

WORKSHOP ON THE RECEPTION OF JOSEPHUS BY JEWS AND CHRISTIANS FROM LATE ANTIQUITY TO C. 1750

Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

Yarnton Manor

January 7-8, 2012

<http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/research/josephus/>



In this workshop, we hope that the participants will help us to identify the issues in Josephus' writings which played a key role in the reception of his work in ancient and medieval times, investigating which themes are specific to specific periods or types of literature (including translations and adaptations into other languages, notably Latin and Hebrew) and which remained relevant in later centuries; the reasons why early modern scholars (both Jewish and Christian) were attracted to Josephus' writings, and how their approach differed from earlier reception of Josephus; and the role played by Josephus in the popular imagination of Jews and Christians throughout this period.

MONDAY 7 JANUARY

12.30-1.30 Lunch for Speakers

- 1.45-2.00 Introduction
- 2.00-2.30 **Edith Parmentier**, University of Angers
Herod's death rewritten by Eusebius
- 2.30-3.00 **Joan Taylor**, King's College London
Josephus on the Essenes: Hippolytus, Porphyry and Eusebius
- 3.00-3.30 **Rivkah Fishman-Duker**, The Hebrew University
Josephus in Byzantine Chronicles: An Overview

3.30-4.00 Tea

- 4.00-4.30 **Steven Bowman**, University of Cincinnati
Foundational Tales and Polemic in Sefer Yosippon
- 4.30-5.00 **Saskia Doenitz**, Goethe University Frankfurt
The Maccabees in Sefer Yosippon
- 5.00-5.30 **Nadia Zeldes**, The Hebrew University
The "Hebrew Josephus" and the Renaissance Quest for Jewish History: Diffusion, Interpretation, and Translation of Sefer Josippon among Jews and Christians in Italy and Sicily

5.30-6.00 Drinks

6.00-7.30 Dinner

- 7.30-8.00 **Michael Avioz**, Bar-Ilan University
Allusions to Josephus in Abravanel's Writings
- 8.00-8.30 **David Taylor**, University of Oxford
The reception of Josephus in Syriac Christianity

TUESDAY 8 JANUARY

8.30-9.00 Breakfast

- 9.00-9.30 **Daniel Stein Kokin**, University of Greifswald
"That Noble and Famous Jew": Josephus and His Writings in the Renaissance Italian Imagination
- 9.30-10.00 **Kate Adcock**, Oxfordshire County Council
Josephus, Augustine, Sabellicus: the Duke of Norfolk's petition from the Tower of London
- 10.00-10.30 **Jesus de Prado Plumed**, Ecole pratique des hautes etudes
'Y lo que acerca de los Hebreos suele ser de autoridad': Josephus as a scholarly weapon in colonial Mexico's anti-Jewish polemics

10.30-10.45 Coffee

- 10.45-11.15 **Meir Ben Shahar**, The Hebrew University
Jaddus the High Priest and Alexander the Great – Fact or Fiction? Religion, Politics and Historiography in late 17th Century England
- 11.15-11.45 **Gohei Hata**, Tama Art University
William Whiston's Josephus in the first edition published in 1737
- 11.45-12.15 **Katja Vehlow**, University of South Carolina
Fascinated by Josippon: Four translations into the vernacular by Hans Schwyntzer, Georg Wolff, Peter Morwen, and James Howell

12.15-1.00 Concluding Remarks

1.00-2.00 Light lunch for speakers