

STEPHANIE P. LEDGIN
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PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Freelance Journalist, Photographer, Editor, Publicist (1975-present)

Author of three books, plus a curriculum-based manual. In addition to managerial editing positions, magazine and newspaper credits include in-depth articles, interviews, reviews and photos published in the United States and Europe. Other book credits consist of photos, chapter contributions and editing. Front cover, back cover and tray photos as well as liner notes comprise work for various record labels. A major traveling photographic exhibition was shown around the country for three consecutive years, followed by another decade of occasional limited exhibitions. Publicity and promotional materials written, designed and developed include press releases, complete artist promotion packets, brochures, flyers, ads and festival program books.

Director, New Jersey Folk Festival/Lecturer, American Studies Dept., Rutgers University, (1994-2003)

An annual free, not-for-profit community event, the New Jersey Folk Festival is produced by the American Studies Department at Rutgers. I was the lead instructor for a dozen hand-selected undergraduate students who comprised an internship-like class via which they learned the mechanics of and subsequently implemented the festival. Course work encompassed folk music, craft and food traditions, leadership skills for women, including written and verbal communication, assertiveness training, teamwork, organizational and time management skills, plus publicity writing, graphics, stage management, contracts, financial record keeping and other tools and knowledge required to manage a large-scale event. Each student had a specific role in one of three management areas: vendors/administration, publicity, performance. During my tenure, I "grew" the festival to encompass four stages operating during the eight-hour day, resulting in a total of 25+ hours of music, dance and workshops, in addition to a juried 100-booth craft market, two dozen multi-cultural food vendors, a heritage craft demonstration tent, a folk music marketplace and a children's activities area. The students followed a detailed 300-page "how to" manual, which I compiled/created to carry out their specific responsibilities, from pre-semester festival planning to post-festival critique. This was the primary textbook for the course as of 2002. The 2002 festival drew record-breaking crowds estimated at more than 18,000.

Creator / Publisher / Editor, The Traditional MusicLine, New Brunswick NJ (1987-2004)

The Traditional MusicLine was a comprehensive monthly concert appearance (print) calendar publicizing acoustic music events throughout the Northeast region. It served as the premier go-to source in the primarily pre-digital era. Annually, *TML MusicPages*, a regional master directory of venues, radio programs and folk organizations was published as companion to the calendar.

Artist Manager / Booking Agent / Publicist, Beppe Gambetta (1989-1999)

Italian Beppe Gambetta is a world-renowned acoustic guitarist whose career I developed, managed and brought to the fore on North American stages for ten years. In addition to creating his promotional and publicity materials, I arranged all his concert, festival, and media appearances in the United States and Canada. Furthermore, I negotiated and secured his earliest recording and video contracts.

Booking Representative / Publicist, Various Artists (1983-2013)

Throughout the eighties, I did freelance bookings into clubs and festivals for such groups as The Bluegrass Band, John Herald Band, Walt Michael and Company, Kentucky Roots, others. For a handful of years in the nineties, I was the primary U.S. booking agent for John Kirk & Trish Miller, Druhá Tráva (Czech Republic), Mac Benford's Woodshed All-Stars, and Radim Zenkl, for all of whom I also created and designed promotional press kits, brochures and tour flyers. From 2010-2013, I maintained an informal

working relationship with Ronstadt Generations, the family ensemble comprised of Linda Ronstadt's brother Michael J. Ronstadt and his sons Michael G. and Pete. For them, I arranged and promoted East Coast concerts and media appearances as well as performances at specialized care facilities, focusing on programs to strengthen memory via music. In this capacity, I also generated tour press releases and rewrote their Web bio. In 2011, I created all new bio, press, publicity, and Web materials for famed bluegrass fiddler Blaine Sprouse, as he returned to music professionally after several years' hiatus.

Event Producer (1987-2000)

Deep South Festival, New Brunswick NJ, 2000 *consultant*

Serenata: Beppe Gambetta with Carlo Aonzo, New Brunswick NJ, 1999

Folksong Mini-Fest: John Jackson, Jim Albertson, Schuylkill Bayou Ramblers, Plainsboro NJ, 1995

The Tannahill Weavers, New York City, 1990

Ossian, Metuchen NJ, 1989

Cherish the Ladies, New York City (*Ethnic Folk Arts Center tour*), 1989

Eagle Tavern Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Series, New York City, 1988-1991 *co-producer*

Masters of the Folk Violin, New York City (*National Council for the Traditional Arts tour*), 1988, 1989

Lone Star Café Bluegrass Series, New York City, 1987-1988

Radio Announcer / Emcee (1987-present)

Minstrel (now Troubadour) Concerts, Folk Project, Morristown NJ, various artists including Jim Kweskin, Ronstadt Generations, Aztec Two-Step, Beppe Gambetta, Jay Ungar & Molly Mason

Godfrey Daniels, Bethlehem PA, various artists including Craig Bickhardt, Ronstadt Generations

WDVR Special Concert, Beppe Gambetta, Stockton NJ, 2012

World of Bluegrass Fan Fest, Roots & Branches Stage, Louisville KY, 2002

Hurdy Gurdy Folk Music Club, Cherish the Ladies, Paramus NJ, 2000

Mine Street Coffeehouse weekly series, various artists, 1990-1999

Bill Monroe, The Turning Point, Piermont NY, 1994

New Jersey Folk Festival, New Brunswick NJ, 1993

Merle Watson Memorial Festival, Wilkesboro NC, 1993

Raritan Valley Community College Traditional Music Fest, North Branch NJ, 1991

WRSU-FM, New Brunswick NJ, 1990-1995 *Homemade Music* substitute host

WFUV-FM, New York City, 1989-1990 *CityFolk* weekly host

WFDU 89.1 FM MusicAmerica Festival, Englewood NJ, 1989

Bill Monroe, Peekskill NY, 1988

Stanfordville (NY) Traditional Music Festival, 1988

Closing Circle Summer Concert, Tony Trischka and Skyline, Livingston NJ, 1988

Numerous self-produced concerts (see above), 1987-present

Administrative / Editorial Assistant, Department of Cell Biology, L.F. Kimball Research Institute, New York Blood Center, New York City (1984-1988)

Associate Editor, Convenience Store Merchandiser, New York City (1982-1983)

Managing Editor, New England Convenience Store Association Directory, North Carolina Assn. of Convenience Stores Directory, Texas Retail Grocers Assn. Directory, New York City (1983)

Editorial Assistant, Hadassah Magazine, New York City (1981-1982)

Writer / Production Assistant, National Promotion Department, Hadassah, NYC (1979-1981)

Assistant Editor, Pickin', The Magazine of Bluegrass and Old Time Country Music (1975-77)

Publicity Director, Stage Manager, Program Editor, 1st Annual Pickin'-Waterloo Bluegrass Festival,
Stanhope NJ (1977)

Copy Editor, Big Ten Football Magazine, Denville NJ (1976)

Foreperson, Targum Productions, Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ (1974-1975)
Three publications: *Douglass Caellian*, *Cook Green Print*, *Livingston Medium*

Teaching Assistant, Community Radio Production, Livingston College-Rutgers University,
Piscataway NJ (1973-1974)

Freelance Copywriter, Warner Lasser Associates, Morristown NJ (July-December 1973)
Advertising and public relations

Program Director, Music Director, News Editor, On-air Personality, WRLC-AM Radio, Livingston College-Rutgers University, Piscataway NJ (1972-74)
Station's first regularly scheduled woman announcer. FCC Third Class Broadcast License.

PUBLISHED BOOKS

Discovering Folk Music (Praeger, 2010)

[Key press quote: "...a 'go to' reference for fans and students alike."

–Terry Stewart, (now former) President, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum]

Selected interviews: Tom Paxton, Janis Ian, David Bromberg, Steve Gillette, Jonathan Edwards, Jean Ritchie

Homegrown Music: Discovering Bluegrass (University of Illinois Press, 2006)

Revised paperback edition, see original below

From Every Stage: Images of America's Roots Music [Foreword by CBS News Anchor Charles Osgood]
(University Press of Mississippi, 2005)

[Key press quote: "An exhilarating collection." –Publisher's Weekly online]

Selected interviews: Bill Monroe, John Hartford, Roy Huskey, Vassar Clements, Michael Doucet

Homegrown Music: Discovering Bluegrass (Praeger, 2004)

Nominated, Belmont University-Curb Music Industry Country Music Book of the Year 2004

[Key press quote: "Every library should own a copy." –Library Journal, starred review]

Selected interviews: Earl Scruggs, Ralph Stanley, Sierra Hull, Janette Carter, John McEuen, Jim Lauderdale

PHOTO EXHIBITIONS

Farmstead Arts Center, Basking Ridge NJ 2018

Milford (NJ) Alive! 2014

Tinicum (PA) Arts Festival 2010, 2011

John Hartford "fiddling in audience," *Honorable Mention* 2010

Phillips' Mill Photographic Exhibition, New Hope PA 2010

J.B. Kline & Son Photo Gallery, Lambertville NJ 2010

Hunterdon County Library, Clinton NJ 2010

International Bluegrass Music Museum, Owensboro KY 2007-2008

Hunterdon County Library, Raritan Township NJ 2006

New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center, New York City 2005-2006

L.A. Frame Company, Green Brook NJ 2005-2006

Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville TN 2005

SELECTED BOOKS IN PROGRESS

Exceptional Music: 50 Years On (autobiographical retrospective)

Beyond Your Cat's Meow (anecdotal cat care scenarios)

So This Is Pittstown: True Tales and Tips for Newcomers to Rural Life

AWARDS and SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Honorable Mention, Tinicum (PA) Arts Festival for John Hartford "Fiddling in Audience" photograph 2010

Commissioned a Kentucky Colonel by Commonwealth of Kentucky Governor Steven L. Beshear 2008

International Country Music Conference/Belmont University Charlie Lamb Career Award
for Excellence in Country Music Journalism 2007

International Bluegrass Music Association Print Media Person of the Year 2006 *nominated*

International Bluegrass Music Association Print Media Person of the Year 2005 *winner*

Park Slope (NYC) Bluegrass and Old-Time Jamboree Brown Jug Award for significant and continuing
contributions to bluegrass and old-time music in the Northeast 2004

Belmont University-Curb Music Industry Country Music Book of the Year

Homegrown Music: Discovering Bluegrass 2004 *nominated*

Marquis' Who's Who of American Women

Marquis' Who's Who in America

IBMA Leadership Bluegrass *Class of 2000*

Appointed Lecturer in American Studies, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey 1998

Folk Music Society of Northern New Jersey Bill Palus Award for outstanding contributions to folk music 1992

PAST PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA): Board of Directors 2005-2008

Folk Alliance International: Founding Member 1990

CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, BOOK FESTIVALS

Folk Alliance International Annual Conference, 1990, 1994-1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2010, 2011, 2014

International Bluegrass Music Association Annual Conference 1989, 1991-1995, 1997-2000, 2002-2008, 2010

Rutgers University Faculty Authors Exhibition, Alexander Library, New Brunswick NJ 2005-2007, 2010

Voorhees High School Music Association Arts Festival, Glen Gardner NJ, 2010

New Jersey Association of School Librarians Annual Conference 2008

International Country Music Conference, Nashville TN 2005, 2007

Northeast Regional Folk Alliance Conference 1994, 2007

The New York Times First Annual Great Read in the Park 2005

Southern Festival of Books, Nashville TN 2005

International Bluegrass Music Symposium, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green KY 2005

Virginia Festival of the Book, Charlottesville VA 2005

Tangled Roots: A Workshop on American Folk and Field Recordings, Princeton University 2002

CMJ Music Marathon 1991

PANELS and PRESENTATIONS

Preserving Memory Through Music, Folk Alliance International Conference, Kansas City MO, 2014, moderator

Panelists: Dennis W. Moore - Former Congressman (D-KS), Alzheimer's spokesperson, folk performer;
Stephene Moore, RN - Region VII Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Alzheimer's
spokesperson, caregiver; Danny Cox - Folk performer/actor; Jon Vezner - Grammy winning songwriter,
co-composer "Where've You Been" (about Alzheimer's); Dan Cohen, MSW - Founder/Executive Director,
Music & Memory; Adam J. Meier, RN, MSN - Neuroscience Dept., University of Kansas Medical Center.
Screened Sundance award winning documentary *Alive Inside* [subject is Dan Cohen's Music & Memory work]

Discovering Folk Music

Godfrey Daniels, Bethlehem PA, 2010

Hunterdon County Library, Clinton NJ and Raritan Township locations, 2010

The Groovy Sixties, Alexandria Middle School, Alexandria Township NJ, 2009

Promotion, Public Relations & Press Workshop, Northeast Regional Folk Alliance (NERFA), 2007

Popular Culture: O Bluegrass, Where Art Thou? and The Folk In All of Us

Hunterdon County Library, Raritan Township NJ, 2006

Friends of the Library, East Brunswick Public Library, East Brunswick NJ, 2006

Up Close and Personal: The Bluegrass Festival Experience, Clinton Book Shop, Clinton NJ, 2006

Is It Bluegrass? The Controversy: What We Can Learn From Bill Monroe and Elvis Presley

A Day of Bluegrass, County College of Morris, Randolph NJ, 2006

Bluegrass Music Symposium, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green KY, 2005

No Turning Back Now: A Lifetime in Music with Jane Siberry, Chip Taylor, Anne Hills, North American Folk Music and

Dance Alliance Conference, Austin TX, 2006, moderator

Stories and Images of America's Music, Southern Festival of Books, Nashville TN, 2005

O Bluegrass, Where Art Thou?

A Day of Bluegrass, County College of Morris, Randolph NJ, 2005

Barnes & Noble Bookstore, White Marsh (Baltimore) MD, 2005

Virginia Festival of the Book, Charlottesville VA, 2005

Bluegrass and Popular Culture: The "O Brother" Phenomenon

Guitar and Bluegrass Festival, Brookdale Community College, Lincroft NJ, 2005

The International Language of Bluegrass, Bluegrass Film and Music Festival, 92nd Street Y / Makor/Steinhardt Center, New York City, 2005 featuring the Kruger Brothers

Discovering Bluegrass

Borders Books & Music, Bridgewater NJ, 2004

Somerville Public Library, Somerville NJ, 2004

University of Virginia Continuing Education Bluegrass Course, Charlottesville VA, 2004

Up Close and Personal: The Bluegrass Festival Experience, Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Leawood KS, 2004

Improving the Bluegrass Connection with the Mainstream Media, International Bluegrass Music Association Trade Show, Louisville KY, 1997

No Boundaries: International Touring, International Bluegrass Music Association Trade Show, Owensboro KY, 1993

Firmly Planted: Roots Music's Enduring Nature, CMJ Music Marathon, New York City, 1991

SELECTED OTHER PUBLISHED CREDITS

Articles and photos

*denotes my photos accompany that article

Father and Son. The Rich Musical Legacy of Doc and Merle Watson, Acoustic Guitar 30th Anniversary Issue,

Lead Story condensed reprint Sept./Oct. 2020

Wind Gap Bluegrass Festival Celebrates Silver. Bluegrass Unlimited, January 2006 cover story

Folk Music entry. Encyclopedia of New Jersey, ed. Maxine N. Lurie & Marc Mappen. Rutgers University Press, 2004

David Holt. The Getting There Is The Fun. Old-Time Herald, Winter 2002/2003 cover story

David Holt. Preserving Bluegrass and Old-Time Music. Bluegrass Unlimited, October 2002

Folk and Blues: The Encyclopedia by Irwin Stambler and Lyndon Stambler. Sing Out!, Winter 2002 book review

Bluegrass Odyssey by Carl Fleischhauer and Neil V. Rosenberg. Sing Out!, Fall 2001 book review

Can't You Hear Me Callin'. The Life of Bill Monroe by Richard D. Smith. Sing Out!, Summer 2001 book review

John Hartford. Back and Forth In Time. Sing Out!, Summer 2001*

Mountain Heart. Soul Music Summit. Bluegrass Unlimited, May 2001

Short Trip Home. A Journey from Bluegrass to Classical, and Back. Strings, April 2000

Taylor Guitars. A Revolutionary Guitar Company. Bluegrass Now, April 2000

Bluegrass Spirit: Eddie and Martha Adcock. Acoustic Guitar, April 2000

Doc Watson. An Unbroken Circle. Sing Out!, Winter 2000

Profile: Missy Raines. Strings, July 1999
 Walt Michael: Beyond the Hammered Dulcimer, The Living Tradition (Scotland), Sept.-Oct. 1993
 The Unmatched Sound of the Nashville Bluegrass Band. Sing Out!, Aug.-Oct. 1993*
 Father and Son. The Rich Musical Legacy of Doc and Merle Watson. Acoustic Guitar, March/April 1993*
 Walt Michael: Beyond the Hammered Dulcimer, Sing Out!, Winter 1990/91
 Falcon Ridge Folk Festival Program Book, 1989 Hammered Dulcimer front cover photo; Alison Krauss interview
 Steamboat in a Cornfield--A Recollection à la John Hartford. Bluegrass Unlimited, February 1987
 Gone At Last: Treffer Amerikanerne Hjemme. Beat (Norway), October 1986
 A Candid Conversation With Peter Rowan. Bluegrass Unlimited, April 1986* cover story
 Old Time Banjo with Snuffy Jenkins. Bluegrass-Bühne (Germany), September 1985* cover story
 New Grass Revival: A Timeless Tradition of Innovation. Bluegrass Unlimited, April 1985* cover story
 Fresh From the Country: The John Herald Band. Country Rhythms, November 1984
 Kids, Kong, Candy, Cola. Convenience Store Merchandiser, June 1983 cover story & photos
 Classical 'Grass (McLain Family Band). Bluegrass Unlimited, February 1983
 Blaine Sprouse: Pick of the Bluegrass Fiddle Crop. Frets, November 1982*
 Wilma Lee May Soon Be 'Doctor' Cooper, Music City News, May 1978
 Celebrity Management Offers a Wide Range of Services. Cashbox, March 11, 1978
 Sixty-five Years Old and Still Going Strong: Grant Turner. Pickin', October 1977 cover story
 On the Road and Off: Talking With the McLain Family Band. Pickin', July 1977 cover story

Recording label credits

Doc Watson (Live), The Bottom Line Archives Records, 2015 Front and back cover color photos
 Bluegrass Top 20 Gospel Songs of the Century, New Haven Records, 2006 Bill Monroe back cover photo
 Joe Ross: Bluegrass Alphabet, Zephyr Records, 2006 liner notes
 Classic Bluegrass Vol. 2, Smithsonian Folkways, 2005 Front, back cover, tray photos
 James Reams & the Barnstormers: Troubled Times. Mountain Redbird Music, 2005 Liner notes
 The McLains: More Fun Than We Ought To Have. Pinecastle Records, 2000 Liner notes
 The Johnson Mountain Boys At The Old Schoolhouse. Rounder Records, 1989, Front cover photo,
Grammy-nominated recording

Museum photo holdings

Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville TN: *John Hartford and Roy Huskey*
 International Bluegrass Music Museum, Owensboro KY: *Johnson Mountain Boys*
 Doc and Merle Watson Folk Art Museum, Historic Cove Creek School, Cove Creek NC: *Merle Watson*

Photos only

International Jew's Harp Society Newsletter, Mike Seeger front cover photo, July 2009
New Jersey Folk Festival 2002 Program Book Cover, T-shirts, Posters, Flyers. John Jackson image
Masters of the Five-String Banjo by Tony Trischka and Pete Wernick. Oak Publications, 1988; AcuTab 2001
 Snuffy Jenkins photos
Hot Licks for Bluegrass Guitar by Orrin Star. Oak Publications, 1985, Doc Watson and Pat Flynn photos
 John Cunningham. 1985 publicity photo
 Snuffy Jenkins and the Hired Hands. 1984 publicity photo
Bluegrass Bass by Ned Alterman and Richie Mintz. Oak Publications, 1977, Jack Cooke photo

Editing and production

Falcon Ridge Folk Festival Program Book, 1989
 Rev. Gary Davis: Blues Guitar by Stefan Grossman. Oak Publications, 1986 copy editor/proofreader
 The Cloning of Blood Group Genes by A.O. Pogo, K.S. Miller, A. Chaudhuri, V.J. Zbrzezna, J. Rosenbaum. In
 Edwards-Moulds, J. and Tregellas W.M., eds. Introductory Molecular Genetics, Arlington, VA:
 American Association of Blood Banks, 1986. original ms editor
 Interstrand Duplexes in Nuclear RNA by A.O. Pogo and K.S. Miller. In BioEssays, V.5.4. original ms editor

Interstrand Duplexes in Nuclear RNA by K.S. Miller, V. Zbrzezna, J. Rosenbaum, A.O. Pogo. In Nuclear Envelope Structure and RNA Maturation, Alan R. Liss, Inc., 1985. original ms editor
Interstrand Duplexes in Friend Erythroleukemia Nuclear RNA by K.S. Miller, V. Zbrzezna, A.O. Pogo. In Journal of Molecular Biology V.177, 1984. original ms editor
Hot Licks for Bluegrass Fiddle by Stacy Phillips. Oak Publications, 1984 co-editor
Pickin' / Waterloo Bluegrass Festival Program Book, 1977
Following C.F. Martin, From Germany to Nazareth. Pickin', June 1977 editor

Miscellaneous work 1976-2011

Reviews of books, recordings, events, videos for *Acoustic Guitar*, *Bluegrass-Bühne*, *Bluegrass Now*, *Bluegrass Unlimited*, *Pickin'*, *Popular Music & Society*, *Sing Out!*, *Strings*
Photos in *Acoustic Guitar*, *Banjo Newsletter*, *Bluegrass-Bühne*, *Bluegrass Unlimited*, *Frets*, *Pickin'*, *Sing Out!*, *Strings*, including Sam Bush, Roy Huskey, Merle Watson, Doc Watson, Greenbriar Boys, Little Roy Lewis w/ Mike Longworth, Ramblin' Jack Elliot w/ Doc Watson, Pappy Sherrill, Snuffy Jenkins
New Jersey Folk Festival Manual, 2002-03 editor / author

Publicity and promotional materials designed and developed for

John Carlini, Druhá Tráva, Lilly Drumeva, Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, Amy Fradon, Beppe Gambetta, Henhouse Prowlers, John Kirk & Trish Miller, Norm Ledgin, Mine Street Coffeehouse, New Jersey Folk Festival, Pickin' / Waterloo Bluegrass Festival, Ronstadt Generations, Blaine Sprouse, Radim Zenkl

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES and VOLUNTEER WORK

Founder, *Alz-Aid.net*, a global music community initiative to raise awareness about Alzheimer's and other dementia, its epidemic levels, and the urgent and critical need for a cure
Initiated "Preserving Memory Through Music" programs featuring Ronstadt Generations at long-term care and assisted living facilities, and developmental centers in New Jersey and New York.
Community guest speaker, Alexandria Middle School, Alexandria Township NJ 2009
Executive Council, Livingston (College) Alumni Association, Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ 2004-2007
Elected member to the governing board.
Committee Member, Livingston (College) Alumni Association, Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ 2003-2004 Volunteer assisting in reunion events, as well as with career networking for current students.
Publicity Coordinator, Mine Street Coffeehouse, New Brunswick NJ 1996-1999 Volunteer participant for not-for-profit weekly folk music concert series/organization, writing and implementing all press releases and media contact.
President, Tenants' Association, Sunnyside (Queens) NY 1985-1990
Successfully filed and resolved numerous housing violations and harassment complaints against apartment building landlord during condo conversion process, including a positive negotiated settlement of a \$600,000 frivolous civil lawsuit brought by landlord against me and defended pro se.
Editor, *Lifestyles*, S.L.E. (Lupus) Foundation Newsletter, New York City 1982-1983
Assistant Editor, *The Village News*, Village Green Tenants Newsletter, Budd Lake NJ 1976-77

EDUCATION

Livingston College-Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Piscataway / New Brunswick NJ
Post-graduate work and B.A. Urban Communications and Community Development
University of Missouri, Columbia MO
Journalism major; Dean's List

LANGUAGES

Spanish (90% fluency)
Varying degrees of comprehension: Italian, Hebrew (Biblical & modern), Greek, other romance languages