We are pleased to present the fifteenth volume of *Ginzei Qedem*, an annual publication devoted to Genizah texts and studies. *Ginzei Qedem*’s purpose is to provide a specialized venue for the field of Genizah research, in the hope that research on and publication of Genizah texts will, in time, enrich both traditional and academic Jewish studies, as well as Islamic ones.

This volume is dedicated to the blessed memory of Prof. Joel Kraemer, a prominent scholar of Genizah studies and the philosophical thought of the Islamic world.

The volume joins his predecessors in presenting the variety of disciplines in Genizah studies. Menahem Kahana publishes new citations of the lost TannaiticMidrash *Sifre Zuta* on Deuteronomy. Avi Shmidman and Uri Erlich collect publish and analyze, for the very first time, the full corpus of Genizah fragments attesting to the text of the first benediction of the Grace after Meals. Two works by Rav Saadia Gaon are examined here: Tamar Zewi and Amir Ashur examine four early Genizah fragments of Saadya Gaon’s translation of the Pentateuch, most probably during the eleventh century; and Dan Greenberger examine the structure and different Editions of Saadia’s *Book on Prayer Obligation* as well as the relations to *Midrash Agur.*

Two paper dealing with Maimonides. Chanan Ariel publishes new autographs of the draft of Maimonides' *Mishne-Torah, Sefer Mishpatim*. Mordechai Akiva Friedman publishes notes of an anonymous disciple of Maimonides. In his notebook the disciple describes the use of Maimonides the notebooks disciple of Rabbi Joseph ha-Levi Ibn Migash.

Yisrael Malkiel presents a critical edition of a *qedushta* for the *parasha of Shelaḥ Lekha* (Num. 13:1 foll.), and Rachel Hasson devotes an extensive article to survey and classify popular literature from the Firkovitch Collection. Haggai Ben-Shammai publishes a review of the dictionary of Mordechai Akiva Friedman.

Contributions to Ginzei Qedem may be in Hebrew or English. Any substantial quotation in a language other than that in which the article is written must be accompanied by a translation, and articles in Hebrew must be accompanied by an English abstract.

Contributions and queries may be sent by e-mail to the editor at zvi56@ybz.org.il.

“for my teachers who stand behind me.”

An obituary for Professor Joel L. Kraemer

Prof. Joel Kraemer was intimately familiar with the Genizah Collections. He received his Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies from Yale, and taught at the faculties of JTS in New York, Yale, Tel Aviv University, and the University of Chicago. Kraemer was intimately familiar with many fields of scholarship, from Talmud to Islamic philosophy. His distinguished publications in Islamic and Jewish Studies include *The Renaissance of Islam* and *Maimonides: The Life and World of One of Civilization’s Greatest Minds*. A Festschrift in his honour, *Adaptations and Innovations: Studies on the Interaction between Jewish and Islamic Thought and Literature from the Early Middle Ages to the Late Twentieth Century*, appeared in 2007.

Kraemer became a world-renowned scholar in Genizah research. Many of his publications were based on documents from the Genizah. Among the more significant papers are ‘Six Unpublished Maimonides Letters from the Cairo Genizah’, *Maimonidean Studies* 2 (1992: 61­­–94) and ‘Women Speak for Themselves’, in S. C. Reif (ed.), *The Cambridge Genizah Collections: Their Contents and Significance* (2002: 178–216). Some of his works have yet to be published, including *More Precious than Rubies: Women’s Letters from the Cairo Geniza*, which is being completed by Prof. Renée Levine Melammed.

The second work is *Maimonides’ Epistles and Personal Correspondence* (in English translation), which I have been editing. In a muse that Joel wrote for this work I have found the following remark that I believe reveals some of his inner world:

For whom do I write? for my ancestors who kept the tradition, many of whom died because they were descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

for my teachers who stand behind me as I write, critical scholars stern and frowning

He is survived by his wife, Aviva, three daughters from his marriage to the late Roberta Knee – Judith Maisel, Susan Barak, and Sarah Kretsch – and nine grandchildren.

Zvi Stampfer