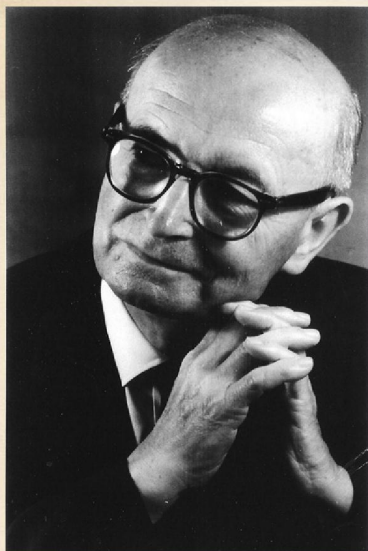


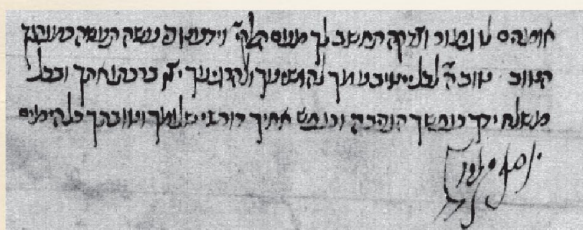
The Variety of findings – Historical documents



Shelomo Dov Goitein (1900 – 1985)

While dated documents found in the Genizah range from about 870 to 1899, most of the material comes from two periods. The major part of this material is from the ‘classical’ Genizah period, which extends from the re-founding of the Ben-Ezra Synagogue in 1040 until the fire that broke out there in 1260. These documents, from the Fātimid and Ayyūbid periods in Egypt, form the basis of Goitein’s magnum opus, *A Mediterranean Society*, and are the focus of most Genizah research, including this book. The languages of these documents are primarily Arabic and Judaeo-Arabic, as well as Hebrew.

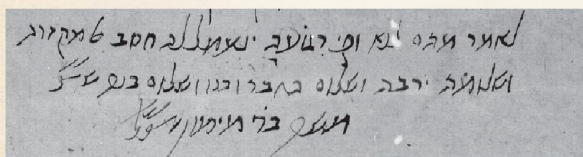
The second important group of documents, which has not been studied to the same extent, dates to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, immediately after the expulsion of the Jews from Spain. Many Jews settled in the Ottoman Empire, including Egypt, and transformed Jewish society there.



T-S 13J 24.28a - A letter signed by Rabbi Yoseph Karo, the author of *Shulchan Aruch*. The letter is a representative of the growing presence of the Spaniard Jewish diaspora after the Expulsion in 1492.



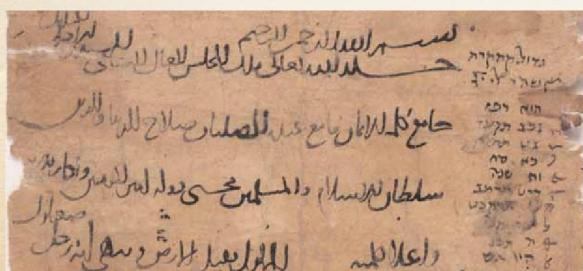
T-S NS 298.73^B - A 16th century list of Christians saints.



T-S 12.192 - Maimonides’s signature on a letter of recommendation



T-S Ar 30.184 - Early cheques in the Genizah



T-S K2.96 (verso) - A twelfth-century chancery document which contains lines of a petition addressed to Saladin concerning forced government service



T-S AS 159.247 - A Genizah manuscript containing an unidentified Indian language