

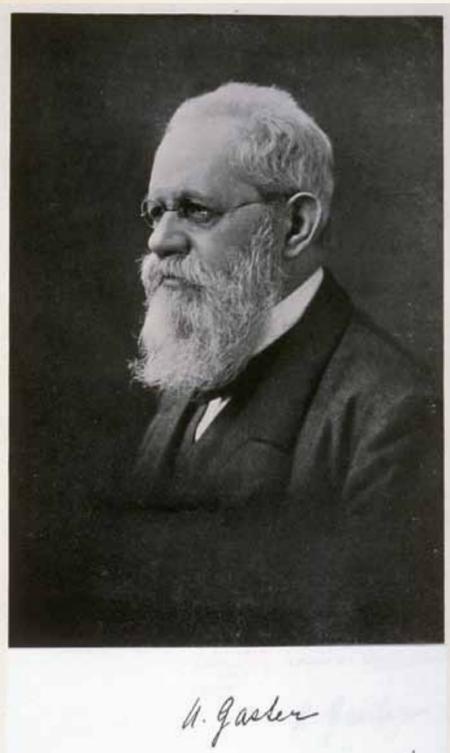
# The Genizah Collections Around the World

The main collections include: Cambridge University Library Taylor-Schechter Collection (193,000 items); Manchester, John Rylands University Library (11,000, mostly small scraps); Oxford, Bodleian Library (25,000); London, British Library (10,000); Cambridge, Jacques Mosseri Genizah Collection (7,000); Paris, Alliance Israélite Universelle (6,629); Cambridge, Westminster College (2,500); Strasbourg, Bibliothèque nationale et universitaire (1,119); Budapest, Academy of Science (1,348); Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania (897);



Jerusalem, Jewish National and University Library (585); Cincinnati, Hebrew Union College (564); Vienna (392); and Geneva (272). Additional public collections in Washington D.C., Birmingham, Toronto, Turin and Berlin, and a few private collections, each hold less than fifty fragments.

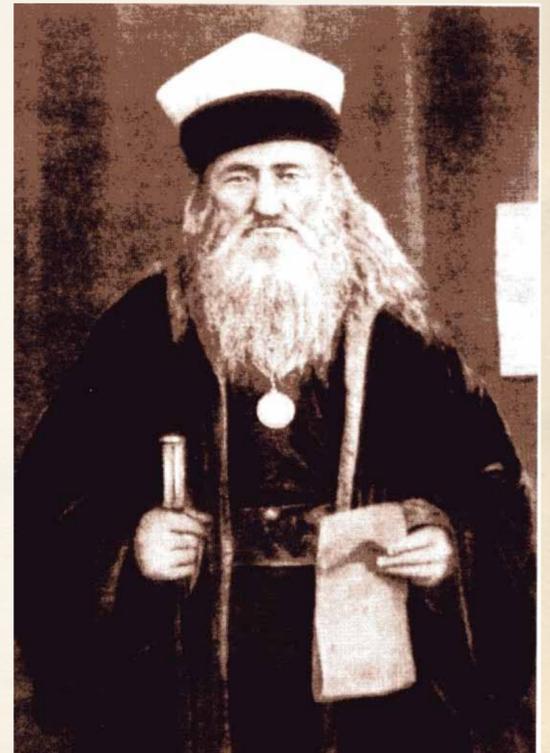
The existence of the Cairo Genizah was known to European scholars long before it was formally 'collected'. Some even visited it, but superstitious tales prevented them from touching or removing any fragment. By the nineteenth century the 'spell was broken' and manuscripts were bought from the synagogue officials and guards. The fragments slowly reached the hands of collectors and came to the attention of scholars in Russia, America, and Europe. Soon afterwards various academic institutions and libraries purchased manuscripts and assembled their own collections.



Moshe Gaster (1856 - 1939), one of the first Genizah Scholar, founder for the Gaster collection in the British Library.



R. Shlomo Wertheimer (1868 - 1935), dealer, publisher and rabbinic scholar, one of the first visitors of the Cairo Genizah and collector of its manuscripts



Abraham Firkovitch (1786 - 1874), Karaite leader and the founder of Firkovitch Genizah collection at St. Petersburg