



Bar-Ilan University
Faculty of Jewish Studies

Bar-Ilan University
Dahan Center
for Culture, Society & Education in the Sephardic Heritage
The Aharon & Rachel Dahan Center



University of Bologna



Ashkelon Academic College



University of Florence



The Ministry Of Religious Services



World Zionist Organization
Center for Religious Affairs in the Diaspora



International Conference

The Jews in Italy:

Their Contribution to the Development and Spread of Jewish Heritage

Monday-Friday, 6-10 Ellul 5771

5-9 September 2011

University of Bologna (Ravenna) & University of
Florence, Italy

Conference Academic Committee:

Prof. Yaron Harel, Co-Chairman, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Mauro Perani, Co-Chairman, University of Bologna, Ravenna Campus

Prof. Shimon Sharvit, Vice-President, Ashkelon Academic College

Prof. Silvia Guetta, University of Florence

Prof. Michael Ryzhik, Bar-Ilan University

Dr. Yaakov Andrea Lattes, Bar-Ilan University, President of ASSEI

Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Director, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

Conference Director:

Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Director, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

Organization and Production:

Ms. Ora Kobelkowsky, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

Information and Registration:

The Dahan Center for Culture, Society and Education

in the Sephardic Heritage

Bar-Ilan University

Ramat Gan 52900 ISRAEL

Tel: +972-3-5317959 Fax: +972-3-5342621

E-mail: dahan.center@mail.biu.ac.il

www.dahancenter.co.il

❧ Conference Program ❧

Monday, 6 Elul 5771, 5 September, 2011

Bologna, Synagogue, Via Gombruti, 9 - 40123 Bologna

18:00-20:00

Gala Opening Session

Chair: **Dr. Shimon Ohayon**, Director, Dahan Center,
Bar-Ilan University

Greetings:

Prof. Ivano Dionigi, Rector, Bologna University
H.E. Mr. Gideon Meir, The Ambassador of Israel in Italy
MK Yaakov Margi, Minister for Religious Services,
State of Israel

Prof. Yaron Harel, (Chair), Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Mauro Perani, (Chair), University of Bologna

Adv. Pinhas Haliwa, Chief Executive Officer, Ashkelon
Academic College

Mr. Avraham Duvdevani, Chairman of the Executive,
World Zionist Organization

Mr. Effie Stenzler, Chairman, Keren Kayemet Leyisrael

Dr. Zvi Zameret, Chairman, Pedagogical Secretariat,
Ministry of Education

Opening Lecture:

Prof. Bernard Cooperman, University of Maryland
*Reorganizing Jewish Knowledge: Book Printing as a
Business and as an Intellectual Challenge*

20:00

Gala Dinner

Greetings:

Rabbi Alberto Sermoneta,
Chief Rabbi of Bologna

Songs performed by the Synagogue Children's Choir

Tuesday, 7 Elul 5771, 6 September, 2011

University of Bologna, Faculty Building Via Mariani 5, Ravenna

09:15-09:30

Arrival and Registration

09:30-11:30

Plenum

SESSION 1: POETRY AND LITERATURE

Chair: **Dr. Shimon Ohayon**, Director, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Tova Cohen, Bar-Ilan University

*"This poem is a memento of love" –
Rachel Morpurgo and her Friends*

Prof. Nurit Govrin, Tel-Aviv University

*The Impact and Presence of Italy in Hebrew Literature
over the Years*

Dr. Carmela Saranga, Ashkelon Academic College

*On the Uniqueness of the Second Version of Sefer
Josippon from Italy and its Influence on Sefer Hayashar
(Book of Hayashar)*

Dr. Smadar Shiffman, Tel Aviv University

Primo Levi – Writer/Chemist, Italian/Jew

Dr. Yedidya Itzhaki, Zefat Academic College

Sacred and Profane Poetry by Emanuel of Rome

11:30-12:00

Coffee Break

University of Bologna, Ravenna – Palazzo Verdi

12:00-14:00

Parallel
Session

SESSION 2: ART AND CULTURE

Chair: **Prof. Eliezer Don-Yehiya**, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. David Malkiel, Bar-Ilan University

*The Hebrew Tombstones of Padua and the
Acculturation of Ashkenazic Jewry in Renaissance
Italy*

Prof. Bracha Yaniv, Bar-Ilan University

*The Influence of Italian Jewish Ceremonial Objects on
the Design of Ceremonial Objects in Europe and North
Africa*

12:00-14:00

Parallel
Session

Prof. **David Cassuto**, Ariel University Center in Samaria
*Resonance of Redemption Appearing on Sacred Objects
in Piedmont Eighteenth-Century Synagogues*

Dr. **Ilia M. Rodov**, Bar-Ilan University
*The Pope's Emblem on the Torah Ark: Adaptation of the
Renaissance in a Roman Synagogue*

SESSION 3: PRAYER AND LIFE CYCLE

Chair: Prof. **Shmuel Vargon**, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. **Moshe Hallamish**, Bar-Ilan University
*The Contribution of Italian Liturgy to the Kabbalistic
World*

Prof. **Noemi Vogelmann**, Bar-Ilan University
*The Priestly Blessing, La Beracha, in the presence of
Gentiles, as reflected in M.S. Ghirondi's Opinion*

Dr. **Amira Meir**, Beit Berl College
*The Ketubbot of Provençal Jews from the Town of
Alghero in Sardinia*

Ms. **Maria Portmann**, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
Circumcision in the Early Modern Period in Venice

12:00-14:00

Parallel
Session

SESSION 4: ASPECTS OF JEWISH LIFE IN ITALY

Chair: Prof. **Mauro Perani**, University of Bologna

Dr. **Mariuccia Kresner**, ASSEI
*The House-Bank and the First Real Estate Property
of the Jews in Padua in the Second Half of the 14th
Century*

Dr. **Andrea Yaakov Lattes**, Bar Ilan University
*The genre of Community minute books in Italy during
the 16th-17th centuries*

Ms. Esperança Valls i Pujol, University of Girona
The subjects contained in the Hebrew fragments of the Historical Archive in Gerona, with particular reference to economic texts

Mr. Elisa Tizzoni, University of Pisa
The application of racial laws by the Prefecture in Lucca Province: economical and social consideration

Lunch

SESSION 5: RABBINICAL WRITERS AND BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

Chair: **Prof. David Cassuto**, Ariel University Center in Samaria

Prof. Moshe Yitzhaki, Bar-Ilan University
The Biblical Commentary of Rabbi Isaiah di Trani in Light of his Era and Sources

Ms. Naomi Artom-Goldenberg, Jerusalem
Rabbi Prof. Elia Samuele Artom and his son Rabbi Dr. Menachem Emanuele Artom – their Writings and Influence on Italian Jewish Culture in Recent Generations

Mr. Menachem Ben-Yashar, Bar-Ilan University
Rabbi Prof. M.D. Cassuto's Contribution to Exegesis and Source Criticism of the Bible, and to the Study of the Ancient Near East

Dr. Ayala Mishaly, Bar-Ilan University
Parent-Child Relations in the Writings of R. Abraham ibn Ezra

SESSION 6: HISTORY - THE MODERN PERIOD

Chair: **Prof. David Henshke**, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Nissim Dana, Ariel University Center in Samaria
A Comparison of Sheikh Yosef Kara Qardawi and Sheikh Abdul al-Hadi Palazzi

Dr. Gabriel Cavaglion, Ashkelon Academic College
Cesare Lombroso and the Question of the Jewish race

14:00-15:00

15:00-16:30

**Parallel
Session**

15:00-16:30

**Parallel
Session**

15:00-16:30

Parallel
Session

Dr. Yitzhak Mualem, Ashkelon Academic College
Jewish Solidarity: The Activities and Contribution of the Jewish Communities Union in Italy for the Jews of Libya and Ethiopia in the 1930s

Dr. Filippo Petrucci, University of Cagliari
Preservation of Italian Identity in an African Context: The Case of the Grana in Tunisia between 1938 and 1948

SESSION 7: WRITINGS AND TRANSLATIONS

Chair: **Prof. David Malkiel**, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Ora (Rodrigue) Schwarzwald, Bar-Ilan University
Ladino Translations from Italy: The Bible, Pirke Avot, the Passover Haggada, and the Siddur

Prof. Michael Ryzhik, Bar-Ilan University
The Anonymous Hebrew Translation of the “De medicina equorum” by Jordanus Rufus and its Language

Dr. Jill Fields, California State University, Fresno, U.S.A.
The Writing of Peggy Guggenheim: Narrating Gender, Jewish Identity, and the Avant-Garde in Twentieth-Century Venice

Ms. Ruth Winkler, Wiener Gesellschaft für Jüdische Studien, Austria
Three Pentateuch Translations illustrating the Western-Oriental Encounter in 19th Century Jewish Italy

16:30-17:00

Coffee Break

17:00-18:30

Parallel
Session

SESSION 8: HISTORY

Chair: **Dr. Ayelet Seidler**, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Leah Bornstein-Makovetsky, Ariel University Center in Samaria
Relations between the Rabbis of Italy and the Rabbis of Aleppo during the 18th Century

Prof. Miriam Ben Zeev, Ben Gurion University
of the Negev

How did the Romans view the Jews?

Dr. Avi Sasson, Ashkelon Academic College
*The Contribution of the Italian Traveler Moshe Haim
Cafsuto to the Study of the Sacred Tombs in the Land
of Israel*

Prof. Yitzchak Kerem, Aristotle University, Greece
The Descendants of the Grana in Thessaloniki

SESSION 9: LANGUAGE AND INTERPRETION

Chair: **Dr. Zvi Zameret**, Ministry of Education

Dr. Yehudit Henshke, University of Haifa
*The Tradition of Rabbinic Hebrew – Between Italy and
Byzantium*

Dr. Dror Ben-Arié, Bar-Ilan University
*Abraham de Balmes' Miqneh Abram: An Adaptation
of Modistic Concepts by a Hebrew Grammarian of the
Renaissance*

Dr. Temima Davidovitch, Bar-Ilan University
*A Review of the Exegetical Works of Abraham Ibn
Ezra (1089-1164), written in Italy in the Years 1140-
1145*

Prof. Daniel Stein Kokin, University of Greifswald,
Germany
*A Hebrew Language Introduction to Arabic from
Early Quattrocento Italy: Isaac Cohen's Letter to
Marco Lippomano*

SESSION 10: ART AND CULTURE

Chair: **Prof. Bracha Yaniv**, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Aaron Demsky, Bar-Ilan University
The Significance of Italian Jewish Names

Dr. Liya Chechik, Lomonosov Moscow State
University, Russia
*The Iconographic Context of Hebrew Inscriptions in
the Religious Paintings of the Italian Renaissance*

17:00-18:30

**Parallel
Session**

17:00-18:30

**Parallel
Session**

20:00

Dr. Maddalena Schiavo, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome

The Contribution of the Italian Renaissance to the Development of the Hebrew Theater

Dr. Elizabeth Mendes da'Costa, England

Projecting the Silenced Voice: Samuel Usque's Consolation for the Tribulations of Israel

Dinner

Greetings:

Rav Luciano Caro, Chief Rabbi of Ferrara

Wednesday, 8 Elul 5771, 7 September, 2011

09:15-09:30

Arrival and Registration

09:30-11:30
Plenum

SESSION 11: RABBINICAL LITERATURE

Chair: **Rabbi Yechiel Wasserman**, Head of the Center for Religious Affairs in the Diaspora, World Zionist Organization

Rabbi Prof. Moshe Amar, Bar-Ilan University and Ashkelon Academic College

Critiques by the Sages of Morocco on Rabbi Leone (Yehudah Aryeh) Modena and Samuel David Luzzatto

Prof. Shimon Sharvit, Bar-Ilan University and Ashkelon Academic College

The Influence of the Christian Censorship on Rabbinic Literature and Language

Prof. Shaul Regev, Bar-Ilan University

The Sermon as Art: Studies of the Sermons of R. Yehudah Aryeh of Modena

Prof. Avinoam Cohen, Bar-Ilan University

Some Talmudic Rules Absent from R. Malachi ha-Cohen's Book Yad Malachi

Adv. Dr. Ben Zion Barbi, Ashkelon Academic College and Bar-Ilan University

The Italian Rabbinical Authorities and their Rulings on Halakhic Issues involving Divergent Views

11:30-12:00

Coffee Break

12:00-13:30

SESSION 12: INTERPRETATION AND PHILOSOPHY

Chair: **Ms. Rachel Hacohen**, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Moshe A. Zipor, Bar-Ilan University

Shadal's Place in the History of Jewish Biblical Research

Dr. Jeffrey R. Woolf, Bar-Ilan University

Merging Worlds: The Encounter Between French, German and Italian Halakhic Traditions in Quattrocento Italy

Dr. Meir Seidler, Ariel University Center in Samaria

Judaism as an "Integrative Religion" in the Teachings of Rabbi Eliyahu Benamozegh

Dr. Yaron Silverstein, Zefat Academic College

Torat Eretz-Israel in Italy of the Early Middle Ages: The Jerusalem Talmud and its Interpretation in the Work of Rabbi Isaiah Di Trani (Ha-Rid)

12:00-13:30

SESSION 13: PHILOSOPHY AND KABBALAH

Chair: **Prof. Moshe Hallamish**, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Eliezer Don-Yehiya, Bar-Ilan University

The Political Thought of Isaac Abravanel: Its Origins in Jewish Tradition and the Political Realities of his Era, and its Influence on Jewish and General Philosophy

Dr. Yoram Jacobson, Tel Aviv University

The Doctrine of Tsimtsum according to R. Joseph Ergas

Dr. Doron Danino, Bar-Ilan University

Rabbi Leone Modena's Treatise Ben David: The Contribution of Rabbi Leone Modena to the 17th Century Debate among Western European Sephardi Communities on the Status of the Belief in Metempsychosis in Judaism

Parallel
Session

12:00-13:30

Parallel
Session

Dr. Yossef Charvit, Bar-Ilan University

The Influence of Rabbi Eliyahu Benamozegh of Livorno on Rabbi Yehouda-Léon Askénazi (Manitou)'s Aspiration towards the Construction of an Optimal Jewish Wisdom

SESSION 14: ITALY AND LIBYA: CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Chair: **Prof. Joseph Schwarzwald**, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Maurice Roumani, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Italian Colonialism as an Agent of Change for the Libyan Jewish Community

Dr. Rachel Simon, Princeton University, U.S.A.

Jews as Promoters of Italian Civilization in Libya

Dr. Michal Ben Ya'akov, Efrata College of Education, Jerusalem

R. Itzhak Guetta - From Tripoli via Livorno and Trieste to Safed

Dr. Samuela Marconcini, University of Florence

Italian Jewry as the Bearers of European Culture to the Communities of the Middle East

13:30-14:30

Lunch Break

14:30-16:00

Parallel
Session

SESSION 15: THE MODERN PERIOD: HISTORY AND CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Chair: **Dr. Gabriel Cavaglione**, Ashkelon Academic College

Dr. Eliav Taub, Ashkelon Academic College

The Attitude of the Holy See toward the Jewish People following the 1993 Fundamental Agreement with the State of Israel: Separation between Interfaith Dialogue with the Jews of Rome and Diplomatic Dialogue with the State of Israel

Dr. Yaniv Goldberg, Ashkelon Academic College

Dybbuk Exorcism in Rabbinic Documents from 18th Century Italy

Dr. Yoel Shiloh, Ashkelon Academic College
Regulations and Financial Agreements Embedded into Ketubot in Italy

Dr. Alessandro Grazi, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
The Role of Italian Jews in Freemasonry and Secret Societies during the Risorgimento

SESSION 16: MANUSCRIPTS, BOOKS AND THE HEBREW PRESS

Chair: **Dr. Carmela Saranga**, Ashkelon Academic College

Prof. Shlomo Z. Havlin, Bar-Ilan University
The Beginning of Hebrew Printing - Nine Hebrew Books that were Printed in Rome

Dr. Natascia Danieli, Venice
Jewish Community Archives in Mantua: A New Recording and Digitalization Project

Dr. Gila Prebor, Bar-Ilan University
A Database of Censored Hebrew Books and Manuscripts

Dr. Miguel Antonio Beltran Munar, Universitat de les Illes Balears, Spain
Teva' and Teva' Mutba' in the Writings of some Italian Jewish Thinkers of the Renaissance

SESSION 17: KABBALAH, JEWISH THOUGHT AND ETHICS

Chair: **Dr. Yoram Jacobson**, Tel Aviv University

Prof. Meir Bar-Ilan, Bar-Ilan University
The Geographic and Chronologic Provenance of Sefer Ha-Yashar

Dr. Ovanes Akopyan, Moscow State University, Russia
Kabbalistic and Hebrew Sources in Giovanni Pico della Mirandola's Biblical Exegesis

Dr. Matt Goldish, Ohio State University, U.S.A.
The Prophetic Laboratory of Rabbi Abraham Rovigo: Some Social and Cultural Aspects

14:30-16:00

Parallel Session

14:30-16:00

Parallel Session

Dr. Claudia Gori, European University Institute of Florence
A Jewish Couple in the Italian Intellectual Debate (19th-20th Centuries)

16:00-16:30

Coffee Break

16:30-18:00
Plenum

SESSION 18: COMMUNITY, SOCIETY AND ECONOMY

Chair: **Prof. Yaacov Weisberg**, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Mauro Perani, University of Bologna
Records of Jewish Bankers from the 14th-17th Centuries in Italy: A Historical Overview of the Beginning of Money Lending in the Western World

Prof. Shimon Shwarzfuchs, Bar-Ilan University
Ties between the Jewish Communities of Italy and of Southern France

Rabbi Moshe Alberto Somekh, Turin
Communal Leadership and Ritual Customs in the Teachings of the Venetian Sages

Mr. Irving Markus, Touro College, Jerusalem
Philanthropic Activities in the Jewish Community of Padua in the 16th and 17th Centuries

Rabbi Dr. Joseph Levi, Chief Rabbi of Florence
The Rabbinical College in Florence, 1900-1935

20:00

Dinner

Thursday, 9 Elul 5771, 8 September, 2011
University of Florence, via Laura, 48, Firenze

15:00-17:00
Plenum

SESSION 19: EDUCATION AND ALIYA

Chair: **Prof. Shimon Sharvit**, Ashkelon Academic College

Greetings:

Prof. Simonetta Ulivieri, Dean of the Faculty of Education, University of Florence

Prof. Enzo Catarsi, Director of the Department of Education, Sciences, and Cultural and Training Processes, University of Florence

Lectures:

Prof. Shmuel Vargon, Bar-Ilan University
Samuel David Luzzatto - An Italian Jewish Educator Propagating his Philosophy

Dr. Zvi Zameret, Chairman, Pedagogical Secretariat, Ministry of Education
The Jews of Italy: Their Contribution to the Formation of Jewish Culture and the Education System in Israel

Prof. Silvia Guetta, University of Florence
Jewish Schools and Jewish Educational Institutions in the Emancipation Period

Dr. Lilach Rosenberg-Friedman, Bar-Ilan University
The "Contessa in Black": The Unique Story of Ada Sereni, the head of Mossad Le-Aliya Bet in Italy

Dr. Maria Grazia Enardu, University of Florence
The Aliya Bet in Italy, 1945-1948

Coffee Break

SESSION 20: JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN ITALY

Chair: **Prof. Meir Bar-Ilan**, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Dvora Hacohen, Bar-Ilan University
The Establishment of the Community of Livorno, its Organization and its Uniqueness among Italian Jewish Communities

Dr. Sharon Reichel, University of Turin
Jewish Marriage in Fossano

Dr. Amos Geula, Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Herzog College
Mourners of Zion in Southern Italy Between the 8th and 10th Centuries

17:00-17:30

17:30-19:00

**Parallel
Session**

17:30-19:00

Parallel
Session

SESSION 21: JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN ITALY

Chair: **Prof. Maurice Roumani**, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Dr. Shulamit Furstenberg-Levi, Lorenzo de'Medici School of Art
The Ghetto of Florence: Internal and External Perspectives

Dr. Dora Liscia, University of Florence
The Tuscan Enterprises of Maggino Gabriello

Dr. Maria Luciana Buseghin, Italy
Analysis of the Textile Industry among the Jewish Communities of Umbria

Dr. Andrea Yaakov Lattes, Bar-Ilan University
The Attitude of Halakha in Italy toward Modern Life

Dinner

Jewish Community Center, via Farini, 4

Greetings:

Mr. Guidobaldo Passigli, President of the Jewish Community of Florence

Rabbi Dr. Joseph Levi, Chief Rabbi of Florence

Lecture:

Rabbi Elia Richetti, President of the Association of Italian Rabbis
The Character and Activity of Rabbi Yitzhak Raphael Ashkenazi of Ancona

Friday, 10 Ellul 5771, 9 September, 2011
Florence

20:00

09:00-10:30

SESSION 22: CLOSING SESSION

Chair: **Prof. Yaron Harel**, Bar-Ilan University

Lectures:

Dr. Naomi Cassuto, David Yellin College
Renaissance Florence and its Ghetto

Closing Remarks:

Prof. Mauro Perani, University of Bologna

Prof. Silvia Guetta, University of Florence

Prof. Shimon Sharvit, Ashkelon Academic College

Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Bar-Ilan University