

The North African Jewish Manuscript Collection at the Yale University Library
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Description: This paper discusses the acquisition of a collection of over 1,500 manuscripts from North Africa with a particular emphasis on Morocco dating from 1800-1950. The documents consist of rabbinic decisions, poetry, liturgy, mystical texts, homilies, and more. In addition to the content of the manuscripts, the process by which it was made available for scholarly research will also be discussed. Experts in the field were enlisted to assist in identifying content, outside funding was obtained to help cover expenses, preservation needs were determined, and a finding aid was created. All this and additional plans for the collection will be discussed along with a PowerPoint display of several of the documents.

Nanette Stahl is the Joseph and Ceil Mazer Librarian for Judaic Studies at the Yale University Library. She has been at Yale for over twenty years where she has been responsible for expanding Yale's printed manuscript and digital Jewish collections. Nanette has a PhD in Hebrew literature from the University of California at Berkeley. While at Berkeley, she was Judaica bibliographer at the Law Library where she built a Jewish law collection. Nanette lives with her husband William in Hamden, CT.