

George A. Smathers Libraries exhibit rare Haggadot

GAINESVILLE, Fla. - The George A. Smathers Libraries will present an exhibition of rare and scarce Haggadot from the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica. On view from January 21 through March 18, 2014, *Haggadah: why is this book different?* tells the story of how a Jewish text compiled in antiquity was adapted and reproduced over time and around the world. The exhibition will highlight the many ways in which the core Haggadah text, with its Passover rituals, blessings, prayers and Exodus narrative, was supplemented by songs, commentary and rich illuminations to reflect and respond to each unique period and circumstance in which the Jewish diaspora found itself.

Unique items presented in the exhibition include a meticulously detailed facsimile of the Barcelona Haggadah from the 14th century, a 1918 Haggadah from Odessa, Ukraine, the last Haggadah produced before Soviet censorship, and a Haggadah recently produced by the Jewish community of Jacksonville in remembrance of the Holocaust.

Haggadah: why is this book different? is curated by Rebecca Jefferson, Head of the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica.

The Smathers Library Gallery is located on the second floor of the Smathers Library on the University of Florida campus. Hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., unless otherwise specified and with occasional exceptions for maintenance. All exhibitions are open to the public and free of charge.