

Gary A. Rendsburg

Upcoming Lectures

August – September 2022

Friday, August 12, 2022

Dear Friends,

We have returned to New Jersey after 2.5 months in Los Angeles, CA, where Gary served as visiting fellow at the Getty Villa Research Institute. We then spent 2.5 weeks on the road as we crossed America, covering c. 3900 miles, visiting 15 states, and seeing the most remarkable natural and manmade sites: highlights include Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon, the Grand Tetons, Devils Tower, Field of Dreams, and Fallingwater.



Road-tripping from California to New Jersey.

Photo: Devils Tower, Wyoming

If you are on Facebook, feel free to check out our posts and photos:

<https://www.facebook.com/grendsburg>

<https://www.facebook.com/melissaarendsburg>

And thus, we return to the usual public programming over the next two months, as follows – feel free to join us for any and all events!

Upcoming Lectures



“The Treasures of the British Museum”

Tuesday, August 23, 2022 (via Zoom)

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (EDT)

One Day University – Premium Program

<https://www.onedayu.com/product/the-treasures-of-the-british-museum/>

Description:

The British Museum in London is the oldest national museum in the world, established in 1753, belonging neither to the church nor to the monarch, but rather to the people of Great Britain. Moreover, its 8 million (!) objects constitute the largest assemblage of artefacts, antiquities, and curiosities in the world. When the museum was created it also included a superb collection of medieval manuscripts, though that material eventually made its way to the newly founded British Library in 1997. The result is a simply astounding collection of world culture, gathered into a single institution.

Join us for this virtual tour of the British Museum, home to the Rosetta Stone, the Elgin Marbles, the Gilgamesh Epic, the Cyrus Cylinder, Assyrian wall reliefs, the Sutton Hoo treasures, the Vindolanda letters, the Lewis Chessmen, and more – all of which will be presented and discussed by Professor Gary Rendsburg, who has spent countless hours in the British Museum over the course of his 40-year academic career.

The Treasures of the British Museum

Gary A. Rendsburg

Blanche and Irving Laurie
Chair in Jewish History

Rutgers University

August 23, 2022



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Jewish History from Biblical Times to the Present

“In Search of Ancient Israel: The Historical Roots of the Biblical Narrative”

Thursday, September 15, 2022 (via Zoom)

8:30 p.m. (EDT)

The first lecture in an 8-part series, “Jewish History from Biblical Times to the Present,” organized by a consortium of synagogues across the country.

<https://www.columbiajewish.org/jewish-history-from-biblical-times-to-the-present/>

[N.B.: Additional synagogues will begin to advertise the series, including my talk, but for now, you may already use the link above from a congregation in Columbia, MD.]

Description:

A century and a half of archaeological exploration in Egypt and Israel has revealed more and more information about the origins of ancient Israel. Key elements include: the word ‘Israel’ inscribed on the Merneptah Stele (c. 1210 B.C.E.); an Egyptian papyrus which refers to nomads from southern Canaan settling in the city of Pithom to escape famine in their land; small settlements in the central hill country of Canaan with a striking lack of pig bones; and much more. Join us as Professor Rendsburg weaves all of this documentation together, along with the relevant Biblical texts, in an effort to reconstruct earliest Israel in the historical and archaeological record.

**In Search of Ancient Israel:
The Historical Roots
of the Biblical Narrative**

Gary A. Rendsburg
Blanche and Irving Laurie
Chair in Jewish History
Rutgers University

"Jewish History from Biblical
Times to the Present"
September 15, 2022





Smithsonian

"The Rosetta Stone: A Key to the Past"

Wednesday, September 21, 2022 (via Zoom)

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. (EDT)

Smithsonian Associates (Washington, DC)

<https://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/tickets/rosetta-stone>

Description:

Two hundred years ago, French historian and linguist Jean-Francois Champollion deciphered the hieroglyphics inscribed on a slab of black stone discovered by one of Napoleon's soldiers in Egypt in 1799. Unlike

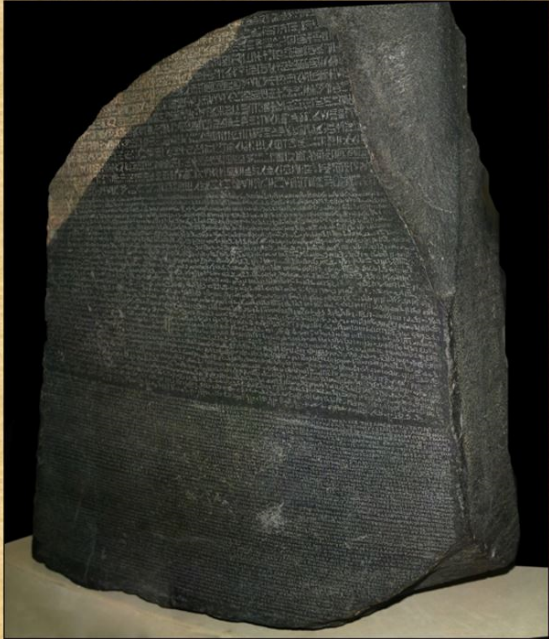
many scholars before him, Champollion finally cracked the code to the enigmatic writing system of the ancient Egyptians.

Historian Gary Rendsburg unfolds the exciting story of the discovery and decipherment of the Rosetta Stone and its inscriptions in ancient Greek, Egyptian demotic, and Egyptian hieroglyphics. He traces its discovery by the French, its installment in London's British Museum, and the efforts to learn its secrets. His account of one of the most important archaeological discoveries of all time fittingly concludes with a basic tutorial on Egyptian hieroglyphics.

**The Rosetta Stone:
A Key to the Past**

Gary A. Rendsburg
Blanche and Irving Laurie
Chair in Jewish History
Rutgers University
September 21, 2022

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The Rosetta Stone is a large, dark, rectangular stone fragment with a rough, weathered surface. It is covered in three columns of ancient inscriptions: hieroglyphs on the left, demotic script in the middle, and ancient Greek on the right. The stone is set against a dark background, and its edges are irregular and broken.

These three lectures may be the final talks of the calendar year 2022 for the following reason.

Later in the autumn, we will embark on six months of sabbatical travel, with extended stays in Israel, Provence, and Rome.

Gary will be teaching both at Bar-Ilan University (Ramat-Gan, Israel) and the Pontifical Biblical Institute (Rome), while in between these two teaching assignments, we will spend several weeks in southern France to explore the rich medieval Jewish history in Provence (Aix, Arles, Avignon, etc.).

Once again, feel free to follow us on Facebook, though hopefully, we will send out the occasional email newsletter just to stay in touch.

Upcoming Conference



“A Holistic Reading of the Abraham Narrative”

Sunday, September 11–Tuesday, September 13, 2022

Andrews University (Berrien Springs, MI)

We remain keenly aware that COVID-19 continues to be present in our society, though we are happy to report that in-person academic gatherings have resumed, gradually and cautiously.

Gary will attend his first academic conference since 2019 when he joins colleagues at Andrews University (Berrien Springs, MI) to participate in “Exploring the Composition of the Pentateuch,” to be held September 11-13, 2022. Gary’s presentation is entitled “A Holistic Reading of the Abraham Narrative.”

The Sunday afternoon and evening sessions are open to the public, while the Monday and Tuesday sessions are for the participants only. If you live in the area and would like to attend, feel free to be in touch.

For those of you who are not aware, Andrews University serves as the flagship university of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church and includes the Seventh-Day Adventist Theological Seminary on its campus.

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GARY'S CORNER



Our 2.5 months at the Getty Villa (Los Angeles) provided excellent opportunities for sustained research in several directions. As reported in our May 2022 email blast, my main research project was entitled, “**The Spread of Phoenician Writing Culture to Ancient Greece.**”

I had the opportunity to present my research at an all-day symposium at the Getty Villa on May 25, 2022, which fortunately was recorded.

The recording is now available on my YouTube channel, with kind permission granted by the Getty

Villa: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNkVsG2FDuo>

The gentleman introducing me is Timothy Potts, director of the J. Paul Getty Museum.

To follow along more easily, feel free to download the pdf version of the PowerPoint presentation here:

<https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/docman/rendsburg/939-spread-of-phoenician-writing-culture-to-ancient-greece>

As implied above, however, there were also other vistas, including the opportunity to inspect the Rothschild Pentateuch, written in Germany in the year 1299 (see photo below).

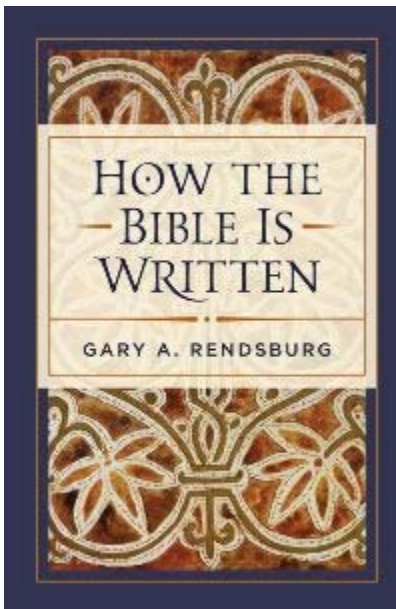
For the history of this precious manuscript and how it arrived at the Getty Center several years ago, see the excellent blog by Elizabeth Morrison, curator of manuscripts:

<https://blogs.getty.edu/iris/an-introduction-to-the-rothschild-pentateuch-an-illuminated-hebrew-masterpiece/>



[Click here to contact Gary A. Rendsburg](#)

[Click here to contact Melissa A. Rendsburg, Managing Director](#)



MOST RECENT BOOK

(April 2019)

How the Bible Is Written

(Hendrickson)

Gary A. Rendsburg Lecture Series

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Department of Jewish Studies – Rutgers University

<https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/people/core-faculty/gary-a-rendsborg>

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