

Presents:

13. *החלוץ הקטן: הזיון בשלש מערכות (The Little Pioneer: A Play in Three Acts)* by Aleksander Karmon. Published by *Hots'at Te'atron* ("Theater Press"), 1926/27.

A play for school-children emphasizing Zionist values, with a strong tendency towards pathos; the 2<sup>nd</sup> act takes place in Alexandria, Egypt, where the young hero is cruelly used on his way to a new life in a kibbutz in Israel. The play's lovely cover is highly evocative of the pioneering period in pre-State Israel and bears a handwritten dedication by the author.

14. *שלמה מלך החיות והעופות (Solomon, King of the Birds and the Beasts)* by Chaim Nachman Bialik, with illustrations by Nachum Gutman. Tel-Aviv: Dvir, 1928.

Bialik's sparkling version of a classic folk-tale brings the "Father of Modern Hebrew Poetry" together with a young artist destined to become one of the most influential artists in Mandate Palestine and post-Independence Israel. The son of S. Ben-Zion, a pioneer in Hebrew education who moved his young family from Russia to Tel-Aviv in 1905, Gutman also wrote a number of delightful books for children and a charming memoir set in the early years of Tel-Aviv.

15. *הגינו (Our Holidays)*. Verses by Avi-Shai [Lev Kipnis], with colorful tipped-in illustrations by Ze'ev Raban. [New York]: Miller-Lynn, 1928.

Illustrations of the Jewish holidays as celebrated in contemporary Eretz Israel, by Ze'ev Raban (1890-1970). Raban is perhaps the foremost representative of the *Bezael* style of art, which took its name from the first art academy in Eretz Israel. An important institution to this day, Bezael was founded in Jerusalem in 1906 by Boris Schatz and became known for a distinctive style melding Art Nouveau with motifs from ancient Near Eastern art and archaeology.

### III. Hebrew Periodicals for Children

16. *השחר: שבועון מצויר לבני נעורים (The Dawn: An Illustrated Weekly for Young People)*. Warsaw, 1911.

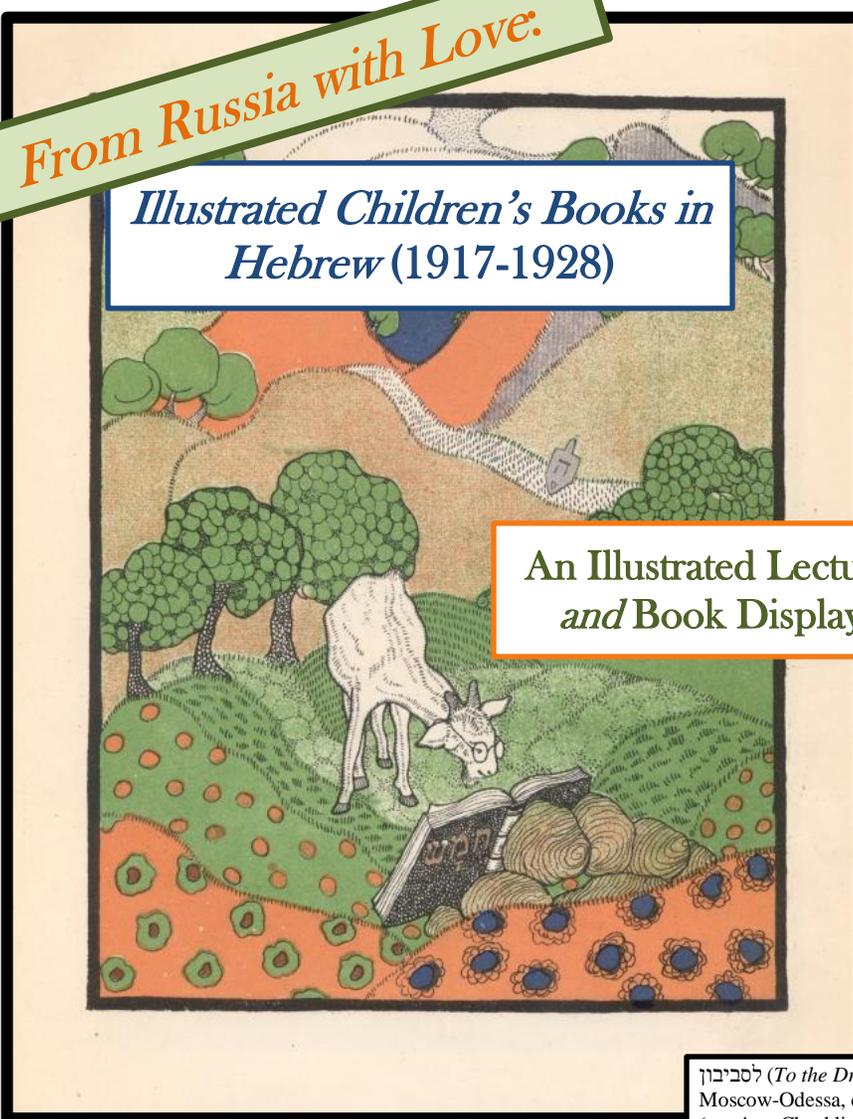
One of the finest Hebrew periodicals for children during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Bialik published one of his masterpieces for children in its pages: *Etzba'oni*, a rhymed Hebrew version of the Tom Thumb story. Despite its high quality, the magazine suffered from financial problems and folded after only 7 months. The exquisite covers are today a great rarity.

17. *עדן: ירחון מצויר לבני הנעורים (Eden: An Illustrated Monthly for Young People)*. Edited by Daniel Persky and Y.D. Berkovitz. Published by Bat-Sheva Grabelsky, who also wrote articles for the journal. New-York, 1924-1925.

Contributions by the same creative giants who wrote regularly for Hebrew children's journals across the Atlantic in Europe and Palestine, including Bialik, Tchernikhovsky, Fichman, and Lev Kipnis. Illustrations by such noted artists as Nachum Gutman. *Eden* prided itself on being the first Hebrew journal for children to include crossword puzzles – *שתי וערב* – in the language of the day.

18. *מולדת: ירחון לבני הנעורים (Homeland: A Journal for Young People)*.

Published by the Union of Hebrew Teachers in Eretz Israel, starting in 1911 in Jaffa. The first editor was noted educator S. Ben-Zion (see above, note 14), followed by Jacob Fichman, famous Hebrew novelist and poet. Ceased publishing in 1947.



Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
12 noon - 1:00 p.m.

African and Middle Eastern Reading Room,  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.

Illustrated children's books in Hebrew first appeared in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in a burst of color and flair. Inspired by the exciting trends of the Russian *avant-garde* and also by the revival of spoken Hebrew, children's literature attracted the creative powers of some of the most talented artists and writers of the day. From Moscow to New York, from Warsaw to Berlin, presses vied with each other to produce the most beautiful children's books in Hebrew – and hence the dazzling display before you today. Enjoy!

- Ann Brener, Hebraic Section,  
African and Middle Eastern Division, Library of Congress

## Checklist of Books on Display

### I. Omanut Press

1. שתילים (*Saplings: An Illustrated Journal for Children & Young People*). Moscow: Omanut ha-Defus. November, 1917.  
Founded in the middle of the Russian Revolution, this short-lived journal was only one of the many Hebrew enterprises financed by Hillel Zlatopolsky, renowned patron of Jewish culture in Czarist Russia and the father of Shoshana Zlatopolsky Persitz, founder of Omanut Press (see nos. 2-6 below). The journal features poems and articles by the finest Hebrew writers of the day and also a rare illustration for a work in Hebrew by the famous Jewish artist, El Lissitzky (1890-1941).
2. הזמיר (*The Nightingale*). Moscow – Odessa: Omanut Press / Gamliel Library [not dated, ca.1919].  
Hebrew translation of the fairy-tale by Hans Christian Andersen. Illustrated with four lithographic silhouettes by Russian artist A. [Georgy Ivanovitch] Narbut (1886-1920). The illustrations originally appeared in a Russian version of the story published in Moscow by Knebel Press, publisher of the finest Russian books for children in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
3. אניית קסמים (*The Enchanted Ship*). Odessa [sic]: Omanut Press / Gamliel Library [not dated, ca.1919]. V. Hauf; illustrations by D[mitry] Mitrohin.  
A swashbuckling tale of adventure with detailed illustrations by Dimity Mitrohin, student of the famous Russian illustrator Ivan Biliben. Like the book listed above (no. 2), this is a Hebrew version (illustrations and all) of a Russian book previously published in Moscow. On the verso of the cover is a stylized Tree of Life with the name Gamliel nestling at the root of the tree – a memorial to the publisher's infant son whose sudden death at the age of four prompted this series of Hebrew picture-books. The picture was commissioned from Dmitry Mitrohin, the same artist who created the illustrations for the Russian edition of the book.
4. לסביבון (*To the Dreidel*). Moscow – Odessa: Omanut Press / Gamliel Library [not dated, ca.1920]. A poem with six colorful lithographs.  
Though not signed, the story was apparently written by Zalman Shneur (1887-1959), famous Hebrew and Yiddish novelist. It was illustrated by a group of four young Jewish artists known collectively as הבורת ציירים ("A Group of Artists"). These four artists, students at the Odessa School of Art, were Jacob Apter, Yefim Khiger, Aaron Kravtsov, and Moses Mutzelmacher.
5. התרנגולים והשועל (*The Roosters and the Fox*), Moscow – Odessa: Omanut Press / Gamliel Library [not dated, ca.1920].  
A medieval fox-fable by Berechiah ha-Nakdan, adapted into beautiful rhymed prose by Chaim Nachman Bialik (1873-1934), the "Father of Modern Hebrew Poetry" and an iconic figure of Jewish culture. Illustrations by the "Group of Artists" (see above, no. 4).

6. לצאת ידי הכל (*To Please Everyone*). Moscow – Odessa: Omanut Press / Gamliel Library [not dated, ca.1920].  
A Russian folk-tale adapted into Hebrew by Ahad ha-Am [Asher Ginzberg], renowned Zionist writer and thinker. Illustrations by the "Group of Artists" (see above, no. 4).
7. Nathan Altman: *Jüdische Graphik*. Introduction by Max Osborn. Reihe, Petropolis (Germany), 1923. 10 folio-size lithographic prints characterized by bold black lines and avant-garde style.  
The book is open to a bookplate created for M. Persitz, related by marriage to Shoshana Zlatopolsky Persitz (see above, no. 1).

### II. Hebrew Books Contemporary with Omanut Press from Europe, America, and Eretz Israel

8. קטינא כל בו (*Tom Thumb Anthology*), Berlin: Rimon-Verlag, 1923.  
Classic children's stories by Chaim Nachman Bialik. Illustrations by Rachel Shalit-Marcus; colorful front and back covers by A. Bihem (א. ביהם). Text and illustrations printed from lithographs created by celebrated typographer Franziska Baruch (Hamburg, 1901- Israel, 1989).
9. עשר שיחות לילדים [A collection of ten fairy tales by Hans Christian Andersen, the Brothers Grimm, and others], Berlin: Ophir, 1923. Full-page illustrations by Tom [Martha] Seidmann-Freud.  
The publishing company "Ophir" was founded as a joint venture between Chaim Nachman Bialik and a young Jewish couple in Berlin, Jacob Seidmann and Tom [Martha] Freud, niece of the famed psychoanalyst. The venture produced several beautiful children's books but ended in disaster – personal and financial - for the young couple and their infant daughter.
10. האווזה ואפרוחיה (*The Goose and her Chicks*). A story by Yehiel Halperin, with illustrations by A. Kravtsov and music notation by Joel Engel. Jerusalem: Ha-Ginah Press [not dated; between 1925-1930].  
Ha-Ginah Press was founded by Yehiel Halperin, one of the leading figures in Hebrew education for children. Like many Jewish intellectuals, Halperin left Russia following the Revolution. He settled in Jerusalem in 1920 and there opened Ha-Ginah Press ("The Garden") – a name that alludes to his efforts to create Hebrew kindergartens in Russia and in Israel. Interestingly, some of his books (including this one), were illustrated by members of the "Group of Artists" in Odessa (see above no. 4) and were no doubt brought with him from Odessa to Jerusalem.
11. יש לי צמד פרים (I Have a Pair of Bulls). Nonsense poems adapted into Hebrew by F. [Alec] Halperin and illustrated by M. [Moses] Mutzelmacher, one of the "Group of Artists" in Odessa (see above, no. 4). Jerusalem: Ha-Ginah Press [not dated; between 1925-1930].
12. צפור פלאים (*The Magic Bird*). Translated from the German by M. Mohr. Tel Aviv: Dvir, 1925.  
This beautiful book was published by Dvir, the press founded by Chaim Nachman Bialik upon settling in Tel-Aviv in 1924. It was translated from a poem by the famous German poet, Richard Dehmel (1863-1920). It is a very dark tale of a beautiful bird with a broken wing, cruelly mocked and mistreated by all who see it. Though not of Jewish origin, the poetic translation lends itself to an allegorical reading of the Jewish People in Exile. The lovely illustrations were created by Y. Gleitsman for the German original of the story published in Wiesbaden in 1923.