

**DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE  
OF THE HEBREW MSS. OF  
THE MONTEFIORE LIBRARY**

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**HARTWIG HIRSCHFELD**

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# DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE

OF

## THE HEBREW MSS. OF THE MONTEFIORE LIBRARY

COMPILED BY

HARTWIG HIRSCHFELD, PH.D.

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DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY  
OF

**ASHER I. MYERS**

LATE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE OF  
JEWS' COLLEGE, LONDON



## PREFACE

THE collection of Hebrew MSS. described in this volume consists of the following four groups:—

1. The old stock containing MSS. collected, during the lifetime of Sir Moses Montefiore, by the late Dr. Louis Loewe, first Principal of the Montefiore College at Ramsgate.

2. MSS. from the Zunz Library (see Index of Owners).

3. The Halberstam Collection, comprising 412 MSS. (marked H. in this Catalogue).

4. Later purchases.

The entire collection contains 581 volumes.

The groups Nos. 2 to 4 were purchased by the Rev. Dr. M. Gaster for the Montefiore College. In the year 1899, the bulk of the Montefiore Library and the MSS., with the exception of about *sixty*, were removed to Jews' College, London. These are, however, also included in the Catalogue.

A catalogue of the group No. 3 was published in Hebrew by its late owner under the title קהלת שלם, Vienna, 1890. This catalogue, however, only contains 411 numbers. There was no intention of completely superseding this work by the present one, as it furnishes many literary references which it was both unnecessary and impractical to repeat. Its author, however, frequently omitted to mention all the items in compound volumes, and the leaf numberings of former owners, in many cases quite unreliable, were allowed to remain. In consequence of this



there are great discrepancies between the number of *folia* in Halberstam's Catalogue, and those given in this volume.

Descriptions of single MSS. and smaller groups have appeared in Geiger's *Wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift für jüdische Theologie*, vol. v (Luzatto), and the *Magazin für die Wissenschaft des Judenthums*, vols. viii and x (Steinschneider and Berliner) as well as in the *Hebräische Bibliographie*.

I thought it a useful addition to indicate in the Index of Authors the approximate dates of their lives. Unfortunately this was not ascertainable in all cases, as many letters especially were undated.

In conclusion, I have to express my heartiest thanks to Messrs. Claude G. Montefiore and Israel Abrahams, to whose solicitude it is due that this Catalogue was committed to press, and to Dr. Michael Friedländer, Principal of Jews' College, who assisted me in reading the proofs.

H. HIRSCHFELD.

LONDON, *March*, 1903.

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