Unpacking ḤaBaD History from ḤaBaD Theological Manuscripts: An examination of ḤaBaD Hasidic Manuscripts from the Gaster Hebrew collection of the John Rylands Library

By Israel M. Sandman

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Are all 18 Rylands Hasidic manuscripts from a single library – that of Rabbi Hayyim Jacob Rashal?

Out of those I’ve worked on, MSS Gaster Hebrew 1344, 1346, 1347, 1352, 1354, 1356 are explicitly so.

Several clearly have names of other owners. Did they then pass into the library of Rashal? If not, how did they arrive in this group?

How does this collection compare with overall trends?

Which writing is by: owner; contractor; scribes?

(types of writing: main texts; notes on copying; notes on collation, and corrections; notes on work orders; notes on ownership)
חִיִּים עָקַב רֵשֶׁל

וּזָלֵה.
Yankel (= Jacob) Shmuelov (= son of Samuel)
RASHAL
RIGA, BOULEVARD НАСЛ. (= NASL.) No. 25, apt. 2

John Rylands Library, MS Gaster Hebrew 1344
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HaBaD – Lubavitch Dynasty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Founder: Rabbi Shneur Zalman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Rabbi Dov Ber of Lubavitch (son of 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Rabbi Menachem Mendel (Grandson of 1; son-in-law &amp; nephew of 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Rabbi Samuel (youngest son of 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Rabbi Shalom Dov Ber (middle son of 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Rabbi Joseph Isaac (son of 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Brooklyn, NY (son-in-law of 6; direct descendant of 3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inclusive stance towards various branches of ḤaBaD, and towards various teachers within ḤaBaD

From the Rylands manuscripts:
Many discourses by Rabbi Shneur Zalman, ‘Our Great Rabbi’ (Founder of ḤaBaD)

Discourses by Rabbi Dov Ber (Generation 2 of ḤaBaD, son of Rabbi Shneur Zalman)

MS 1354 (Rashal): entirely discoursed by Rabbi Aaron ha-Levi Horowitz of Staroselye (Generation 2 of ḤaBaD, elder disciple of Rabbi Shneur Zalman)

MS 1344 (Rashal): discourse by Rabbi Hillel of Paritch (Generation 3 of ḤaBaD, disciple of Rabbi Dov Ber)

Most MSS: Most discourses by Rabbi Menachem Mendel, author of Tzemach Tzedeq (Generation 3 of ḤaBaD, Grandson of Rabbi Shneur Zalman, Son-in-law / Nephew of Rabbi Dov Ber)

MS 1346 (& elsewhere) (Rashal): discourses & series of discourses by Rabbi Samuel of Lubavitch (Generation 4 of ḤaBaD, youngest son of Tzemach Tzedeq)

MS 1347 (Rashal): Rabbi Isaac Dov Ber of Lyady (Generation 5 of ḤaBaD, son of Rabbi Hayyim Shneur Zalman of Lyady, a middle son of Tzemach Tzedeq)

External evidence:
Letters between Rashal and Rabbi Shalom Dov Ber of Lubavitch (Generation 5 of ḤaBaD, son of Rabbi Samuel of Lubavitch)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rabbi</th>
<th>Key</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R. Judah Leib - Kopust</td>
<td>R. Hayyim Shneur Zalman - Lyady</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Shalom Dov Ber - Retzitza</td>
<td>R. Israel Noah – Niezhin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Solomon Zalman</td>
<td>R. Joseph Isaac – Avrutch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Isaac Dov Ber – Lyady</td>
<td>R. Samuel – Lubavitch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key: Black on Yellow = attested in the Rylands Manuscripts; Blue on Green = attested in letters, but not in the Rylands manuscripts; White on Grey = not attested.
Ordering Manuscripts
Who decided what to copy?
Who collated the manuscripts, checking them against other copies?
total of 276 pages (x) 5
(maybe: at a rate of 5 ___
per page) = 13,80 ??.
Here and following: MS Gaster 1348, multiple hands
 Meghan 1348, f. 54a

העתק מד''י הריש''ל ז''ל ומק'' במק'' ז''ל
Who corrected the date of the discourse?
MS 1354, f. 5
כד"ה של מחסום חנן

א ק"ת 1 פסוק 27: ילך אתencil פן יימשך

ברש"ח כתוב לפי המבואר ושיטות

MS 1347, f. 347a