Discovering England’s Jewish Treasures
Rare Collections in London, Oxford, Cambridge & Manchester
May 10–18, 2020
Dear JTS Alumni and Friends,

One of the oldest minorities in the country, Britain’s Jewish community dates from the Norman era, when William the Conqueror encouraged Jewish merchants from Normandy to settle in England. Years of persecution and a forced absence of nearly four centuries followed. Remarkably, exiled Jews led by Rabbi Menasseh ben Israel successfully petitioned Oliver Cromwell for their return in 1656, and they have since enjoyed their longest continuous settlement in Europe.

I invite you to join me next spring in England to explore this rich history in Britain’s largest cities and ancient universities. We will meet world-renowned scholars, curators, and librarians and delight in special access to rare collections in Britain’s beautiful synagogues and diverse libraries.

In London, go behind the scenes of the Judaica collections with a librarian at the Foyle Special Collections Library. Enjoy a private tour and a Shabbat dinner at the exquisite Bevis Marks Synagogue, the oldest in Britain. Venture to Oxford where the president of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies will show us their vast rabbinic library, unique in Europe. In Cambridge, gain exclusive guided access to the university’s extraordinary medieval Cairo Genizah holdings. Conclude in Manchester for a perusal of the dazzling collection of books and artworks at the splendid John Rylands Library.

I hope you will join me on this enriching journey into the fascinating Jewish history of England.

Sincerely,

David C. Kraemer
Joseph J. and Dora Abbell Librarian and
Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics
Jewish Theological Seminary

HIGHLIGHTS

EXPLORE the outstanding collection of Hebrew manuscripts and Yiddish books on a private, curator-led tour of Oxford’s Bodleian Library, one of the oldest research libraries in Europe.

JOIN the president of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies for an exclusive tour of their extensive rabbinic library, the only one of its kind in Europe.

DELIGHT in a private tour and rabbi-hosted Shabbat dinner at Bevis Marks Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in Britain, built in 1701.

BROWSE the resplendent Jewish collections of London’s Victoria & Albert Museum with a curator, admiring sacred silvers and contemporary design.

MARVEL at the exceptional Cairo Genizah collections at the University of Cambridge Library with a librarian, and learn about the preservation of these documents in the research lab.

IMMERSE yourself in the rich collections of books, manuscripts, and Cairo Genizah documents at the University of Manchester’s spectacular John Rylands Library.

MEET a librarian for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Foyle Special Collections Library in London, where will we discover 17th-century bibles and a 1685 First Edition book of comparative religions.

TRAVELING WITH YOU

David Kraemer has been part of the JTS community since 1977 when he enrolled at The Graduate School after completing his undergraduate degree at Brandeis University. He began teaching as a graduate student in 1980, receiving his PhD in 1984. Dr. Kraemer’s focus as a professor is on the literary analysis of rabbinic literature, rabbinic ritual, and the social and religious history of Jews in late antiquity. He accepted the position of Librarian in 2004 and has since played a crucial role in forging policy and expanding the impact of the Library’s world-renowned collections and programs.
**SUNDAY, MAY 10: U.S. DEPARTURE**
Depart by air for London.

**MONDAY, MAY 11: LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM**
Arrive this morning in the British capital and transfer to the hotel (check-in is in the afternoon). Enjoy a light lunch together, followed by an orientation lecture by Professor David Kraemer. Then, attend a curator-led tour of the Victoria & Albert Museum’s Jewish collections, including those held in the National Art Library. This evening, gather for a welcome dinner.

**TUESDAY, MAY 12: LONDON / OXFORD / LONDON**
Depart London via train for the ancient university town of Oxford. Upon arrival, walk to the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, a leading research center for academic Jewish studies in Europe. Meet the organization’s president, who will show our group varied collections including an extensive rabbinic library, unique in Europe. Following lunch together, walk to the world-famous Bodleian Library, where we will be welcomed by the Hebraica and Judaica Curator, who will present one of the world’s finest collections of Hebrew manuscripts. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. You may wish to stay at the Bodleian to see the Duke Humfrey’s Library, the oldest reading room in the Bodleian. Alternatively, admire the stunning medieval Divinity School, where lectures once took place beneath the elaborate Gothic vaulted ceiling, or stroll around to view the city’s many colleges. Enjoy dinner at leisure before returning to London later this evening.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13: LONDON**
This morning, meet a librarian for an in-depth look at the Foyle Special Collections Library, housed in the Maughan Library at King’s College. Bibles and Judaica are well represented in the library’s Rare Books Collection. These extraordinary items include the London Polyglot Bible, published in 1657 in nine languages and once belonging to Canon George Herbert Box, professor of Hebrew at King’s College, as well as a 1685 First Edition book of comparative religions, detailing the religious rituals of the Jews and other Semitic people. Drive to the British Library to view their Hebrew collection, which is one of the most important and largest in the world. Some highlights of the vast collection include the 17th-century Kaifeng Torah Scroll, the 14th-century Golden Haggadah, and the Duke of Sussex’s German Pentateuch from the 1300s. Later in the afternoon, transfer back to the hotel for dinner together this evening.

**THURSDAY, MAY 14: LONDON / CAMBRIDGE / LONDON**
After breakfast, depart for Cambridge, where we will be welcomed by a librarian to view manuscripts, rare books, and medieval documents housed at the University of Cambridge Library. Learn about the library’s exceptional holdings from the Cairo Genizah. In the very place where Solomon Schechter first recognized the importance of...
ACCOMMODATIONS

THE REMBRANDT HOTEL, LONDON
Located in Kensington, the four-star Rembrandt Hotel is within walking distance of Harrods, Hyde Park, and the Victoria & Albert Museum. Built in 1906, the hotel's Edwardian architecture and stylish, modern accommodations provide a welcoming stay in London. The restaurant serves breakfast, a wonderful afternoon tea, and fine dining in the evenings.

THE TOWER HOTEL, LONDON
Located near Tower Bridge, the four-star Tower Hotel combines comfort and convenience with unparalleled views. Rooms have been designed to reflect the individual style and character of the hotel itself, with an interior infused with Art Deco features, and come equipped with fast, free Wi-Fi, complimentary toiletries, and an elegant ensuite bathroom.

THE MIDLAND HOTEL, MANCHESTER
First opened in 1903, the elegant Midland Hotel has delighted guests from the very beginning. The Grade II-listed hotel is one of Manchester’s most-loved icons. The hotel has 312 rooms and suites with flatscreen television, air conditioning, free Wi-Fi, and complimentary mineral water. Amenities include award-winning restaurants and an idyllic spa.

these materials, we will be guided through the history of the collection and the significant discoveries it has yielded. At the research lab, find out about the treatment and conservation techniques of preserving these precious documents, and get a glimpse into the medieval world into which the Genizah provides a window. In the nearby town of Grantchester, delight in an early afternoon tea at the Orchard Tea Garden, a charming spot frequented by Virginia Wolff. Then, return to Cambridge, for some free time to explore this lively university town. In the late afternoon, return to London and enjoy dinner at leisure. B,T

FRIDAY, MAY 15: LONDON
Today check out of the hotel and transfer to a hotel in the neighborhood of the splendid Bevis Marks Synagogue. After checking in, walk to the synagogue for a private tour. This hidden gem opened in 1701 and is the oldest synagogue in Great Britain. The notable feature inside is the Renaissance-style ark, which contains the Torah scrolls. Enjoy lunch at leisure before driving to the Montefiore Endowment, which houses the acquisitions of books and manuscripts acquired by Sir Moses Montefiore. This evening, return to Bevis Marks Synagogue for Shabbat dinner hosted by the Rabbi. B,D

SATURDAY, MAY 16: LONDON
This morning is at leisure, perhaps to attend services at a nearby synagogue. Gather together for lunch, then take an afternoon walking tour of some of the iconic sites of London, including a visit to the Tower of London. Return to the hotel for a catered kosher dinner. B,L,D

SUNDAY, MAY 17: LONDON/MANCHESTER
After breakfast, depart London for an early morning train to Manchester. Upon arrival, meet local historian Ed Glinert, who will take us on a walking tour of the key Jewish sites in Manchester. Following lunch together, visit the University of Manchester’s John Rylands Library, housed in a spectacular Neo-Gothic building. A guided tour introduces one of the world’s richest collections of books, manuscripts, and works of art, including the dazzling Cairo Genizah Collection, which contains fragments in Hebrew, Aramaic, and other Jewish languages found in the Ben Ezra Synagogue in Old Cairo. Together, these objects tell the story and illuminate the intellectual and social life of the Levant, and particularly of Jews and Judaism. Gather for a farewell dinner. B,L,D

MONDAY, MAY 18: MANCHESTER / RETURN
Depart Manchester for flights home. B

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the Jewish Theological Seminary and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms

PROGRAM RATE
$5,999 per person, double rate
$6,999 single rate

RATE INCLUDES
- Seven nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, T=Tea, D=Dinner). Bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals, house wine/beer at dinners. At group meals, fish, dairy, or vegetarian food will be served
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events
- Escorted sightseeing by private motor coach and entrance fees for included visits
- Taxes, service, and porterage charges
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE
International airfare; passport fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.
THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
DISCOVERING BRITAIN’S JEWISH TREASURES • MAY 10–18, 2020

RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, fax: 212-344-7493; or complete and return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

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Telephone (home) (business)

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ACCOMMODATIONS
Hotel room preference  One bed  Two beds  Single
I wish to share a room with

FORM OF PAYMENT
Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad)  Debit card  Credit card

Name on debit/credit card  Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code  Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)  Date

Signature (required)  Date