

Megillat Ester be-galilah (Esther Scroll), circa 1900

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Megillat Ester be-galilah (Esther Scroll), circa 1900
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 399
Extent: 0.2 cubic ft. (1 scroll)
Abstract: One vellum scroll containing the text of Esther in Hebrew.
Language: Materials entirely in Hebrew.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source

Given by Rabbi Dr. David Geffen.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Megillat Ester be-galilah (Esther Scroll), Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Brandon Wason, 2015.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

This scroll, containing the book of Esther in Hebrew, previously belonged to Rabbi Tobias Geffen (1870-1970). Geffen was born in Kaunas, Lithuania, and brought the scroll to the United States when he moved to New York in 1903. Rabbi Geffen then moved to Atlanta in 1910 and was the rabbi at Congregation Shearith Israel. The scroll was used in the congregation to celebrate the festival of Purim. Although the scroll came from Lithuania, its exact origins

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are unknown and may have been produced in Germany. It dates to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

Scope and Content Note

The scroll contains the entire book of Esther in unpointed Hebrew. It measures 16.5" x 61" and is comprised of three pieces of vellum stiched together. The text is written in a square, Ashkenazic script with tagin. There are 42 lines per column, except for the section containing Esther 9:7-9, which uses enlarged emphatic text. Stich holes and guide lines are present. This is also an example of a hamelech scroll, where the word hamelech ("the king") occurs on the first line of the first column and is the first word of every subsequent column. The accompanying scroll case contains the words Megillat Ester be-galilah in Hebrew.

