

Primary Source Exploration (15 min)

I. Postcard



Source: Rhodes Jewish Museum. Image courtesy of Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood of America and University of Washington Sephardic Studies Program

A postcard written in Solitreo (a cursive form of Hebrew, used by Sephardi communities writing in Ladino) sent from the Island of Rhodes to a family in the United States. In Ladino, it reads "Kon este vapor parto el 12 de Desember," which means, "I am leaving on this steam ship on December 12."

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2. Language Book Cover

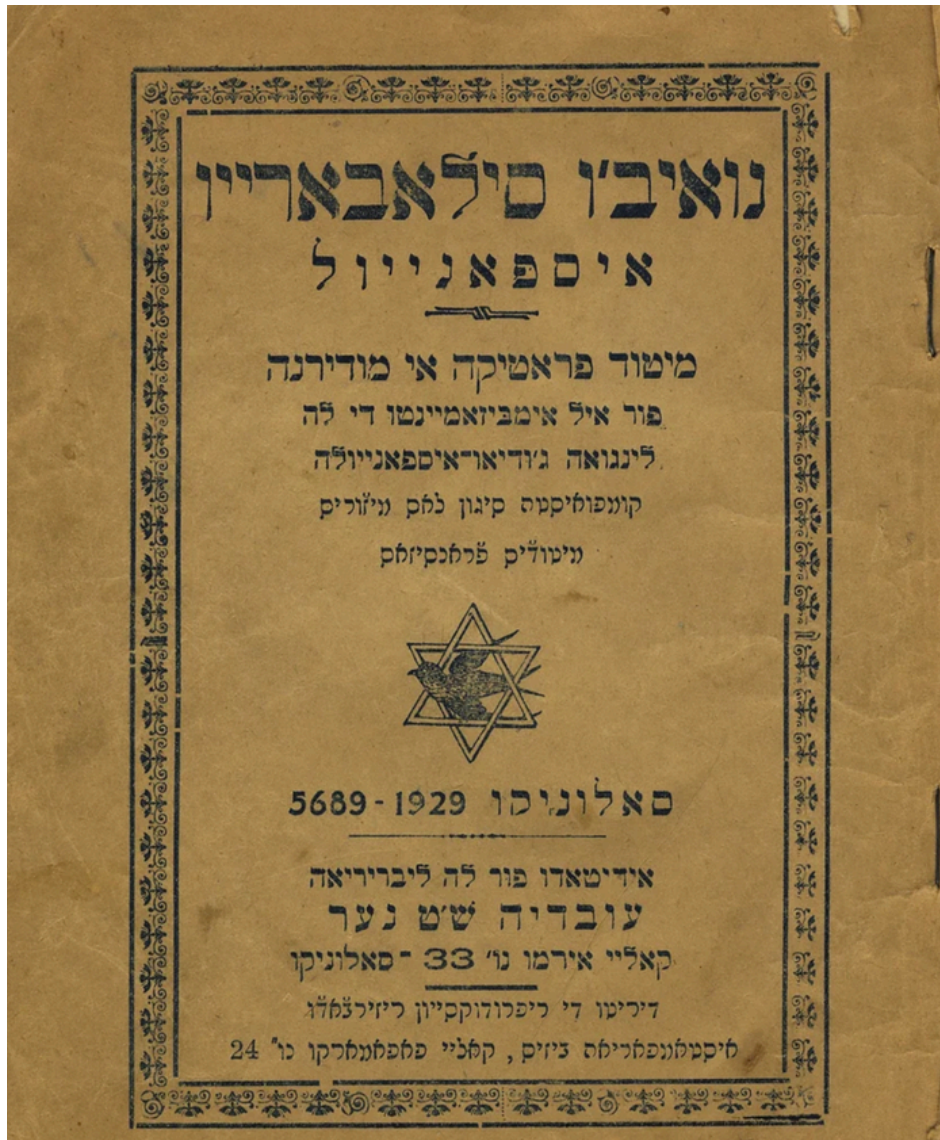


Image courtesy of Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood of American and University of Washington Sephardic Studies Program, from the collection of Isaac Azose (ST 006).

This book was published in Salonica in 1929, or the Hebrew Year 5689. The title is: "Nuevo Silabario Espanyol, metod pratika i moderna por el embezamiento de la lingua Djudeo-Espanyola, kompuesta segun las mijores metodas fransezas," which translates as, "New Spanish Syllabary, the practical and modern method for learning the language of Judeo-Spanish [Ladino], composed according to the best French methods."

Primary Source Exploration (15 min)**3. Word: desmazalado**

DESMAZALADO

The Ladino word *desmazalado*, meaning “unlucky”, demonstrates how Ladino mixes Hebrew words into a primarily Spanish structure. The Hebrew word *mazal* (luck) is given the Spanish prefix *des-* (un-) and the Spanish suffix *-ado* (having a trait).

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4. Phrase: “kaminos de leche i miel”



To wish someone a good journey in Ladino (Judeo-Spanish), you can say **kaminos de leche i miel**, "ways/roads of milk and honey." This refers to the biblical Hebrew description of the holy land as **eretz zavat halav udvash**, אֶרֶץ זָבַת חֶלֶב וּדְבַשׁ ("a land flowing with milk and honey"). In both languages, the phrase conveys the sweet promise of a different place.

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