



Josephus On Trial with Professor Martin Goodman

Thursday 10 January
7.30 - 9pm
£8 | £6 Online early bird

The writings of Josephus are the primary source of our knowledge of Jewish History in the late Second Temple period, but for the last two centuries many Jews have treated his evidence as as tainted because of his political career during and after the Jewish war against Rome, which ended in the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE. The lecture will examine the origins of Jewish hostility to Josephus and the ambivalence of Jewish attitudes to his worth as a historian over the past two centuries.

Jews, Herrings & Medieval Lynn with Professor Judith Olszowy-Schlanger

Thursday 17 January
7.30 - 9pm
£8 | £6 Online early bird

On the basis of a recently discovered legal document in Hebrew from the time of Henry III, the lecture revisits Jewish presence in medieval Lynn.

Judith Olszowy-Schlanger is a French Jewish studies scholar who specialises in medieval Jewish documents. Since September 2018, she has been President of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies at the University of Oxford.

Bringing Maimonides to Oxford: Edward Pococke and Maimonides' Commentary on the Mishnah with Dr Benjamin Williams

Thursday 24 January
7.30 - 9pm
£8 | £6 Online early bird

Edward Pococke (1604-91), Regius Professor of Hebrew and Laudian Professor of Arabic at the University of Oxford, assembled an extraordinary collection of manuscripts during his time in Aleppo and Constantinople. Among his books was a volume of the Commentary on the Mishnah once owned by Maimonides himself. This talk will consider how Pococke acquired copies of Maimonides' works, deciphered their meaning with the guidance of Rabbi Jacob Roman of Constantinople, and published the results of his study.

Jews and Christian read the Mishnah with Dr Piet van Boxel

Thursday 31 January
7.30 - 9pm
£8 | £6 Online early bird

In 1698 the Christian Wilhelmus Surenhusius embarked on a unique undertaking: the publication of the Mishnah with the commentaries of Maimonides and Obadiah of Bartinoro in Latin translation and of a variety of Christian scholars of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Surenhusius created an unprecedented dialogue between Jews and Christians in that readers were able to confront Jewish law through the lens of both Jewish and Christian interpreters. The quintessential Jewish text thus became a focus for religious and historical investigation that transcended denominational boundaries.