

ISRAEL'S MESSENGER ONLINE



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Israel's Messenger was the organ of the Shanghai Zionist Association, set up by the industrialist N.E.B. Ezra in 1903. Under an ornate masthead, the Messenger set out its stall as 'A fearless exponent of traditional Judaism and Jewish Nationalism'. The inner masthead for 3 May 1929 was equally uncompromising, describing *Israel's Messenger* as "A Jewish Paper devoted to the interests of Jews and Judaism in the Far East".

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This fully text-searchable holding of *Israel's Messenger*, (in Chinese *Youtai Yuebao*), 1904-1941, is a core resource for Asian Studies, with a particular emphasis on the Jewish community in Shanghai. Shanghai Jewry occupied near-outsider status within the Foreign Settlement. Influential commercial and political circles around the Sassoon and the Ezra families were closely attuned to the political agenda of nationalist China and well-entrenched in key committees of the Foreign Settlements. Due to financial constraints, publication was suspended February 1910 - September 1918. This edition is therefore the most complete available.

conveys the interests and positions of the international community in enabling the establishment of a Jewish homeland. The differing sympathies of neighboring Japan, of the Ottoman Empire, the US, France, and an increasingly engaged Britain, and the consequences of these nations' growing acceptance of the Zionist ideal for the political and social position of Shanghai Jewry and the political economy of Zionism are debated in zealous detail. The debate is conducted not only by Shanghai Jews but also by commentators around the world. *Israel's Messenger* thereby constitutes the indispensable journal of record for both Asianists and scholars of Jewish Studies in the first half of the 20th century.

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