

# THE ROTHSCHILD HAGGADAH



from the Israel Museum's famous  
*Rothschild Miscellany*.

Probably the most sumptuous of all illuminated  
*haggadot*, with a new translation of the main and  
marginal texts and four groups of *piyyutim*.

A strictly limited edition of 550 copies  
with a scholarly translation of the entire text.



## The Haggadah

Written in northern Italy in 1479, this *haggadah* is one of the most exquisite sections of the Israel Museum's *Rothschild Miscellany*, a manuscript unrivalled in richness and scope.

Medieval *haggadot* are among the most extensively decorated of all types of Hebrew manuscript, but the *Rothschild Haggadah* is exceptional by any standard for its elegant and elaborate illustrations of the Passover story. The original owner,



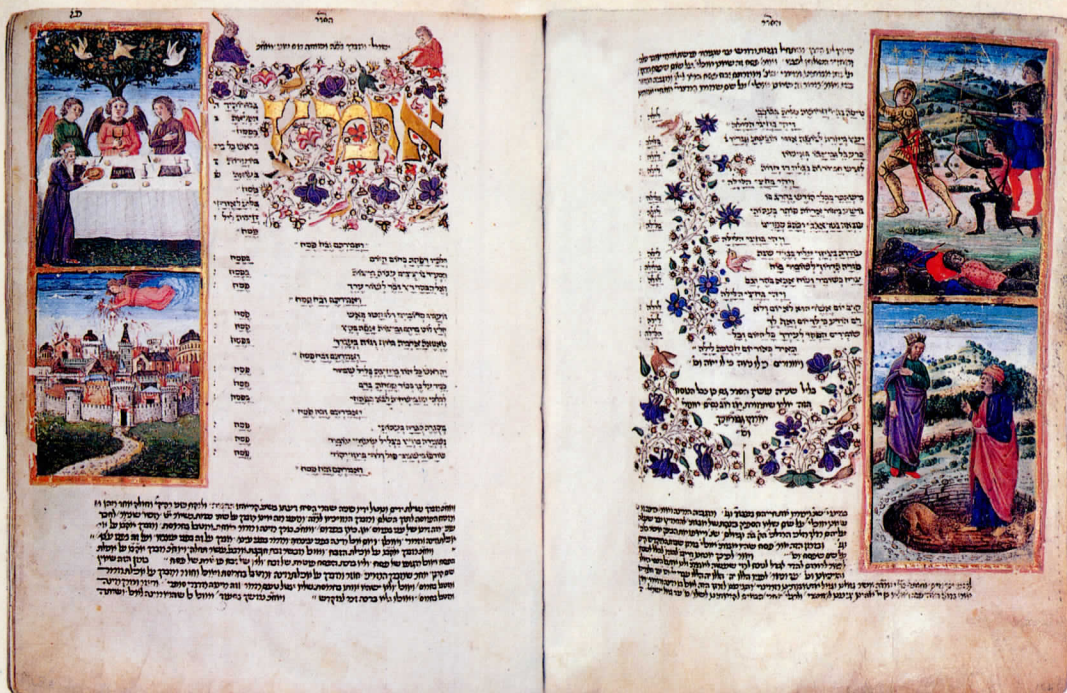
Moses ben Yekutiel Hacohen, must have been a prosperous man who commissioned a manuscript to reflect his sophisticated and learned background, because the manuscript is remarkable not only for the fine quality of its illumination but for the richness of its marginal texts.

This copiously illuminated and illustrated *haggadah* comprises the Ashkenazi Passover-eve service as we know it today (except for Grace after Meals which was deliberately

omitted by the scribe) as the main text in the centre of the page. In the margins is Maimonides' *Hilkhot Hamez Umatsah*, 'Laws Concerning Leavened and Unleavened Bread' a classical survey of Passover and its ceremonies. In addition, the exquisitely illuminated section devoted to the *piyyutim* - the liturgical poems and songs - for all four evenings of the festival of Passover has been included, in the margins of which is a medieval text on weights and measures.







## The Companion Volume

The texts of the *haggadah* and of the *piyyutim* have been translated by Professor Raphael Loewe (Goldsmid Professor of Hebrew Emeritus, University College London) and Jeremy Schonfield (Mason Lecturer, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies). Two of the sequences of *piyyutim* translated by Professor Loewe into English verse have never been made available in English before. Jeremy Schonfield has written an informative introduction to the texts in the manuscript and to the themes of Passover. The translation of Maimonides's treatise on Passover by Solomon Gandz and Hyman Klein is also included. Iris Fishof, Chief Curator of Judaica and Jewish Ethnography, Israel Museum, has provided a foreword in which she gives the background to the acquisition of this manuscript, one of the Israel Museum's greatest treasures.





## Specification

### Extent

44 pages, size 210 x 156 approximately. All pages are illuminated with raised burnished gold, flat gold, powdered gold and brilliant, delicate colours.

### Paper

A special paper was milled to reproduce exactly the texture, opacity and thickness of the vellum (uterine) on which the manuscript was written.

### Gilding

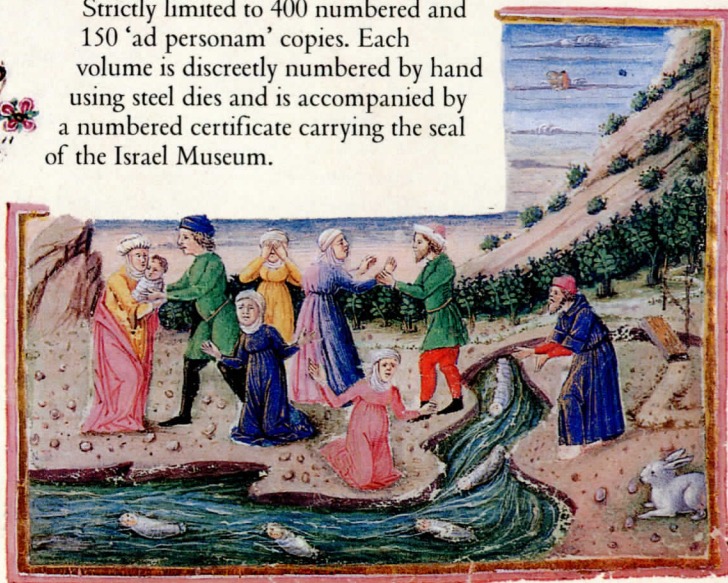
Gold foil leaf has been applied to a raised surface on each page using a special hand process that closely replicates the burnished gold of the original. Powdered gold was applied to all the illustrations that contain it in the original manuscript.

### Binding

The facsimile is bound in a fine vellum skin. The companion volume is printed on a classical Ingres laid paper, elegantly bound to complement the facsimile. Both volumes are presented in a hand-made slip-case.

### Edition

Strictly limited to 400 numbered and 150 'ad personam' copies. Each volume is discreetly numbered by hand using steel dies and is accompanied by a numbered certificate carrying the seal of the Israel Museum.





## Facsimile Editions

The company is renowned world-wide  
for the quality of its books.

Linda and Michael Falter have built up an enviable reputation over the last twenty years for the quality of their facsimiles of medieval manuscripts. Their skill in reproducing each detail of the original manuscript results in work of unparalleled accuracy and beauty, and their team of craftsmen in northern Italy has been responsible for producing some of the world's finest books. The full facsimile of the *Rothschild Miscellany* took over four years to complete and, when published, was hailed as a milestone in publishing history.

Twenty years of work on Hebrew manuscripts have created a 'library' that the Falters hope will be passed down by those who purchased copies to future generations, reflecting and illuminating the wealth of the Jewish cultural and religious heritage.





לשעה הבאה בידו שלם

"אמן"



To the ancients, the rarest gems in all the world were gems of thought. The book was the tangible and visible expression of man's intellect, worthy of the noblest presentation. These true lovers of books

#### FACSIMILE

engaged scribes to write the text in minims of rare brilliance brought from India or Spain, or in Byzantine ink of pure Oriental gold; they selected the finest virgin parchment; they employed the greatest artists to draw decorations or to paint miniatures; and they enclosed these

glorified thoughts of man in covers of finest morocco precisely toolled in labyrinthine designs. For centuries, this glorification was primarily limited upon religious manuscripts, but by the fourteenth century wealthy patrons recognizing that it offered one splendid medium of expression to permit limitation, employed lay artists to add their talents in increasing the illuminated

**EDITIONS** world. By the twentieth century thousands of these manuscripts had succumbed to time, war and accident. Facsimile Editions now strive to bring to light from scattered obscurity those remaining volumes, and to re-create them for the delight and enrichment of our own and future generations.

#### FACSIMILE EDITIONS LIMITED

40 Hamilton Terrace, London NW8 9UJ, England

Telephone: +44 207 286 0071 Facsimile: +44 207 266 3927

E-mail: [post@facsimile-editions.com](mailto:post@facsimile-editions.com) Web site: [www.facsimile-editions.com](http://www.facsimile-editions.com)