

Guide to Kibbutz and Ephemeral Haggadot from Israel and the Yishuv Collection

YCAL GEN MSS 2171



by Tali Winkler

September 2026

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Processing Information	4
Biographical / Historical	4
Scope and Contents	5
Arrangement	5
Collection Contents	6
Selected Search Terms	9

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL GEN MSS 2171

TITLE: Kibbutz and Ephemeral Haggadot from Israel and the Yishuv Collection

DATES: 1937-1979

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.92 linear feet (5 containers)

LANGUAGE: Hebrew (Hebrew script); Yiddish (Hebrew script)

SUMMARY: The Kibbutz and Ephemeral Haggadot from Israel and the Yishuv Collection [1937-1979] contains haggadot (singular: haggadah), the text that is recited at the Passover seder, from the Yishuv and the State of Israel. Most are from kibbutzim from the Yishuv and from Israel, though some are from other organizations such as larger kibbutz movements, newspapers, the military, etc. They span the years 1937-1979, with 2/3 of them from the 1940s and 1950s. All are in Hebrew except one which is in Yiddish. Most of them are illustrated. The collection also includes one songbook that contains songs for Passover and was intended to supplement the accompanying haggadah from that year. These ephemeral haggadot were intended to be used for one year alone, as the kibbutzim would issue new ones each year.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.kibbutz>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.kibbutz>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired from the librarian for Jewish Studies.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Kibbutz and Ephemeral Haggadot from Israel and the Yishuv Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit. These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Yale Archival Processing Manual.

Biographical / Historical

This collection primarily contains haggadot (singular: haggadah) from the Yishuv and the State of Israel. A haggadah is the text that is recited at the Passover seder. The traditional text was largely standardized by the Middle Ages, and it was frequently reproduced in both manuscript and print throughout the centuries.

In the 20th century, various Jewish groups decided to change the text for their own religious or political purposes. This phenomenon was especially prevalent on kibbutzim (singular: kibbutz), collective communities in the Yishuv and in the State of Israel. The leaders of the kibbutzim recognized the power of the Passover seder and the redemption narrative in the effort to create their own national narrative, as well as the power of a collective communal performance of a ritual. The text of the haggadah thus became a vehicle for creativity and identity-formation.

Hundreds of kibbutz haggadot were created, with over 500 editions between 1930 and 1960, and they were each slightly different. The themes of spring, agriculture, and working the land were prominently featured, drawing on both biblical verses as well as medieval and contemporary Hebrew poetry. Another prominent theme was the exile in and subsequent exodus from Egypt. While this theme is central in the traditional text, these haggadot removed the rabbinic texts that traditionally told the story and replaced them with excerpts from the biblical book of Exodus, highlighting Moses's role in the redemption and often removing God from any part of the story. These kibbutz haggadot then located their current historical moment in the arc of Jewish history, often describing contemporary historical events in Biblical Hebrew and relaying their own experience moving from slavery or persecution to freedom. They incorporated modern Hebrew literature and poetry from writers such as Hayyim Nahman Bialik (1873-1934), Saul Tchernichowsky (1875-1943), Hannah Senesh (1921-1944), Nathan Alterman (1910-1970), and others. Descriptions of or references to World War II, the Holocaust, the establishment of the State of Israel, and subsequent wars are all common, and capture the specific historical moment the authors were experiencing.

The texts are often, though not always, beautifully illustrated, in a variety of styles. Earlier haggadot were created using mimeography or offset lithography, while later they were professionally printed and illustrated.

Kibbutzim were mostly socialist and secular in nature, with an emphasis on the value of labor, agriculture, and the return of the Jews to the land of Israel. Their communities functioned as participatory democracies. Within the kibbutz movement, there were differing political affiliations, social characters, and religious outlooks, and these contributed to an ever-changing landscape of federations of different groups of kibbutzim. Kibbutzim and their residents contributed significantly to pre-State and Israeli society, economy, culture, politics, and security.

The Yishuv refers to the Jewish population living in Palestine before the State of Israel was established in 1948. This includes the Jewish population under both Ottoman control before World War I and under Mandatory British control after World War I until 1948.

Scope and Contents

The Kibbutz and Ephemeral Haggadot from Israel and the Yishuv Collection [1937-1979] contains haggadot (singular: haggadah), the text that is recited at the Passover seder, from the Yishuv and the State of Israel. Most are from kibbutzim from the Yishuv and from Israel, though some are from other organizations such as larger kibbutz movements, newspapers, the military, etc. They span the years 1937-1979, with 2/3 of them from the 1940s and 1950s. All are in Hebrew except one which is in Yiddish. Most of them are illustrated. The collection also includes one songbook that contains songs for Passover and was intended to supplement the accompanying haggadah from that year. These ephemeral haggadot were intended to be used for one year alone, as the kibbutzim would issue new ones each year.

Arrangement

The folders are arranged alphabetically according to the Hebrew alphabet by name of kibbutz or publishing institution. The name of the kibbutz or publishing institution is indicated in both the vernacular Hebrew script and the transliterated form.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	אורים, קבוצת = Urim, Kevutsat	1959
b. 1, f. 2	אושה = Usha	1942
b. 1, f. 3-4	איחוד הקבוצות והקבוצים = Iḥud ha-kevutsot v. yeha-kibutsim	1953, before 1962, undated
b. 1, f. 5	איילת השחר = Ayelet ha-Shaḥar	1952
b. 1, f. 6	אלונים = Alonim	undated
b. 1, f. 7	אלונים? = Alonim?	before 1960
b. 1, f. 8	אפיקים = Afikim	1946
b. 1, f. 9	אשדות יעקב = Ashdot Ya'aqov	1949
b. 1, f. 10	בית הספר גיבורי ישראל = Bet ha-Sefer Gibore Yisra'el	1959, circa 1968
b. 1, f. 11	בית השיטה = Bet-ha-Shiṭah	1940, 1945, 1947
b. 1, f. 12	גבעות זייד = Geva'ot Zeid	1950
b. 1, f. 13	גבעת ברנר = Giv'at Brenner	1937, 1941, 1942
b. 2, f. 1	גברעם = Gvar'am	1947, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954
b. 2, f. 2	גבת = Gevat	1961
b. 2, f. 3	גניגר = Ginegar	1949
b. 2, f. 4	גשר = Gesher	undated
b. 2, f. 5	גשר הזיו = Gesher ha-Ziy	1949
b. 2, f. 6	דגניה א = Deganyah Alef	1970
b. 2, f. 7	דגניה ב = Deganyah Bet	1950, 1956
b. 2, f. 8	הגנה = Haganah (Organization)	1948
b. 2, f. 9	הסתדרות הכללית של העובדים בארץ ישראל = Histadrut ha-kelalit shel ha-'ovdim be-Erets-Yisra'el	1943, 1945, after 1948
b. 2, f. 10	חולדה, קבוצת = Huldah, Kevutsat	1959, circa 1973
b. 2, f. 11	חפצי-בה = Heftsi Bah	1949, 1951
b. 2, f. 12	יגור = Yagur Also includes two haggadot that are "Nusakh Yagur" rather than strictly from the kibbutz itself.	1945, 1951
b. 3, f. 1	ידיעות אחרונות = Yedi'ot aḥaronot (newspaper) Dates for the "after 1951" edition based on the founding date of the partnering winery.	after 1951, circa 1966

b. 3, f. 2	יפעת = Yif'at	1956, 1958, 1960
b. 3, f. 3	כנרת, קבוצת = Kineret, Kevutsat Cover of 1946 haggadah has been detached and put into mylar sleeve.	1946, after 1948
b. 3, f. 4	כפר גלעדי = Kefar Gil'adi	1950
b. 3, f. 5	כפר גלעדי תל חי = Kefar Gil'adi Tel H̱ai	1946
b. 3, f. 6	כפר הנוער מאיר שפיה = Kefar ha-No'ar Me'ir Shefeyah	undated
b. 3, f. 7	מעין ברוך = Ma'yan Barukh	1949
b. 3, f. 8	מעלה החמישה = Ma'aleh ha-H̱amishah	1946
b. 3, f. 9	מערב = Ma'ariv (newspaper)	undated
b. 3, f. 10-11	נען = Na'an	1937-1951
b. 3, f. 12	ספרי = Sifre (publisher)	1950, 1951
b. 3, f. 13	עין-גב = 'En-Gev	1955
b. 4, f. 1	עין חרוד = 'En H̱arod	1950, 1954, 1959
b. 4, f. 2	עמיר = 'Amir	1976
b. 4, f. 3	צבא הגנה לישראל - רבנות הצבאית הראשית = Tseva haganah le-Yiśra'el - Rabanut ha-tseva'it ha-rashit (Military Rabbinate) One of the 1968 haggadot is an abridged version of the text for deployed soldiers. The 1970 edition is just a republished version of the 1968 edition, with an updated date.	1968, 1968, 1970
b. 4, f. 4	קדמה-סדום = Ḵedmah-Sedom	1945
b. 4, f. 5-8	קיבוץ הארצי השומר הצעיר = Ḵibuts ha-artsi ha-shomer ha-tsa'ir Haggadah dated 1944 had two printed pages of additional songs tipped in. They are in the same folder.--- The circa 1944-1949 haggadah is missing the cover, but there is an inscription from 1962 identifying it as being produced by Ḵibuts ha-artsi ha-shomer ha-tsa'ir before 1949.	1943-1958, undated
b. 4, f. 9-10	קיבוץ המאוחד = Ḵibuts ha-me'uḥad Includes a songbook (shiron) for Passover, though not technically a haggadah.	before 1949, 1961, 1970, 1973, 1979
b. 4, f. 11	רמות השבים = Ramot ha-Shavim Has a loose page from a different unidentified source.	1951
b. 4, f. 12	רמת הכובש = Ramat ha-Kovesh The haggadah from after 1967 is in Yiddish.	1957, 1967, after 1967
b. 4, f. 13	רמת יוחנן = Ramat Yoḥanan	1943
b. 5, f. 1	שדות-ים = Śedot-Yam	circa 1948
b. 5, f. 2	שפיים = Shefayim	1959

b. 5, f. 3	תל-יוסף = Tel-Yosef	1944, circa 1950
b. 5, f. 4	תנועת הנוער הלומד בישראל - מחנות העולים = Tenu'at ha-no'ar ha-lomed be-Yiśra'el - Maḥanot ha-'olim	1946
b. 5, f. 5	Children's Haggadah	undated
b. 5, f. 6	Fragments	undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Haggadot -- Adaptations
Kibbutz haggadot
Passover -- Prayers and devotions