UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

Editorial

Wallet, B.

DOI
10.5117/SR2021.2.001.EDIT
Publication date
2021
Document Version
Final published version
Published in
Studia Rosenthaliana

License
CC BY-NC

Link to publication

Citation for published version (APA):
Wallet, B. (2021). Editorial. *Studia Rosenthaliana*, *47*(2), 115-116. https://doi.org/10.5117/SR2021.2.001.EDIT

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, P.O. Box 19185, 1000 GD Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

UvA-DARE is a service provided by the library of the University of Amsterdam (https://dare.uva.nl)

Download date:10 Nov 2026

Amsterdam University Press

STUDIA ROSENTHALIANA 47.2 (2021) 115-116
HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.5117/SR2021.2.001.EDIT

Editorial

The objective of academic journals is to present new scholarship that is methodologically and theoretically sound and based on solid research. From its start in 1967, *Studia Rosenthaliana* has chosen to include, next to research articles proper, at least one more academic genre: the presentation of edited sources. For decades the journal included seventeenth-century notarial deeds from the Amsterdam City Archives documenting the economic networks of the city's Portuguese Jews. In doing so the journal picked up on a nineteenth-century historicist tradition, much favoured by the *Wissenschaft des Judentums*, to dig up relevant documents and archival records and present them with an introduction and annotations. The selected notarial deeds have since found their way into scholarship on the Amsterdam Sephardim and their trans-Atlantic networks.

The relaunch of *Studia Rosenthaliana* as an open access journal provides us with new opportunities. Thanks to extensive levels of digitization, vastly growing numbers of archival sources are being made public to the wider academic community. The Amsterdam City Archives have taken on a pioneering role in this process, not only by providing myriad scans of records, but also by working with HTR software. Thanks to AI-powered text recognition, handwritten material can now be transcribed and searched. Other relevant collections that contain materials on the history of Dutch Jewry, such as the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana and the Ets Haim Library, are likewise making great efforts to digitize their material.

What may be the role of an academic journal such as *Studia Rosenthaliana* in this rapidly changing archival landscape? The need for publishing serial archival documents today is less urgent, given the enhanced access to scans. This does not mean, however, that academic journals no longer have a role in making archival material accessible. On the contrary, a digital open access journal should offer new venues for bringing primary sources to the fore. For this reason, *Studia Rosenthaliana* has started a new recurring rubric in which archives, thematically selected sources and collections are presented. As overwhelming amounts of material are, or soon will be digitally available, it aims to introduce these to the wider academic community. This is especially relevant for corpora that are scattered over various collections and can now digitally be brought together. By providing a thematic and

© Editors
[This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the CC BY-NC 4.0 license]

analytical introduction to the corpus, plus links to the sources themselves, we wish to encourage and enable scholars to include them in their research.

In this issue we present a short analysis and introduction to the 948 responsa written by rabbinical candidates of the Ets Haim seminary between 1728 and 1808. These responsa, as Daniel Frances rightly observes, are important sources for studying the history of the Amsterdam Sephardim. They document the rabbinic culture, halakhic frameworks and social and cultural outlook of the community. The links to the responsa will enable anyone interested to study this rich source of varied information. Next to the responsa collection, this issue also brings an edition and English translation of a rare early modern Sephardic egodocument, Abraham Pelengrino's *Vida*, introduced and translated by Alexander van der Haven and Ronnie Perelis. We invite scholars who have access to similar documents to consider sharing them via *Studia Rosenthaliana*'s new rubric.