

Rare Book and Special Collections Division

The Rare Book and Special Collections Division traces its beginnings to Thomas Jefferson's wish to create a library for statesmen and for the people of the new nation. After the British burned the Capitol and its library in 1814, Jefferson offered to sell his book collection to Congress. Congress appropriated money for the purchase, and Jefferson's collection served as the foundation for the new Library of Congress in 1815. Jefferson's books--in several languages and covering a great variety of subjects--today form the nucleus of the division.

The division's holdings encompass nearly all eras and subjects, with a multitude of strengths. The collection of nearly 5,700 incunabula (fifteenth-century imprints) is the largest such grouping in the Western Hemisphere. Americana dates from the Columbus letter (1493) to the present and includes more than 16,000 imprints from 1640 to 1800, extensive holdings of western Americana, Confederate States publications, and thousands of nineteenth-century pamphlets.

The Hebraic Section

Long recognized as one of the world's leading research centers for the study of Hebraica and Judaica, the Hebraic Section serves as the Library's primary access point for reference and research activities related to the Ancient Near East, pre-Islamic Egypt, Biblical Studies, Jewish Studies, and ancient and modern Israel. The section has custody of materials in a variety of formats in Hebrew and its cognates, including Yiddish, Ladino, Judeo-Arabic, Judeo-Persian, as well as Amharic, Coptic, and Syriac.

Library of Congress
101 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20540

Library of Congress
Rare Book and Special Collections Division and
the Hebraic Section of the African and Middle
Eastern Division

present:

The Jewish Reception of Copernican Thought:

The Encounter of Science and
Judaism



A book talk by
Jeremy Brown, MD
and a display of related rare
books

Tuesday September 17, 2013
12:00 Noon-1:00 PM

Rosenwald Room (LJ-205)
Rare Book and Special Collections Division
Jefferson Building, 2nd floor

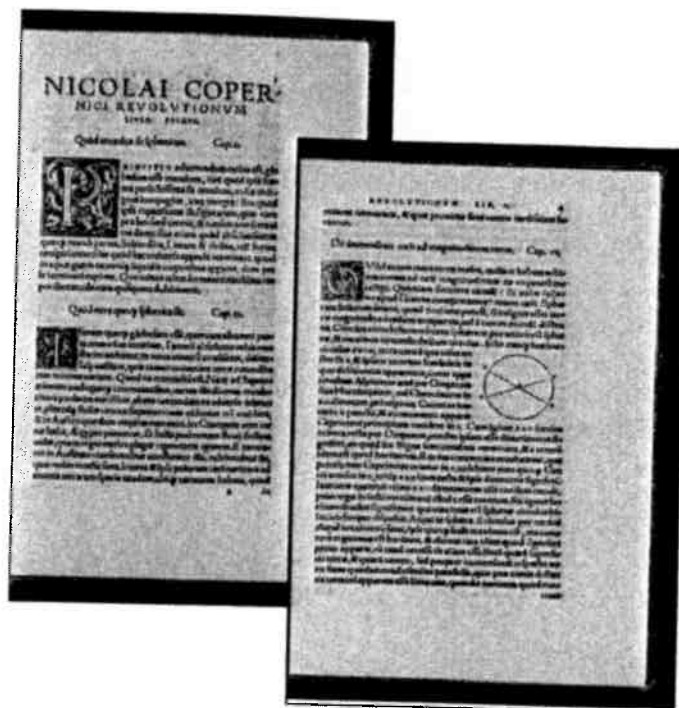
The Library of Congress
Washington, DC

The Jewish Reception of Copernican Thought:

A Lecture by
Jeremy Brown, MD

Welcoming remarks by
Mark Dimunation, Head
Rare Book and Special Collections Division
and

Introduction by Sharon S. Horowitz,
Senior Reference Librarian, Hebrew Section



Images from the 1st edition of *De revolutionibus orbium caelestium*, 1543.

- Courtesy of Rare Book and
Special Collections Division

Checklist of Books on Display

1. Nicolaus Copernicus. Norimbergæ, apud Ioh. Petreium, 1543.
- Rare Book and Special Collections Division
2. Joseph ben Elijah Delmedigo. ספר אילם (*Sefer Elim*). Amsterdam: Menasseh ben Israel, 1629.
- Hebrew Section
3. Andreas Cellarius. *Harmonia macrocosmica, seu Atlas universalis et novus*. Amstelodami, apud Joannem Janssonium, 1661.
- Rare Book and Special Collections Division
4. Tobias ben Moses Hacohen. מעשה טוביה (*Ma'aseh Tuviah*). Venice: Bragadin, 1708.
- Hebrew Section
5. David ben Solomon Gans. ספר נחמד ונעים (*Sefer Nehmad ve-Na'im*). Jessnitz: Israel bar Abraham, 1743.
- Hebrew Section
6. Mordekhai Gumpel Levisohn. מאמר התורה והחכמה (*Ma'amar ha-Torah ve-ha-Hokhma*). London: Moses and Partners (Itzik and Jacob), 1771.
- Hebrew Section
7. Barukh ben Judah Leib Lindau. ראשית לימודים (*Reshit Limudim*). Berlin: Hēvrat Hīnukh Ne'arim, 1788.
- Hebrew Section
8. Shimeon ben David Oppenheim. עמוד השחר (*Amud ha-Shaḥar*). Prague: Anton Hladky, 1789.
- Hebrew Section
9. Pinḥas David Veberman. מבוא השמש: נגד שיטת קופרניקוס (*Mavo ha-Shemesh: Neged Shiṭat Kopernikus*). In: *Sefer ha-Tekhnah* by Hayyim ben Joseph Vital. Jerusalem: P. D. Veberman, 1967.
- Hebrew Section