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Judaica and Hebraica List May 2011

Hebrew Printing in Shanghai, 1941-1946 – Mirrer Yeshiva and Others



Figure 1 - Item 96



A Collection of Rare Hebrew Books and Pamphlets Printed in Shanghai for Yeshiva students and their Rabbis exiled in Shanghai during the Holocaust.



Introduction

The Jewish community in Shanghai started during the middle of the 19th century with the immigration of Sephardi Jews from Baghdad, Bombay and Cairo. During the early part of the 20th century there was an influx of Jews from Russia who then became the majority of the community. During the 1930s and 1940s as the situation of the Jewish communities in Europe deteriorated, there was a further immigration of Jewish refugees from Europe which expanded the Shanghai Jewish community to about 25,000 people by the end of the war, most of whom were refugees from the Holocaust. The refugees included many Yeshiva *bochurim* (students) who escaped via Japan due the efforts of Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese Consul General in Kovno, Lithuania. Sugihara issued transit visas to Yeshiva bochurim on the basis that they would be travelling onwards to Curacao even though he realised that they would never be completing their journey there.

Miraculously, the entire Mirrer Yeshiva was transferred to Shanghai during WWII as well as Yeshiva Chachmei Lublin and a Chabad Yeshiva.

Although there was sporadic Hebrew printing in Shanghai from the early 20th century (and even one or two items in the 19th century), the most significant number of Hebrew books to be printed in Shanghai was in the period 1940-1946. The Encyclopaedia Judaica cites an article by Z Harkavy which was published in Ha-Sefer in 1961 which enumerated 80 printed items. However this list is not complete and no one can be quite sure how many items were actually printed.

This significant collection of Hebrew books printed in Shanghai includes very rare items, some of which do not appear to be in any institutional collections. The Hebrew printing in Shanghai during this period was predominately to satisfy the needs of the Yeshiva students and rabbis exiled to Shanghai. Therefore, most of the printing consists of core Rabbinic texts such as volumes of the Talmud, the Code of Jewish Law by Maimonides and Halachic works such as the Yore Deah section of the Shulchan Aruch - the traditional section studied by Rabbinic students in pursuit of Semicha (Rabbinic Ordination). It also includes rabbinic journals publishing the novellae of the rabbinic students, works of Mussar (ethical works) and Chassidut. Some of these books actually have prefaces that reflect on these historic times.

While this chapter in Holocaust history may be less well known, its significance attests to the peripatetic nature of Jewish existence, especially during times of adversity.

Shanghai Printing

Talmud

The core of the Yeshiva (Talmudical College) curriculum is the Talmud.

1. **Berachot, Mishanot Zeraim.** 1945. £85
2. **Shabbat, Zevachim.** Vaad Hadfasah "Torah Or" 1942-1943. £85
3. **Eruvin.** 1944. £80
4. **Pesachim.** 1944. £80
5. **Betzah, Taanit, Megilah, Moed Kattan, Chagigah.** Beis Otzar Hasepharim "Ezrat Torah" yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1946. £95
6. **Rosh Hashana, Yoma, Sukkah.** Beis Otzar Hasepharim "Ezrat Torah" yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1945. £95
7. **Kettubot.** Beis Otzar Hasepharim "Ezrat Torah" yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1944. £90
8. **Nedarim.** Hotzaot Mitnadvim, 1943. Stamp of Ezrat Torah £85
9. **Nedarim.** 2nd copy with stamp of "Otzar Sefarim, Ezrat Torah Mir Yeshivah Shanghai". £125
10. **Gittin.** – Nidfas Al Yedai Yeshivat Mir – Jewish Bookstore J . Gesang Shanghai, 1942 – with stamp Ozar Hasepharim D'Yeshivat Mir Kaas B'Shanghai. **28cm** £125
11. **Gittin.** Beis Otzar Hasepharim "Ezrat Torah" yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1945 with stamp Mir Kaat Shanghai. (as of now in Shanghai. £125
12. **Kiddushin, Nazir, Sotah.** Beis Otzar Hasepharim "Ezrat Torah" yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1946. £95
13. **Bava Kamma.** Al Yedai Yeshivat Mir – not dated £80
14. **Bava Metziah. Tav Shin Daled.** says in English printed in 1943. On verso Published by the "Ezrat Torah" Library of Mirrer Rabbinical College. £80
15. **Bava Batra.** Beis Otzar Hasepharim "Ezrat Torah" yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1944. £80
16. **Shevuat, Makkot, Sanhedrin.** Beis Otzar Hasepharim "Ezrat Torah" yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1946. £85
17. **Avodah Zara, Horiot.** Beis Otzar Hasepharim "Ezrat Torah" yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1945. £75
18. **Zevachim, Menachot.** – Vaad Hadfasah "Torah Or" 1942 Shin Bet. 26.5 cm £85
19. **Hullin.** Beis Otzar Hasepharim "Ezrat Torah" yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1945 £85
20. **Bechorot, Archin, Temurah, Kritut, Meilah.**– Vaad Hadfasah Torah Or, 1942. £85
21. **Niddah.** Beis Otzar Hasepharim "Ezrat Torah" yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1945. £85

Note: Masechet Yevamot was not printed in Shanghai (see Habermann edition Maamar Al Hadphast HaTalmud, page 191). He explains that when they came to print tractate Yevamot it was after the war and the students were already leaving Shanghai for the USA and Palestine. However according to Reb. Moshe Lieb Weiser the Mir Yeshiva was learning Yevamot at the time they fled from Europe and so had copies of Yevamot and did not need to reprint it at the time.

Mishna

22. **Mishna Yochin Uboaz, Zeraim (only).** L'Ily Nishmat Harav Avrohom Yisrael Yizchak ZL ben Tzvi Arbuz. 27cm. £95
23. **Mishna Seder Taharas.** Folio (Mishna from Gemara with RM and RS) Beis Otzar Hasepharim "Ezrat Torah" yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1945. £85

Rambam

24. **Sefer Hamitzvot.** Beis Otzar Hasepharim “Ezrat Torah” yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1946 – spine replaced with tape. £65
25. **Sefer Haphlaah and part of Zeraim up to Matnot Aniyim, 1943.** £60
26. **Zeraim from Terumott and Taharat, 1944** £60
27. **Avodah, Korbannot, 1943.** dedicated to Mannheim Manasseh and Rebecca M. £60
28. **Madda, Ahava, Zeman.** Beis Otzar Hasepharim “Ez. Torah” yesh. Mir Shang. 1944. £60
29. **Haflaah, Zeraim, Avodah, KarbonotTaharah, 1943** £60
30. **Nezikin, Kinyan, Mishpatim, Shoftim, Vaad Hadfasah Torah Or, 1943.** £60
31. **Nashim, Kedusha.** Beis Otzar Hasepharim “Ezrat Torah” yesh. Mir Shanghai, 1945 £60
32. **Kinyan, Vaad Hadfasah Torah Or, 1943 with extra page L’zecher his parent Efron decorative page.** £95
33. **Nezikin, Vaad Hadfasah Torah Or, 1943.** £60
34. **Mishpatim, Shoftim, 1943.** With dedicatory page to Mannheim Manasseh and Rebecca Menaasseh. £85

Shulchan Aruch

35. **Yore Deah, Chalek Aleph, Folio Beis Otzar Hasepharim “Ezrat Torah” Yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1946.** Large folio. 38cm. £195
36. **Chofetz Chaim. Mishneh Berurah.** 6 volumes complete. Volume one says published by Chaim Frajberger, Shanghai 1945 in Roman letters. On the verso it says in Hebrew ‘Beis Otzar Hasepharim “Ezrat Torah” yeshivat Mir Shanghai’ China 1945. The other 5 volumes just say Shanghai 1945 in Hebrew on the title page. Original blue uniform cloth binding with Mishneh Berurah in silver letters. £450



Other Seforim

37. **Mesillat Yesharim.** Vaad Hadfasah Torah Or, 1942. £75.
38. **Sefer Hayiro of Rabbanu Yona, Shanghai 1945 together with Sefer HaYashar of Rabbanu Tam, Shanghai, 1945.** Original binding, bound together as issued, separate title page. £95
39. **Sefer Charedim, Shanghai, 1946 bound with Maalat Torah.** Separate title page – this does not mention Shanghai. Original wrappers. £75
40. **Danzig, Rav Avraham. - Chachmat Adam.** Beis Otzar Hasepharim “Ezrat Torah” yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1946. £65

41. **Shnei Luchot Habrit (Shelah)**. Folio, 31cm. Vaad Hadfasa “Mefitzei Or” Azzel Yeshivas Chachmei Lublin, Shanghai 1946. Spine missing but fragments present – can be reconstructed. 31cm. 68 pp £110
42. **Feigenbaum, Rabbi Yisrael. - Taharat Yisrael. Chidushim Ubuirim Al Harambam Sefer Tehara**. Shanghai 1946. Defus Y Alenberg, Rechov Zshfor 716. Blue cloth, 26cm. £85
43. **Feigenbaum, Rabbi Yisrael. - Taharat Yisrael. Chidushim Ubuirim Al Harambam Sefer Tehara**. Shanghai 1946. Defus Y Alenberg, Rechov Zshfor 716. Black cloth. £85
44. **Feigenbaum, Rabbi Yisrael. Taharat Yisrael. Chidushim Ubuirim Al Harambam Sefer Tehara**. Shanghai 1946. Defus Y Elenberg, Rechov Zshfor 716. wrappers 26cm. £85

On The Talmud

45. **Sefer Beit Yaakov – Kollel Shnei Chalakim Chidushim Al Masechet Ketubbot and Biurim AL Shulchan Aruch Ketubbot**. Shanghai, 1945. Nidfas Al Yedie Yeshivat Mir – Published by Chaim Frajberger, 1945. 2 title pages. 27cm, 66 + 40 leaves. £95
46. **Sefer Beit Yisrael. Chalek Rishon Heorot Ubiurim Al Kinyanei Ishut. Yisrael Zalman ben Moshe Maishel Shloimowitz. 2nd ed Shanghai 1944**, bound with a Derasha by Rav Yisrael Shloimowitz Rav Bies Hamedrash LaTalmud Vhoroe (Lodz) 2nd ed Shanghai 1944. 15 pp given Parshat Shemini Uparshat Bamidbar) 32cm £95
47. **Walkin, Rav Aharon. - Mezach Aharon -Derushim**. 1944. Yotzei Laor al yedia Chaim Frajberger (Chaim Frieberger) – can be purchased from Rabbi S H Walkin 281 Liaoyang Rd, Shanghai. 26.5cm. £95
48. **Wasserman, Rav Elchonon. - Sefer Shailot Uteshuvot HoRashba v’Kuntres Acharon L’Rashaba**. L’Masechet Yevamot (edited by Rav Simcha Wasserman) together with Kovetz Hearot Lamasechet Yevamot by Rabbi Elchonon Wasserman Ram B, Beranovich. Yotza Laor A Lyedai Talmidov, Shanghai 1945. 26cm. Spine taped, title page detached. £75
49. **Chidushei Rashba Al Shitot. Berachot, Shabbat, Eruvin, Rosh Hashana, Sukkah, Megilah, Chulin, Niddah, Yevamot, Kiddushin, Nedarim Bava Kamma, Gittin Shevuot Bezah. Nidfas Shanghai Behotaot Vaad HadFaso “Torah Or” 1942. Title page repaired. 31cm. pages yellowed repairs to other pages.** £75
50. **Shitta MeKubetzet. Bava Metziah**. Shanghai, 1943. 26cm. £75
51. **Ketzot HaChoshen**. 1945. 26.5cm. £95
52. **Avnei Miluim. Beis Otzar Hasepharim “Ezrat Torah” yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1945. 428pp?** £85
53. **Sefat Emet, Seder Kodshim**. 26cm Vaad Hadfasa “Mefitzei Or” Azzel Yeshivas Chachmei Lublin, Shanghai 1943. In English, it says ‘Published by “Mfitsei Or” Shanghai (China)’. Was the copy of Rabbi J D Epstein – signature written in front Hebrew side stamp on back endpaper (front Eng side) Rabbi Epstein was the secretary of the Mirrer Yeshiva and later wrote the chapter on the history of the Mir Yeshiva in Samuel K. Mirsky’s Mosdot Torah B’Europa. £175
54. **Shitta Mekubetzet, Bava Batra**. Has Ramban bound at the end. Beis Otzar Hasepharim “Ezrat Torah” yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1945. 26cm £85
55. Poor copy – no Ramban. £45
56. Ramban Bava Batra no title page £45
57. **Shitta Mekubetzet, Ketubot. Beis Otzar Hasepharim “Ezrat Torah” Yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1945.** £85
58. **Derush V’Chidush Rabbi Akiva Eger. Kollel Chalek A leph min HaChidushim Berachot V’Seder Moed Yevamot Kettubot, 2nd Title Page Bava Metziah, Kittin Kettubot etc.** £85
59. **Shitta Mekubetzet, Bava Batra**. The Ramban is bound at the end. Beis Otzar Hasepharim “Ezrat Torah” Yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1945. £85

60. **Shitta Mekubetzet, Bava Kama.** No date, does not explicitly say Shanghai but binding is the same and was owned by owner of some of the other Seforim in this collection. Lower half of title page blank previous imprint removed. . £45
61. **Chidushei HaRamban. 2 vols** £150
- a. **Chalek Rishon (Shas) Moed and Nashim.** Beis Otzar Hasepharim “Ezrat Torah” yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1945. 28cm.
- b. **Chidushei HaRamban.** (Title page says Bava Metzia but has rest of Shas). Beis Otzar Hasepharim “Ezrat Torah” Yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1945. 28cm.
62. **Chidushei HaRamban Al Masechet Yevamot.** Nidfas Behozoat Yeshivat Mir 29 leaves. £85
63. **Shev Shmatza.** Beis Otzar Hasepharim “Ezrat Torah” Yeshivat Mir Shanghai, 1945. Copy of Rabbi J D Epstein, stamp at back. £120

Mussur, Ethics, Machshava (Jewish thought and ethics)

64. **Derashot HaRamban.** Nidfas Al Yedai Chaim Frieberger Talmid Yeshivat Mir, Shanghai 1946. £95
65. **Sefer Chassidim together with Medrash Shmuel on Pirkei Avot and Massachet Avot the Commentary of Rav Yodssef Yaavetz.** 1946, 3 works together. £110
66. **Torat Chovot Halvovot.** Shanghai 1943. £85
67. **Chovot Halevavot Im Pirush Tov Halevonon.** 1946. 18cm. £95
68. **Tomor Devorah.** 1946. £75
69. **Sefer Charedim.** wrappers. 1946. £65
70. **Gur Aryeh.** NidfS AL Yedai Shlomo Yosef Ben Rav Moshe Meisels Mostrow (originally) Shanghai 1946. £85
71. **Netivat Olam. 2 title pages** Shanghai 1946. £85
72. **Gevurat Hasem,Netzch Yisrael Tiferet Yisrael, Baer HaGolh 4 title pages** 1946. £95
73. **Sefer Chafetz Chaim.** Yotzo Laor Al Yedai Talmedai Yeshivat Chofetz Chaim currently exiled in Shanghai – copy of rabbi J D Epstein (stamp, no signature) £110
74. **2nd copy** £95
75. **Rabbi Yisrael Salanter – Or Yisrael. Cochvai Or.** 1944.2 pages towards the end relating to Rav Zundel Salant (Rabbi Yisrael Salanter’s teacher) are stuck together this appears to be the case in most copies. As if that page was either not relevant or not appropriate they often were using photo offsets and constructing individual volumes from several works or parts of several works. £95
76. **Nefesh HaChaim, 1944.** Reb Chaim Volozhin’s response to Chassidut and manifesto for the Lithuanian Yeshivot £95

Midrash

77. **Midrash Rabbah 2 vols. Vaad Hadfasa “Mefitzei Or” Azxel Yeshivas Chachmei Lublin,** Shanghai 1945. 8vo. £125
78. **2nd copy – vol. one (complete) but vol. two of Mid Rabbah incomplete missing title page and last few pages of Koheleth.** £75

Al Hotarah

79. **Alexander Zusia Freedman – Der Torah Kvell. 2 vols. 24cm.** £125
80. **Another copy, volume 1 only 19cm!! Bereishits, shemot Vayikra poor copy** £50
81. **Mikraot Gedolot. 2 vols whole Chumash. Published HaMashbir, 1943. verso says published by Levi Fleishaker.** £150
82. **.....one vol of Devarim only.** £50

Rare Periodicals and Others items



Periodicals

83. **Rav Yerucham (1873– 1936) Maamarim.** Rav Yerucham Halevi Levovitz was the Mashgiach Ruchani of the Mirrer Yeshiva in Poland. One of the great exponents of Mussar. He was a talmid or Rav Simcha Zissel Broida one of the foremost disciples of Rabbi Yisroel Salanter. Below are eight fascicles printed in Shanghai. The first three fascicles were first published before the Holocaust in Baranovitch, the fourth was published in Kaiden due to the war. For a period during 1940, the town served as home to about 300 students and teachers from the Mir Yeshiva. In July 1941, during the German Nazi occupation of Lithuania, **£500**
- Aleph**, 12pp, Baranovich, Express, 1939. Maamar, Lchol Zman, Vet Lchol Chefetz (Ellul 1938), Mamaar Torah Heteshuvah, (Aseret Yemai Teshuvah 1939)
 - Bet**, 14pp, Baranovich, Express, 1939
 - Gimmel**, Baranovich, Express, 1939 -26-35 pp
 - 4 Kaidan, 1940, 39-64**
 - 5 Shanghai, 1942** printed by J M Elenberg, 718 Avenue, Joffre, Shanghai. **67-94**
 - 6. 1943** printed by J M Elenberg, 718 Avenue, Joffre, Shanghai **95-125**
 - 7. 1944** printed by J M Elenberg, 718 Avenue, Joffre, Shanghai **128-179**
 - 8. 1945** printed by J M Elenberg, 718 Avenue, Joffre, Shanghai **181-216**
 - 9. 1946** printed by J M Elenberg, 718 Avenue, Joffre, Shanghai **217-258**
84. **Maamarim Bound 2nd ed. inc. 1 to 7.** **£350**
85. **Maamrim.** Original wrappers 1 to 3. (1) + 36 pp. Printed by J M Elenberg, 718 Avenue, Joffre, Shanghai. 22cm. **£90**
86. **Noam Elimelech.** Vaad Hadfasa “Mephitze Or” Etsel Yeshivat Chachmei Lublin, [1] 227 pp **£200**
87. **Haggadah Shel Pesach.** 1946. Yüdlov 4027. Front board detached. **£200**
88. **Ginsburg, Mordechai Ephraim (editor). Maor Torah.** Bound volume containing Rabbinic journal on Hidushei Halacha. 2 issues (all published). 1944 and 1946.[4], 40, [1]; [2], 42-62, [1] 25cm. Moving preface of historical interest. **£120**
89. **2nd set in original wrappers, 2 vols.** **£120**
90. **Hercman, Rab Huna. Gadlus HaAdam, Chalek aleph 5 + 34 pp, 20cm x 15cm.** **£100**
91. **Hercman, Rab Huna. Gadlus HaAdam, Chalek aleph 5 + 32 pp, 20cm x 15cm. Mahadura Batra 2nd ed.** **£100**
92. **Torah Or, Kovetz Chidushei Torah B’Inyanei Halachah. Ellenberg, 1946.** Original cloth [8], 59. [2] pp, 27cm. Rabbinic journal issued by the students of the Mirrer Yeshiva it was published in remembrance of Rabbi Abraham Isaac Israel ben Zevi Arboz. **£120**
93. **Torah Or, Kovetz Chidushei Torah B’Inyanei Halachah. Ellenberg, 1946.** Original wrappers. [8], 59. [2] pp, 27cm. **£120**



94. **Adler, Marcus. Hayedim B'China (the Jews in China).** Vilna, 1901. Missing rear wrapper. Ex library. 35 (1) pp. Text in Hebrew. Translated into Hebrew by Elchonon Segal. £75
95. **Zarkowski, Rabbi Zvi Hirsch (editor) Talpiot (Choveret Aleph U'Bet) (all issued ???),** 1945. Maasef Torani. Rabbinic journal devoted to Torah and Chassidut. Contains articles by Polish Yeshiva students currently in Shanghai. £85
96. **Mirror Yeshiva in Galus – Ven Do Velt Hot Gibrent.** New York, Rabbi Huna Hertzman, 1950. Original decorative wrapps, 28 pp. Text in Yiddish. Illustrated on front cover. Illus. inside. Together with £95
97. **Maamar Maron Admor Z'L.** Single sheet. Originally this derasha was delivered 11th Menachem Av, 1926 and noted down by one the talmidim in Yiddish and now translated into Hebrew. No explicit marking of Shanghai but came with the rest of the collection and the Hebrew typography looks like Shanghai. £45
98. **Adler, Marcus. “The Jews of China” A Lecture by Mr Marcus Adler.** 4 pp. From the Jewish Chronicle, June 22nd 1900. £45
99. **Milikovski, Chaim. Shnos Chaim – Kuntres Aleph.** 1944. £120
100. **Yiddisher Almanach.** In Yiddish, English and Russian. Illustrated begins with an article by Rabbi Meir Aschkenazi the Av Bet Din of Shanghai. A sort of youth magazine with classified ads for weddings etc in Hebrew. B Mandelbaum – The Mirror Yeshiva in Galuth Shanghai (A Page from My Shanghai Diary). £150
101. **Epstein, Rabbi J D. Jewish Religious Ethics – Volume 1.** Original wrappers, 19cm, 93 pp 1946. The author gives a survey of the classical Mussar (ethical) literature and then provides a series of quotes from them in English translation. £150
102. **Grunwald, Rabbi Yaacov. – AL Techtechu B'Yeled together with a Maamar relating the Yeshiva bochurs experience in Shanghai by the publisher EJ Hertzman.** New York, EJ Hertzman, 1969. Wrapps, unsp. 10 pp £25

