

FRMRC Website

The Elazar Benyoëtz' Author's Library

In 2021, Austrian-Israeli aphorist writer Elazar Benyoëtz (*1939 in Wiener Neustadt, Austria) curated a small but essential extract of ca. 600 books from his 10,000-volume personal library, one of the last and largest private book collections in Israel to contain the German-Jewish literary canon. Benyoëtz is one of the initiators of the “Bibliographia Judaica” and the ensuing “Lexikon Deutsch-Jüdischer Autoren”, to date the largest encyclopedia on German-Jewish writers. His library stands at the heart of this project and the selection presented as a gift to the Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center allows for unprecedented research into German-Jewish literature and cultural history.

The Benyoëtz 'Author's Library consists of (1) *all of Benyoëtz's own publications* in both German and Hebrew, including (2) *publications in other volumes and translations of his work*. Section (3) contains works of *research literature* that represent the critical discourse on his work and life. Section (4) contains volumes with *signed dedications* that allow access to his social network and literary alliances. Section (5) contains contextual *literature*, that is to say books that were chosen by Benyoëtz due to their influential nature upon his own writing. All sections contain literature in German and Hebrew, as well as in other languages.

Characteristic for Benyoëtz's author's library is the use of books as clusters for collecting materials connected to the author or subject of the book. Along with his reading traces, his marginalia, these paraphernalia form an intrinsic part of this collection. Most of this archival material is related to Benyoëtz's bio-bibliographical research conducted in the framework of the Bibliographia Judaica and is, therefore, an indispensable, albeit geographically dislocated part of the Archiv Bibliographica Judaica. This material was catalogued in the following order:

I. General Paraphernalia

I.1: In Hebrew

I.2: In German

II. Paraphernalia concerning Benyoëtz

II.1 In Hebrew

II.2 Advertisements and Events

II.3 “Sahadutha”

III. Personal Convolutes

III.1 Renate Heuer / Bibliographia Judaica

III.2 Hugo Bergmann

III.3 Max Brod

III.4 Paul Engelmann

III.5 Else Lasker-Schüler

III.6 Margarete Susman

III.7 Max Zweig

For a complete bibliographical list of the author’s library, see the catalogue of the Hebrew University Library on Campus Mt. Scopus: [[link](#)]

For a complete bibliographical list of Benyoëtz’s own publications in his author’s library, see the catalogue of the Hebrew University Library on Campus Mt. Scopus: [[link](#)]

Location and Contact:

The library is located in the Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on Mount Scopus, in the Rabin Building, Room 3205. For scheduling visits, please write to: rosenzweig@mail.huji.ac.il, or call: +972.2.5881909

Publications:

Jan Kühne, Anna Rosa Schlechter: “A Self-Portrait in Books’ — Reflections on the Aphoristic Library of Elazar Benyoëtz”. In: Naharaim, 16.1 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1515/naha-2022-0004>

Jan Kühne, Anna Rosa Schlechter: „Bücherblühen. Anfänge aphoristischer Autorenschaft bei Elazar Benyoëtz”. In: Judaica. Neue Digitale Folge (2022) [forthcoming online and in print].

Jan Kühne, Anna Rosa Schlechter: „Anthologia Judaica“ – Zur hebräischen Vorgeschichte der Bibliographia Judaica in Leben und Werk von Elazar Benyoëtz. In: Dieter Burdorf, Julia Brauch (eds.): Archiv Bibliographia Judaica – Deutschsprachiges Judentum online” (2022) [forthcoming online and in print].