

ISRAEL

STUDIES IN ZIONISM AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL
HISTORY, SOCIETY, CULTURE

The Chaim Weizmann Institute for the Study of Zionism and Israel was set up in 1962 at Tel Aviv University through the initiative and with the assistance of the Executive of the World Zionist Organization, with the aim of furthering the research and the teaching of the history of the Zionist idea, the Zionist movement and the Land of Israel in modern times.

ISRAEL

STUDIES IN ZIONISM AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL
HISTORY, SOCIETY, CULTURE

No. 30, 2023



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

THE CHAIM ROSENBERG SCHOOL OF JEWISH STUDIES
THE CHAIM WEIZMANN INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF ZIONISM AND ISRAEL

Editor: Nimrod Lin

Editorial Board: Arie M. Dubnov, Nissim Leon, Gil-li Vardi,
Liora R. Halperin, Avi Shilon, Abigail Jacobson, Mustafa Abbasi

Editorial Coordinator: Zohar Wachtel

Front cover:

Zim A. Zion and A.K. Israel – The Archive for the Goldstein-Goren Diaspora
Research Center, Tel Aviv University

Back cover:

Detail from the cover photo

© 2023

All Rights Reserved

Tel Aviv University

The Chaim Weizmann Institute for the Study of Zionism and Israel

Graphic Editing: Michal Semo and Yael Bieber, TAU Graphic Design Studio

Printed in Israel by Sdar Zalam

CONTENTS

ARTICLES

Religious Perception, Sectarian Identity, and Political Ideology Surrounding the Production of the ‘Rinat Yisrael’ Sephardi-Mizrachi siddur Reuven Gafni	7
The Deportation of Yemenite and Urfan Families from Judean Moshavot during World War I: ‘A Criminal Offense’ Dalia Grafi.....	33
The Zevulun Valley and the Redrawing of Haifa’s Municipal Boundaries, 1948-1950 Nadav Heidecker.....	55
‘A Time to Keep and a Time to Cast Away’ – The Book of Jokes and Witticisms as a Window to the Ingathering Project (kinus) Tsafi Sebba Elran	87
Religious Separatism and Ethnic Structuring in Mizrahi Haredi and Religious Zionist Boundary Work Nissim Leon.....	107
Eta Yellin and the Ezrat Nashim Hospital: Between Conservatism and Modernism Roni Beer-Marx	135
Looking at the Knife: The Myth of the Binding in Two Israeli Documentary Combat Stress Reaction Films Adam Tsachi	155
‘You Shall Walk in Virtuous Ways’: Religious Feminism in the Art of Nechama Golan David Sperber	175
REVIEWS	
<i>HUBRIS: Israel's Road to the Yom Kippur War, 1970-1973</i>, by Yoav Gelber Yechiam Weitz	195
List of Contributors.....	201
English Summaries	VII

Abstracts

Reuven Gafni

Religious Perception, Sectarian Identity, and Political Ideology Surrounding the Production of the 'Rinat Yisrael' Sephardi-Mizrachi siddur

The production of the Rinat Yisrael series of siddurim (Jewish Prayer Books), was one of the most dramatic events in the field of Jewish liturgy in recent generations. The emergence of the series was one of the culminations of a long process, in which various people and institutions sought to reshape the world of the prayer and the synagogue and adapt them to the social, national, and political reality in Eretz Israel/Israel in modern times. Indeed, almost immediately the Rinat Yisrael series became the most widely used among the national religious public and had a public influence that no one could have imagined. This influence manifested both in the liturgical context itself and as an expression of the attitude of the national religious community to the Israeli statehood, from a religious, ideological, and halakhic point of view. Against this background, this article focuses on the production process of the Sephardi/Mizrachi Rinat Yisrael siddur, which was published in 1976: The halakhic and liturgical dilemmas that were dealt with along the way, but also the personal and institutional frictions that arose throughout the process, and which uniquely reflected contemporary tensions between Mizrahim and Ashkenazim, both in the governmental and administrative sphere, as well as in the communal and political fronts. This study is based on a variety of primary sources, especially the detailed correspondence regarding the production of the siddur, between various individuals in the ministries of education and religion (July 1971- May 1972). As a final note, the various factors that led to the fact that, unlike the Ashkenazi parts in the series, the Mizrahi siddur gained very limited popularity or public significance, will also be presented, while trying to explain why it never became a distinct symbol of Religious Zationalism, like previous siddurim that were produced in the series.

Dalia Grafi

The Deportation of Yemenite and Urfan Families from Judean Moshavot during World War I: 'A Criminal Offense'

In this article, I illuminate a hidden historical episode related to the deportation imposed by the authorities of the Ottoman Empire in Palestine during World War I. I highlight the deportation of a few Yemenite and Urfan (originating from Urfa on the Turkish-Syrian border) families, from the Judean Moshavot, Rehovot and Rishon LeZion, on April 1917. This historical episode has not received the

attention it deserves in the historiography and the collective memory. In terms of written material and oral documentation, a clear picture emerges of a futile, avoidable deportation of a few poor families, revealing moral failures and social incompetence among the leadership of the Moshavot. This historical event was referred to by Moshe Smilansky, a publicist and writer, and a leading figure in the Moshava of Rehovot, as a ‘criminal offense’.

Nadav Heidecker

The Zevulun Valley and the Redrawing of Haifa’s Municipal Boundaries,
1948-1950

This article concerns the Haifa Bay area in northern Israel, also known by its Hebrew name *Emek Zvulun* (The Zevulun Valley). The area was traditionally regarded as the geographic hinterland of the city of Haifa. However, the Jewish neighborhoods that were established in the bay area during the 1930s and 1940s, commonly known as *Ha-Krayot*, remained outside the city council’s municipal jurisdiction area throughout the British Mandate era. The plan to annex them to Haifa resurfaced in the summer of 1948, as a result of the dramatic demographic transformation of the region following the 1948 War. The article discusses the efforts to implement the plan, which culminated with the partial annexation of the bay area to Haifa in the summer of 1950. The plan is examined in its wide political context (on both the local and national levels), analyzing the dilemmas it raised and the political struggles that accompanied it.

Tsafi Sebba Elran

‘A Time to Keep and a Time to Cast Away’ – *The Book of Jokes and Witticisms*
as a Window to the Ingathering Project (*kinus*)

The multiplicity of Hebrew anthologies of traditional Jewish sources at the beginning of the twentieth century and their widespread acceptance may indicate on their central role in the ingathering project (*kinus*) – a national endeavor to rescue and assimilate Jewish traditions in the renewed Hebrew culture. The article deals with one of the fruitful branches of this project – collections of Hebrew jokes – and focuses on the popular anthology of Alter Druyanow: *The Book of Jokes and Witticisms* (Sefer ha-bediha ve-ha-hiddud, 1922). Assuming that the creation of such a collection cannot be an neutral work of documentation for representational purposes only, but is rather an interpretive composition, belonging to the politics of culture and history, the article analyzes different stages of the editor’s work, and discusses in detail his literary decisions in order to point out the roles of the canonical

model the anthology has generated. Examining the collection's characteristics in its historical and cultural contexts, and alongside them, paratextual and archival materials (such as the introduction, appendices, and drafts) shows that the anthology has preserved a complex of cultural tensions and reflected a multifaceted identity rather than distributing orderly ideological thought. Thus, even if the motive that activated this project was an ideological one, its products were often comprehensive and representative, and their wide acceptance indicates their popular character and multiple roles in contemporary Jewish society.

Nissim Leon

Religious Separatism and Ethnic Structuring in Mizrahi Haredi and Religious Zionist Boundary Work

Research on Mizrahi religiosity displays ever-greater awareness of how the Haredi circles influence the religious lives of Mizrahi Israelis. One such influence is the boundary work that marks Mizrahi Haredi-Religious Zionist relations. In the following pages, I will propose that this boundary work be viewed along a continuum between religious separatism and ethnic structuring. "Religious separatism" refers to dissociation from those whom activist Mizrahi Haredi discourse represents as merely imitating a halakhically observant way of life, and who are therefore regarded as a 'dangerous' element. 'Ethnic structuring' refers to the ethnic impact of Mizrahi Haredism in terms of highlighting a relatively new strain in contemporary Religious Zionism – Torani Mizrahi Religious Zionism.

Roni Beer-Marx

Eta Yellin and the Ezrat Nashim Hospital: Between Conservatism and Modernism

In the historical research dealing with women and gender in Israel, Eta Yellin emerges as a groundbreaking figure and forerunner of progress. This image is derived from her Hebrew writings, as expressed in her autobiography *Le Tze'etz'ai*, and from her extensive public work, especially as the director and president of the Ezrat Nashim mental health hospital. However, the research literature dealing with the history of medicine in Palestine, particularly the history of psychiatry, presents Yellin's character in a different light. These studies claim that her conservative worldview, religious zeal, and intransigence thwarted any initiatives to modernize the institution. The background to this perspective was, among other things, her conduct in an affair related to the employment of the psychiatrist and psychoanalyst Dorian Feigenbaum as medical director of Ezrat Nashim.

This article seeks to examine the contradictory images concerning Yellin's character and to offer a more complex picture of the woman and the institution she headed. In bringing her unique persona to the forefront, other aspects of the history of the Old Yishuv also come to light; particularly the encounter between 'old' and 'new', conservatism and progress, and exile and national revival.

Adam Tsachi

Looking at the Knife: The Myth of the Binding in Two Israeli
Documentary Combat Stress Reaction Films

This article seeks to point out a phenomenon in Israeli cinema: a return to the story of the binding of Isaac [the *akedah*] in its biblical version. Against the background of the traditional shaping of the *akedah* myth in Israeli art, where the miracle of Isaac's rescue is replaced by his death, and the ram is missing from the picture – Israeli documentary films have appeared that deal with combat stress reaction, which shapes the *akedah* narrative in a way that is faithful to the biblical story. They re-instate in the plot the story of Isaac's replacement by a ram and describe life after Isaac saw the knife raised over him, where the traumatic memory of the past upsets the routine of the present. At the same time, the films are informed by the Israeli art tradition, with one film adopting the hegemonic view of Abraham, who raises the knife, while the other adopts the critical view of Sarah, the mother, who identifies with the victim.

David Sperber

'You Shall Walk in Virtuous Ways': Religious Feminism in
the Art of Nechama Golan

Nechama Golan (b. 1947) is one of the best-known Jewish Orthodox feminist artists in Israel. This article deals with the reception of her most prominent and poignant work 'You Shall Walk in Virtuous Ways' (1999-2011) – a high block-heeled sandal covered with Xerox copies of a Jewish sacred text. The article expands the study of reception by showing how the study of a work's reception within different cultural spheres can clarify the processes of meaning-making of the work. By shedding light on feminist art that addresses religious issues, the article demonstrates that art, religion, feminism, and critical thinking are not as antithetical as some had claimed.

ישראל

כתב עת לחקר הציונות ומדינת ישראל
היסטוריה, תרבות, חברה

הנחיות למחברים:

בכתב העת ישראל מתפרסמים מחקרים ומסות שעניינם ההיסטוריה של התנועה הציונית והתנועה הלאומית הפלסטינית, ארץ-ישראל/פלסטין מאז תחילת ההתיישבות הציונית, מדינת ישראל, והמרחב שבין הים התיכון והירדן מאז 1948.

המאמרים ב'ישראל' עוברים תהליך שיפוט אנונימי בידי קוראים מומחים.

יש לשלוח מאמרים בעברית באורך של 8,000 מילים (לא כולל הערות שוליים).

אין להגיש מאמרים שנמצאים בתהליך שיפוט בכתבי עת אחרים. יש לוודא שהמאמר המוגש עבר אנונימיזציה ושלא ניתן לזהות את המחבר/ת. מאמרים שלא עברו אנונימיזציה לא יישלחו לקוראים חיצוניים. כמו כן, יש לצרף למאמר תקציר של עד 200 מילים.

המאמר ייכתב ב-WORD ויישלח לכתובת: israelj@tauex.tau.ac.il.

כתב העת ישראל, המכון לחקר הציונות וישראל, אוניברסיטת תל אביב,
תל-אביב 6997801.