque of the "Rodef Scholem Independent Podhaizer Sick and Benevolent Association" features a New York State Certificate of Incorporation dated May 26, 1900. Listed on the columns flanking the certificate are names of members. At the top of the poster is an American eagle, resting on the intersection of an American flag and a fanciful flag of Zion.

12. Hebrew poem in effusive praise of Theodore Roosevelt, shown here at his most dashing. Composed by Israel Fine and included in his *נגינות בן יהודה* [Melodies of the Son of Judah]. Baltimore, 1907.

13. At the beginning of the twentieth century, Yiddish music in America served as a bridge between the old world and the new, with immigrants blending English words and phrases into familiar songs from the old country. On display are just a few selections from the rich collections of Yiddish music at the Library of Congress:

- Solomon Shmulewitz (1868-1943) and J.M. Rumshisky (1879-1956). *A Brievele dem Taten* [A little letter to my father]. New York: Hebrew Publishing Co., 1911 (see illustration below, left).
- David Meyrowitz and Louis Gilrod א. בויטשיק אפ טו דייט *A Boychik Up-to-Date*. New York: Theodore Lohr, 1904. (see illustration below, right).



Detail from Yiddish sheet-music. New York, 1920  
(for other examples, see Checklist no. 13)

Monday, May 19, 2014  
12:00 Noon-1:00 PM

*Free and Open to the Public*

Thomas Jefferson Building  
African and Middle Eastern Division Reading Room, Library of Congress,  
Washington D.C.

# Checklist of Items on Display

1. מנחה קטנה: תפלה מכל השנה: מנחה קטנה [Prayers for the Entire Year: A Small Offering]. Fürth: Zumdorffer & Sommer, 1842. Miniature.

This miniature daily prayer book was printed in Germany in 1842, "especially for travelers by sea to the nation of America." It is the first of three editions of this tiny prayer book published between 1840 and 1860--a period when Jews from German lands immigrated to this country in the tens-of-thousands. Between 1840 and 1860 the Jewish population of this country ballooned from 15,000 to 150,000. Political unrest and economic hardship were primary motivating factors for this migration.

2. סדור שפתי צדיקים [The Form of Prayers According to the Custom of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews]. Philadelphia: Isaac Leeser, 1837-1838. Volumes 1-6.

*Sidur Siftei Tzadikim*, Isaac Leeser's comprehensive prayer book, was the first American edition containing the liturgy for the entire year. It contains the original Hebrew text and an original English translation. Leeser marketed his prayer book to audiences both in America and the British Colonies in the Caribbean and thus included both "A Prayer for a Royal Government" and "A Prayer for a Republican Government" (see Vol. I, ff. 114-115).

3. סדר הגדה לפסח [Form and Relation of the Two First Nights of the Feast of Passover]. New York, 1878.

An American family at the Seder table presents a new version of the depiction of the "four sons" described in the Haggadah. The "wise son," skull cap on head, studiously pores over the Haggadah; the "simple son" appears to be thumbing his nose and burning his finger at the candle into the bargain; and the wicked son, bareheaded and tilting nonchalantly back in his chair, is smoking a cigarette. *Oy vey!*

4. Hinde Amchanitzki. לעהר-בוך צו קאכען און באקען באקען [A Textbook on How to Cook and Bake]. New York, 1901.

The first Yiddish cookbook published in the United States, chock-full of Jewish delicacies from the Old World (check out the recipe for gefilte fish). This little booklet was sold from the premises of the author's restaurant in the Upper East Side. The price? 15 cents. Among other helpful hints to newcomers to the American scene, Hinde assures readers that her recipes are healthy and will not give children stomach aches.



5. Triangle Waist Company Fire Cartoon. By Lola [Leon Israel]. Printed in *Der Groise Kundes [The Big Stick]*, New York, April 7, 1911.

On March 25, 1911, 146 victims, mostly young Jewish and Italian immigrant women, perished in the fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company factory, a New York City garment sweatshop. In this cartoon, a salivating demonic figure, labeled the Triangle Waist Company, draws a long line of women into his factory. There they are consumed by the fire's raging inferno and drift upward towards heaven in the smoky aftermath of the fire. Public sympathy and outrage over the tragedy led to the establishment of a Factory Investigating Commission that was instrumental in drafting new legislation that mandated improved working conditions.

6. חוקי ארצות הברית / Constitution of the United States. Hebrew and Yiddish. New York: Sarasohn and Son, 1892.

In the preface to his 1891 translation of the Constitution of the United States into Hebrew and Yiddish, J. D. Eisenstein wrote that his aim was "to Americanize Jewish residents of the lower part of the city of New York and of which the writer of these lines is a member."

7. Cecilia Razovsky. וואס יעדע פרוי דארף וויסען וועגען בירגערשאפט [What Every Woman Should Know about Citizenship]. New York: Department of Immigrant Aid, National Council of Jewish Women, 1926.

The Immigration Assistance Section of the National Council of Jewish Women issued this citizenship guide for women in both English and Yiddish. Founded in 1893, the Council focused on helping unmarried women immigrants learn English, secure citizenship, and find employment.

8. Jacob Zevi Sobol. שיר זהב לכבוד ישראל הזקן [A Golden Poem in Honor of Israel the Elder]. New York: Tepalowsky, 1877.

The first book of Hebrew poems and the first Yiddish book printed in the United States. The poems, in Hebrew with facing Yiddish translation, celebrate the Jewish people, the Hebrew language, and America, though they are perhaps more notable for enthusiasm than for literary quality. The short German poem on the title page is spoken, as it were, by a personified "Israel, the Elder."

9. Frontpage notice from the *National Intelligence* (Washington, Sept. 29, 1825).

The newspaper gives frontpage coverage to a speech by Mordecai Manuel Noah, "the first Judge and Governor that has ever assumed in this hemisphere the reins of Government over the scattered tribes of Israel."

(continued on back)