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בס"ד

International Conference, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan The Jews of Yemen

Do we have the Shalom Shabazi Pentateuch? Its Art program (JTS L104)

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In summer 2008 I had a first hand examination of the Illuminated Pentateuch, whose colophon ascribes it to Shalom (Salim) Shabazi, Mawza', 1678, nowadays in The Jewish Theological Seminar, New York (henceforth, JTS), marked L104 in Lutzki catalog, the inside catalog of JTS. In summer 2010 Prof. Tobi had a first hand examination of the same Pentateuch and informed me that the ascription to Shabazi is a fake. Hence, it is a great opportunity to open this Pentateuch to research of paleographers and expertise of Shalom Shabazi, as Prof. Tobi is, as far as I know, the Pentateuch was not researched since the Lutzki catalog (completed in 1961).

Till that would be happened, my focus is only on its Art program. As far as I know, with the exclusion of its short description in Lutzki catalog, the Art program was not researched. I take the Art History point of view and examine this Art program from both Jewish Art at Yemen and Yemeni Art points of view.

We will compare this Art program with primary Art sources at Yemen. We will show how this Art program is rooted in Jewish Art at Yemen and in non Jewish Art at Yemen, as well. On that background, we will show its contribution to the Illumination Art of Hebrew Bibles at Yemen.



Fig. 1 © JTS, New York

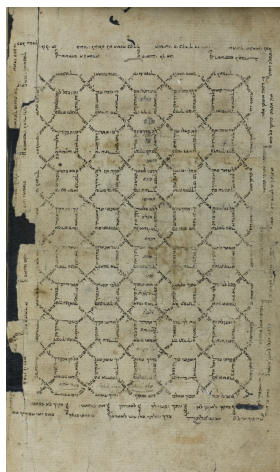


Fig. 2 © JTS, New York



The digital version of my Ph. D. dissertation on Jewish Jewellery at Ṣan'ā (Yemen) in the eighteenth century is available to download from my site at <http://www.oraberger.co.il/phd/>
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Fig. 3 © JTS, New York



Fig. 4 © Paul Yule



Fig. 5 © British Library, London

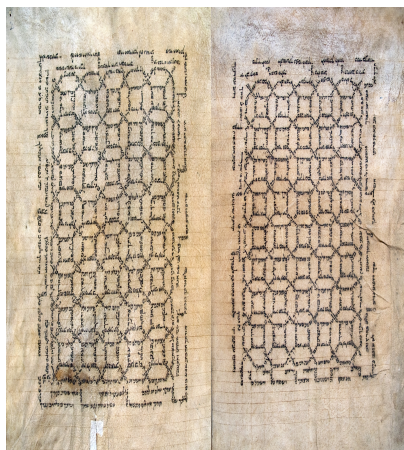
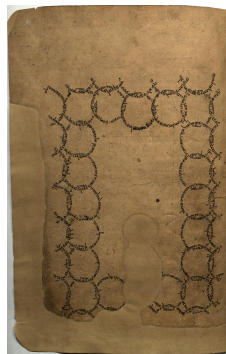


Fig. 6 © JTS, New York



Figs. 7-8 © British Library, London



Fig. 9 © R. B. Serjeant



Fig. 10 © V&A, London

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Fig. 11 © Noha Sadek

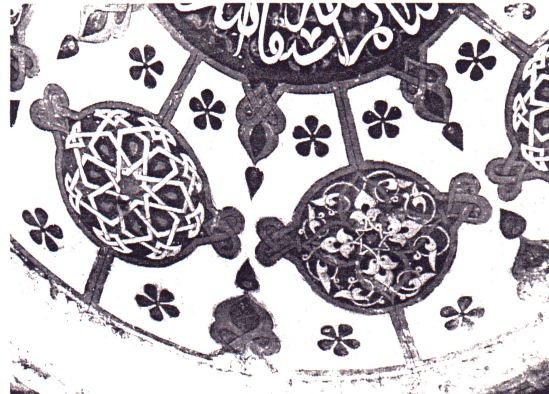


Fig. 12 © Noha Sadek



Fig. 13 © Heinrich Nützel



Fig. 14 © Heinrich Nützel

Dynasties at Yemen

Sulayhids (r. 1047-1098): Moved their capital from Ṣan'ā to Dhū Jiblah, south Yemen.

Ayyūbids (r. 1173-1229): Ruling Yemen from Zabīd, Ta'izz district, south Yemen.

Rasūlids (r. 1228-1454): Ruling Yemen from Zabīd, Ta'izz district, south Yemen.

Ṭāhirids (r. 1454-1517): Ruling Yemen from Radā', south Yemen.

Dynasties outside Yemen

The Buwayhid Dynasty (r. ca. 932-1048): Ruled from Baghdad over Irak and the provinces around the Persian Gulf. The Buwayhid Sultan 'Adud al-Dawla.

Fāṭimids (r. 909-1171). Took control over Egypt in 969.

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