A. Codex

1. The Codex is an ancient manuscript text in book form. The gradual replacement of the scroll by the codex has been called the most important advance in book making before the invention of the printing press. The codex transformed the shape of the book itself, and offered a form that has lasted to the present day.

B. What Happened to Rashi’s Autograph?


Upon the instigation of the convert Nicholas Donin, Pope Gregory IX (1237-1241) issued letters during the month of June 1239 to the archbishops and kings of France, England, Aragon, Navarre, Castile, Leon and Portugal urging and ordering them:

That on the first Saturday of the Lent to come (i.e. March 3, 1240) in the morning while the Jews are gathered in the synagogues you shall by your order seize all the books of the Jews who live in your districts and have these books carefully guarded in the possession of the Dominican and Franciscan Friars.

The letters were heeded only in Paris and on Saturday, March 3, 1240 Jewish books were seized... and on Monday, June 25, 1240 Jewish books were seized... and on Monday, June 25, 1240 the first public trial against the Talmud and its most popular commentary, that by Rashi, was opened in the royal court of Paris... Twenty-four carloads of books were burnt at the stake in Paris, on Friday, the 6th of June, 1242, six years before the announcement of the final verdict of condemnation in May 1248.


The Charges against the Talmud, 35 articles in the Latin source:

30) They are not ashamed to claim that Jesus’ mother (i.e. Mary) conceived him in adultery from a certain man whom they generally call Panthera.

Extractiones de Talmud

“Salomon Trecensis”
C. The Dating of a Manuscript

a. Colophon

The term ‘colophon’ is a loanword from the Greek κολοφώη, meaning climax or summit. It is an inscription written at the end of a copy, or at the end of one of the texts contained in the codex, where the scribe provides information about the production of the copy.

Many Hebrew manuscripts are uncolophoned. Since the colophon is usually inscribed at the end of the manuscript, and since the first and last folios of a manuscript are generally more vulnerable to damage over time, a certain number of colophons would be lost in this manner.

4. Manuscript NY 8227, 1390:

אני אברהם ב"ר שלמה נבתוי"א הררי המכונה דבניולש כתבתי זה הספר הנקרא 'עמודי גולה' וסימתיו העיר פריש בתפיסה עירון: השם יוציאני ממאסר ויתיר אסירי עמו ישראל.

5. Manuscript Parma, Roma, Angelica Or. 72:

משלח תלך ודקותיו乐园 ימי חמשת עולמי עליך ב初めて עולם לבריאת ד"ו ופאלפים שמות וינught בחדש מאיי ויהnumer ויהי חנן יד.

b. Uncolophoned

I. Codicology

Codicology is the study of codices or manuscript books written on parchment as physical objects. It is often referred to as ‘the archaeology of the book’, concerning itself with the materials, and techniques used to make books, including their binding.

The term Kunteres

How is ink prepared? One collects the vapor of oils, of tar, of wax, or the like, [causes it to condense], and kneads it together with sap from a tree and a drop of honey. It is moistened extensively, crushed until it is formed into flat cakes, dried, and then stored. When one desires to write with it, one soaks [the cakes of ink] in gallnut juice or the like and writes with it. Thus, if one attempts to rub it out, he would be able to. This is the ink with which it is most
preferable to write scrolls, tefillin, and mezuzot. If, however, one wrote any of the three with gallnut juice or vitriol, which remains without being rubbed out, it is acceptable.

כיצד מעשה הדיו? העשן מקבצין שלשמנים או שלזפת ושעוה וכיוצא בו וגובלין אותו בשרף האילן ובמעט דבש ולותתין אותו הרבה ודכין אותו ובשעת כתיבה שורהו במי עפצא וכיוצא בו וכותב בו שאם תמחקו ימחק וזה הדיו שמצוה מן המובחר לכתוב בו ספרים תפלין ומזוזת ואם כתב שלשתן במי עפצא וקלקנטוס הוא עמיד ואוני מח ydk כשירם.

III. Paleography

Paleography is the study of ancient and historical handwriting. Included in the discipline is the practice of deciphering, reading, and dating historical manuscripts, and the cultural context of writing, including the methods with which writing and books were produced, and the history of scriptoria.

3 Types of Basic Script (in the different geographical zones)

- Square
- Semi Cursive
- Cursive

Script impacted by the host culture

IV. Rashi script

D. The Most Accurate Rashi Manuscripts

Online Access:

Torah:

MS. Leipzig 1

Google: Alhatorah.org

https://alhatorah.org/Commentators:Rashi_Leipzig_1/Bereshit_12

Leipzig 1 call number: F 75016

Nach:

MS. NY Lutzki 778

Google: Ktiv Digital Manuscripts


Lutzki 778 call number: F 24010