

THE HISTORY OF JEWISH LANGUAGES

March 26, 2009
4 p.m.
Linthicum 011

Around the world, wherever Jews have lived, they have spoken somewhat differently from their neighbors around them. Their languages have differed by as little as the addition of a few Hebrew words or by so much that they are largely unintelligible to outsiders.



In a public lecture Dr. Benjamin Hary, Associate Professor of Hebrew, Arabic and Linguistics at Emory University, will explore the spectrum of Jewish linguistic practice, including languages such as Judeo-Arabic, Yiddish and Judeo-Spanish, as well as "Jewish English." He will trace the historical development of these languages, which he terms "religiolects" and examine the various typological characteristics shared by Jewish languages, including the literary genre of verbatim translations of sacred Hebrew and

Aramaic texts (such as the Bible or Passover Haggadah) into Jewish languages. On display will be several different Haggadot in various Jewish languages as well as sounds recordings from different Jewish communities.

For more information contact:
Kimberly Katz, kkatz@towson.edu
or Jerzy Mazur, JMazur@towson.edu
in the Department of History

Sponsored by the Department of History and the
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts

