

Arabic Writing in 'carpet pages' of Hebrew Illuminated Bibles, Yemen

(see poster presentation)

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This example is probably from Aden in the 13th century or earlier, following its style. The two 'carpet pages' are the preliminary pages to the Bible (the next folio is the beginning of Genesis). The phenomena of juxtaposing Hebrew writing with Arabic writing in 'carpet page' of Hebrew Illuminated Bible in Yemen, is the only one from Yemen, known so far. The Arabic writing, or, pseudo Arabic writing appears in the frame, whilst the Hebrew writing is in the center (quotations from Psalms).

The main questions are: Do we have pseudo Arabic writing, or, Arabic writing? What is written? Why?

I hope the special session on the development of Arabic as a written language will help to shed light on this case.



The second folio



The first folio



Detail from the second folio



Detail from the first folio