

# THE KHAZARS – LITERATURE

## OVERVIEW

The Schechter letter, written during the last period of the Khazar Khanate, which constitutes the only written document of the Khazars, has been subject to diverse and contradictory interpretations by researchers.

## LITERATURE



The Schechter letter is the only literary source, an anonymous Khazar's epistle addressed to Hasdai Ibn Shaprut and found in a codex of letters sent to Hasdai Ibn Shaprut, published by Solomon Schechter in 1912.

The anonymous writer of this letter provides information on recent political and military events in Khazaria, as well as an account of the Khazars' conversion to Judaism.

The Letter existed in the Cairo Genizah Collection which was donated by Schechter to Cambridge University in 1898. Most of the letter is legible.

## Discussion/Questions

1- What are possible reasons for the lack of Khazar inscriptions, correspondence etc.?

## Readings

1-Brook, K.A., *The Jews of Khazaria*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2018.

2-Schechter, S., "An Unknown Khazar Document", *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (Oct., 1912), pp. 181-219.

3- Schechter letter picture

<https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-TS-MISC-00035-00038/1>

4- Калинина, Т.М., Флеров В.С. и Петрухин, В.Я., *Хазария в кросскультурном пространстве*, Рукописменные памятники древней руси, Москва, 2014.