GENERAL INFORMATION

The Schneerson collection at the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center in Moscow includes significant and once inaccessible portion of the famous library of the Lubavitcher Rebbes. The founder of Chabad movement, a leading branch of Hasidism (founded in the late 18th – early 19th century), and the first Lubavitcher Rebbe – R. Shneur Zalman of Lyady (Alter Rebbe) – started to collect books for the library. Several generations of his descendants continued this work. During the First World War, in 1915, R. Shalom Dov Ber (the fifth Lubavitcher Rebbe, 1860–1920) with his son, R. Yosef Yitzhak (the sixth Lubavitcher Rebbe, 1880–1950) fleeing from the approaching German troops moved both their private library and the library of the Chabad yeshiva Tomkhei Tmimim from their residence in Lubavitch to a safe storage in Moscow. After the 1917 Russian revolution, the Bolshevik regime nationalized all private libraries containing more than 500 volumes. Thus, the Schneersons' library became a state property and was deposited to the Lenin State Library (today's Russian State Library).

In 1922 R. Yosef Yitzhak Schneerson attempted to recover his library, claiming that it's essential for his studies. However, this attempt was unsuccessful. In the 1990s and 2000s the followers of the Chabad movement led by R. Menachem Mendel Schneerson (the seventh Lubavitcher Rebbe, 1902–1994) put a lot of time and energy in order to resolve the issue. Finally, in 2013 it was agreed that the library, now called the Schneerson collection, a special branch of the Russian State Library, was moved to the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center in Moscow.

While at the Russian State Library's main repository the Schneersons' books were mixed with other volumes. During his visit to Russia in 2000, R. Shalom Dov Ber Levin, the head of the Chabad Library in New York, identified books once belonging to R. Yosef Yitzhak Schneerson in the Russian State Library. It was easy to determine ownership of those books marked by Hebrew letters Yud-Shin (Yosef Schneerson) on the cover, bookplates and inscriptions. However, the ownership of many unmarked volumes in the Schneerson collection is still under question.

The collection contains about 4,500 volumes, mostly in Hebrew and in other Jewish and non-Jewish languages, including Yiddish, Ladino, and German. Schneerson collection's thematic scope, reflecting broad interests of Chabad spans Hebrew Bible, Jewish religious law, theology, and Hasidism, as well as philosophy and Haskalah (the Jewish enlightenment), such as the first edition of Mose Mendelssohn's Biur (Berlin, 1783).

EXHIBITIONS

In cooperation with Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center, Museum of Jewish History in Russia, State Historical Museum, and others, the Schneerson collection holds regular thematic exhibitions aimed at publicizing the collection's materials as indispensable resource for scholars and cultural treasure for general public. The collection remained uncataloged for several decades. Now when our cataloging work is well under way, we make fascinating discoveries and encounter unique books on daily basis, so we are eager to introduce these materials to the public. We seek to make book exhibitions accessible to a wide spectrum of visitors ranging from professional researchers to unprepared general public. Broad commentary about Jewish religion, history, and culture complements book exhibits, putting them into the larger context of Jewish civilization.

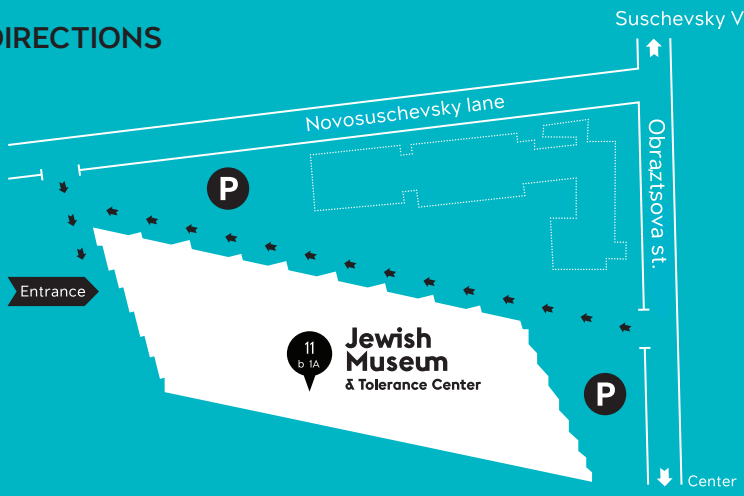


Jewish Museum & Tolerance Center

SCHNEERSON COLLECTION

РОССИЙСКАЯ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННАЯ БИБЛИОТЕКА

DIRECTIONS



From Dostoevskaya Metro Station
Exit to Seleznevskaya st. Up the street towards Institutsky pereulok and then towards Obraztsova street. Turn right and walk further till Novosuschevsky pereulok and then turn left.

From Novoslobodskaya Metro Station
Exit to Seleznevskaya st. Take tram № 19, MIIT (Moscow State University of Railway Engineering) Culture Center and the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center bus stop.

From Maryina Roscha Metro Station
Exit to Suschevsky val st. Walk towards Obraztsova street and then turn left. Then walk further towards Novosuschevsky pereulok and turn left.

Jewish Museum & Tolerance Center

Sun - Thu 12:00 - 22:00
Fri 10:00 - 15:00
Saturday and Jewish holidays are days off.

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E. scnheerson.collection@gmail.com
www.jewish-museum.ru/libraries/schneerson-library/
www.facebook.com/schneerson.collection/

CATALOGING

In November 2013, Russian State Library together with Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center launched the project on cataloging Schneerson collection. Presently, the catalog is almost completed and is available through the Russian State Library web site at http://rsl.ru. In addition to general bibliographic data, each catalogue entry includes information about marginal notes, owners' records and stamps.

DIGITALIZATION

Digitalization is a substantial part of the Schneerson's collection project aimed at introducing its materials to public and to scholars, both in Russia and abroad. For many years the collection remained inaccessible to researchers, so now no effort is to be spared. Presently, most books from the Schneerson collection are scanned and available through the Russian State Library website at http://rsl.ru for free, without any special access terms.

Schneerson collection