



תוכנית מסכת ש"ס

P R O G R A M I N

JEWISH
LANGUAGES,
CULTURE,
TEXTS
AND ARCHIVES



RUSSIAN
STATE
UNIVERSITY
FOR THE HUMANITIES

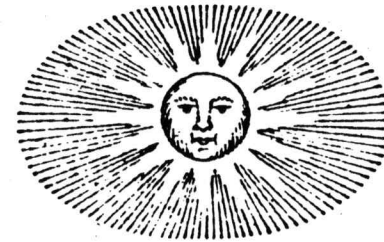


JEWISH
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY
OF AMERICA



YIVO INSTITUTE
FOR JEWISH
RESEARCH

The Russian State University for the Humanities is the first institution of its kind in Russia where a renaissance of Jewish learning, the study of the language, history and culture of the Jewish people, has been rekindled after more than half a century of silence.



In 1991, RSUH together with the most prestigious American centers for Jewish studies and research - the Jewish Theological Seminary of American and the YIVO Center for Jewish Research (New York) - started Project Judaica, a joint effort based in the Historico-Archival Institute under the name "Jewish Languages, Culture, Texts and Archives". In 1993, a program in the Historico-Philological Department of the university was launched called "Jewish History, Literature and Languages."

The goal of Project Judaica is the training of Russian specialists in the areas of Jewish history and the culture of the Jewish people.

The curriculum was specially prepared for RSUH at major universities in the United States and Israel. Along with other history and philology courses as well as special archival and other disciplines, the curriculum is also devoted to different aspects of Jewish studies, for example:

History of the Jewish people
from ancient times to the present
History of the Jews in Eastern
Europe, Russia and the USSR
Jewish Historiography and the
History of Jewish Philology
Introduction to the Bible
(Old Testament)
Jewish literature of Antiquity
and the Middle Ages (Midrash,
Talmud and rabbinical exegesis)
Modern Hebrew Literature
Yiddish Literature
Jewish Philosophy
Biblical Hebrew
Modern Hebrew
Yiddish language

The majority of courses are conducted in English.

The program also consists of hands-on work in archives and libraries which have a large amount of precious documents related to Jewish history and culture. The students receive their training in the major archival centers of Moscow (RKHIDNI, GARF, RGALI, RGADA), Saint-Petersburg (RAN Library, RPB), Kiev (Vernadski Library of the Ukraine) and Vilnius (Government Library of Lithuania).

Every year Project Judaica organizes a student conference on topics in Jewish history and literature. Students from different universities around Moscow and from other cities in the CIS participate. Our students also take part in conferences sponsored by other universities, such as the Center for the University Teaching of Judaica (SEFER) and the Jewish University of Saint Petersburg. The best students' papers are published in local journals.

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In the course of their studies, third year students who have excelled academically in the first years of the program have the opportunity to participate in a semester of study in New York or Jerusalem. They take courses at J TSA (New York) or at the Seminary's affiliate in Jerusalem, the Seminary for Judaic Studies. In addition, the students participate in practical hands-on work in archives or manuscript divisions of museums and libraries. In New York, this includes the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. In Israel, the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, Hebrew University's Center for Research and Documentation of East European Jewry and the Diaspora Museum.

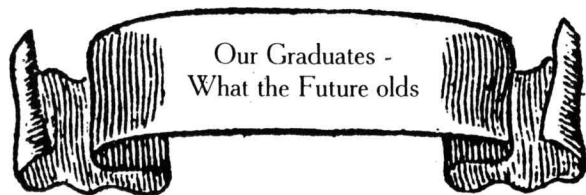
The final stage of studies includes the writing of a thesis paper on a theme related to Jewish history, literature, culture or philological analysis of Hebrew and Yiddish. The paper must represent a work of the student's original thought and independent research and must be grounded in the theoretical course work materials and work with manuscripts in the archives. The thesis paper must also meet the requirements of the department within the framework of which it is written. Thesis papers are defended before the Government Examinational Committee, whose membership includes representatives from America. After successfully defending their thesis, graduates receive their governmentally approved RSUH diplomas (specialist/archivist or his-

torian/philologist with a concentration in Jewish History and Jewish Archival Science), as well as a certificate from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.



The program is a joint teaching effort, with participants from Russia as well as professors from the most prestigious universities in America, Israel and Europe.

Teaching in the program affords the professor a rare opportunity to spend time in Russia and to share their precious knowledge with our students. In the five years of its existence, over 30 foreign faculty have worked at RSUH through our program, among them world specialists in Bible, Jewish philosophy, literature, history. Many of our foreign guests have given lectures at RSUH on their specialized themes, for the staff of the university and the community at large. From the class lectures, professors have helped us to prepare a textbook which should be ready for publication by the middle of 1996.



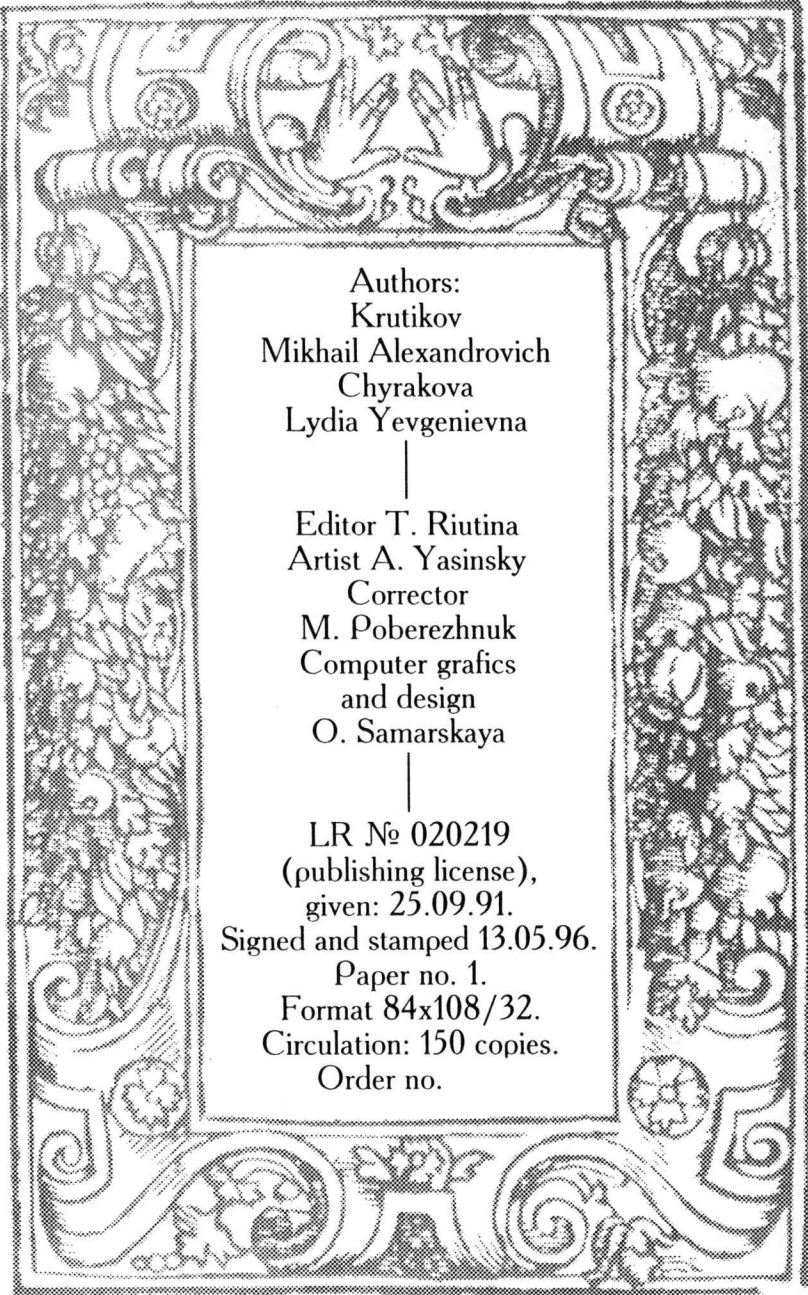
The graduates of Project Judaica receive a unique education in the humanities, a combination of knowledge of overall trends and themes in history and philology with special emphasis on Judaica. They have mastered three languages in their course of study - English, Hebrew and Yiddish and also know how to work with manuscripts in archives around the world. The fact that they have made contacts with specialists in Judaica through their studies in Moscow and abroad plays a significant role in their continuing studies and future endeavors. The graduates are also invited to teach Jewish history and literature, Hebrew and Yiddish in high schools and colleges throughout Moscow, and receive invitations to participate in cultural and community activities. The Jewish Theological Seminary of America has opened a special graduate program to support those students wanting to continue their studies in Judaica.



Those who wish to join the Project Judaica program entitled "Jewish Languages, Culture, Texts and Archives" in the Department of Archival Studies, or in the program in the Historico-Philological Department ("Jewish History, Literature and Languages") are encouraged to apply to RSUH in the department of their choice and to take the entrance examinations in Russian literature, Russian history and English language. Those applicants who pass the exams successfully will be invited for an interview and are taken into the program based on entrance examination grades and the results of the interview.

Auditors are accepted into the program based on the interview alone. They attend all course lectures and must fulfill all course requirements. Auditors also participate in the archival and library summer apprenticeships, and the semester abroad if they prove themselves academically. Auditors receive a special certificate from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

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