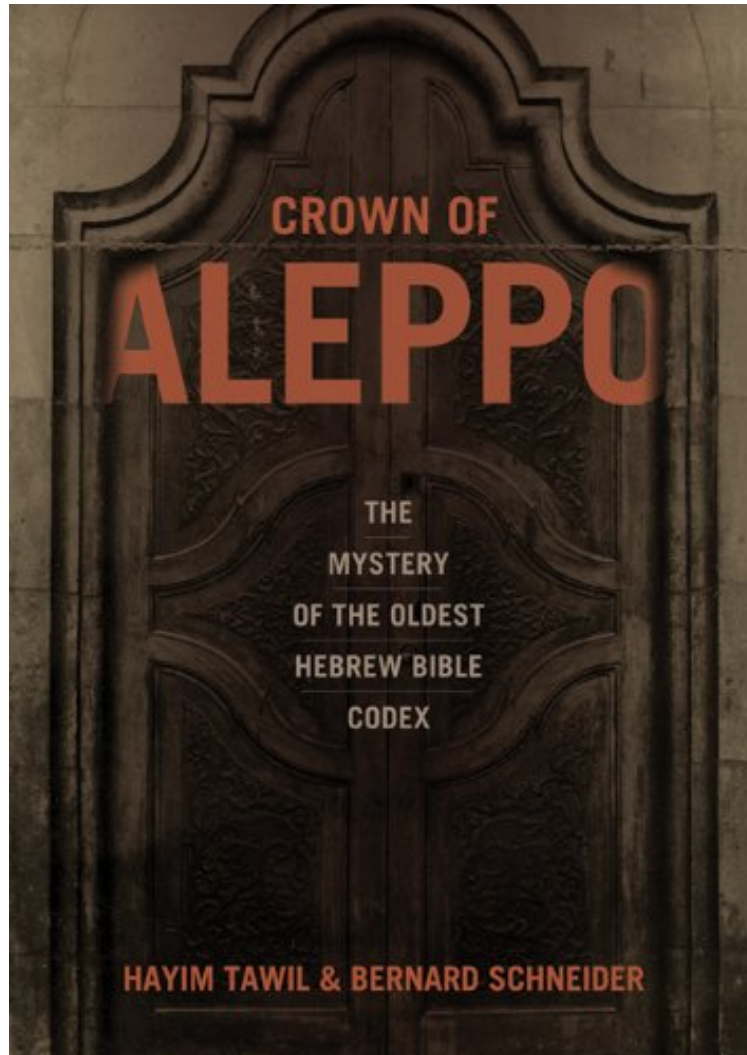


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Crown of Aleppo: The Mystery of the Oldest Hebrew Bible Codex

Hayim Tawil, Bernard Schneider

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Hayim Tawil, Bernard Schneider : Crown of Aleppo: The Mystery of the Oldest Hebrew Bible Codex before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crown of Aleppo: The Mystery of the Oldest Hebrew Bible Codex:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loved it! By Frank I thoroughly enjoyed this though provoking journey. Would recommend it to any one who wants a sense of history and content of the character of the participants in the story. It let me to the Crown. Effie 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Montana This book is fascinating. I am still absorbing it. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Dramatic True Story of a Priceless Bible's Survival Will Interest All Readers By David Crumm This fascinating, illustrated book from the Jewish Publication Society will fascinate Jews and non-Jews as well. Illustrated with dozens of photos that bring this

dramatic and mysterious history to life, "Crown of Aleppo" is a survival story about one of the world's most valuable Bibles. This particular Bible was created more than 1,000 years ago and is widely believed to be the oldest Hebrew Bible in book form in the world. This particular Bible is called "Crown of Aleppo," because it was famous for centuries as a prized possession of the Jewish community in Aleppo, Syria. In the Medieval era, scholars from many parts of the world traveled to consult this book, which is often called the "Aleppo Codex," these days. The word "codex" is Latin for "book," a volume of bound pages as opposed to a scroll. First, "Crown of Aleppo" is a dramatic story of cliff-hanger incidents as the priceless Bible nearly was lost in a tragic pogrom against Aleppo's Jewish community in late 1947. Families, businesses and the Great Synagogue all were targets of these deadly attacks. One report indicates the synagogue burned so intensely because it was assaulted by men spraying benzene, rather than water, on the flames. The blaze was so intense that it roared around the metal safe designed to protect the most valuable manuscripts. As news of the attacks spread around the world, most people assumed that the Crown was gone. Miraculously, it seems, most of the Crown was saved. Hundreds of pages somehow survived the fire and were plucked from the debris. Many pages are gone. Some missing pages turned up later. The new book gives us various perspectives on what might have happened, including a number of first-hand accounts of what unfolded right after the fire. In addition to the high drama, the book explains why the Crown was such a milestone in Hebrew Bible scholarship. Among other things, it is the earliest codex with a complex series of markings to show how the Hebrew should be pronounced and chanted. The famous Jewish teacher Maimonides may have personally studied this volume-- but you'll have to read "Crown of Aleppo" to find out if that claim is true. The crossover interest among non-Jewish readers is pretty obvious. This new book not only shares a gripping story of survival and preservation, but it also explains a lot about how our modern Bibles were preserved through the millennia.

Thanks to this generous donor for making the publication of this book possible: Jack B. Dweck. The history and dramatic rescue of the oldest Hebrew Bible in book form In Crown of Aleppo, Hayim Tawil and Bernard Schneider tell the incredible story of the survival, against all odds, of the Aleppo Codex one of the most authoritative and accurate traditional Masoretic texts of the Bible. Completed circa 939 in Tiberias, the Crown was created by exacting Tiberian scribes who copied the entire Bible into book form, adding annotations, vowel and cantillation marks, and precise commentary. Praised by Torah scholars for centuries after its writing, the Crown passed through history until the 15th century when it was housed in the Great Synagogue of Aleppo, Syria. When the synagogue was burned in the 1947 pogrom, the codex was thought to be destroyed, lost forever. That is where its great mystery begins. Miraculously, a significant portion of the Crown of Aleppo survived the fire and was smuggled from the synagogue ruins to an unknown location presumably within the Aleppan Jewish community. Ten years later, the surviving pages of the codex were secretly brought to Israel and finally moved to their current location in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. This wonderfully rich book contains more than 50 rare photographs and maps, some in full color, including those of the Aleppo Codex, the Great Synagogue of Aleppo, and of the people who played a part in its rescue.

From Publishers Weekly In this fascinating and comprehensive investigation into the Aleppo Codex, scholars Tawil and Schneider vividly recreate the history of this rare and eminently significant text and track its intriguing any tragic course through time. Through their analysis of its authorship in then 10th century; insights into its association with medieval and modern biblical luminaries; pointed questions regarding its partial destruction; and rare photographs, the authors convey both the spiritual and material significance of what many call simply the Crown. As the most authoritative rendering of the Torah, the Crown's maintenance and survival was vital, yet its transfer from place to place over the centuries has almost always been shrouded in mystery. During its 500-year stay in Aleppo, Syria, under the superstitious and watchful eye of the Jewish community there, only a handful of religious scholars were permitted to view the sacred codex, reflecting an unfortunate reality since pogroms in the 1940s destroyed substantial portions of the text. This highly readable and intriguing account will captivate readers both familiar and unfamiliar with the history of the Crown. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. All in all, although the book is small, it contains a wealth of information that people kissing and otherwise extolling the Torah should know. Jewish Eye