

# Everyday Writing in the Medieval Near East: Documentary History and the Cairo Geniza

Sunday, November 3, 2013

MacMillan Center, Luce Hall • 34 Hillhouse Ave, New Haven, CT

The Yale Program in Judaic Studies is pleased to announce a one-day public symposium devoted to current scholarship on the documentary Cairo Geniza, a unique corpus of everyday papers (including letters, court records, contracts, and administrative documents) from the medieval Near East.

An international panel of scholars will highlight the latest methodologies and approaches being used to study this material, and consider how it can be used to answer major unexplored questions in medieval Near Eastern social, economic, and cultural history, both Jewish and Islamic.

On Monday – Tuesday, Nov. 4 – 5, the conference will continue as a workshop open to invited Geniza and comparative documentary specialists, focused on the diplomatics, typology, and usage of Geniza documents.

To register, please visit: [www.everydaywritingyale.com](http://www.everydaywritingyale.com).

## SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

### SESSION 1: READING HISTORY FROM DOCUMENTS

- 9:00: Elinoar Bareket – *What Makes a Technical Term? Repetitive Phrases and their Social Uses in Geniza documents*
- 9:40: Philip Ackerman-Lieberman – *The Early Phonetic Judeo-Arabic Spelling and the Influence of Iraqi Jewry on the West*
- 10:20: Coffee break
- 10:40: Norman Golb – *The Aftermath of a Geniza Manuscript*
- 11:20: Jessica Goldberg – *Making Sense of Disorder: Methodological Strategies in Documentary Geniza Research*
- 12:00–1:30: Lunch

- 2:50: Marina Rustow – *The Jewish 'Chancery Style' under the Fatimids*
- 3:30: Coffee break
- 3:50: Eve Krakowski – *The Jewish Family in Medieval Egypt: Rethinking the Geniza Evidence*
- 4:20: Miriam Frenkel – *Material Culture as Reflected in Geniza Documents*

**5:30–7:00: CLOSING ROUNDTABLE: GOITEIN'S GENIZA AND THE GENIZA SINCE GOITEIN**  
Marina Rustow, Mark Cohen, Jessica Goldberg, Olivia Remie Constable, Tamer el-Leithy, Abraham Udovitch

### SESSION 2: NEAR EASTERN HISTORY THROUGH THE GENIZA

- 1:30: Mark Cohen – *Reading Maimonides' Mishneh Torah through the Prism of Geniza Documents on Commercial Practice*
- 2:10: Mordechai Friedman – *Halfon, A Twelfth-Century Merchant Scholar, Purveyor of Goods and Non-Material Culture*

7:00: Drinks

7:30: Dinner

Other workshop participants include Amir Ashur, Roger Bagnall, Robert Brody, Edna Engel, Arnold Franklin, Andreas Kaplony, Adam Kosto, Roxani Margariti, Judith Olszowy-Schlanger, Marina Rustow, and Abraham Udovitch.

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AND MARINA RUSTOW

