

author, writer ; scribe

מורֵיִס

<http://www.morfix.co.il/en/%D7%A1%D7%95%D7%A4%D7%A8>

# סופר סת"ם

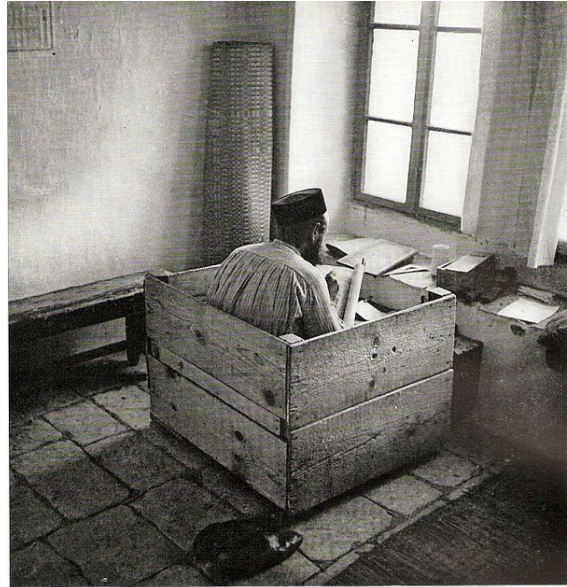
בעבר, ובמידה חלקית עדיין בימינו, הקנה לסוגיו, שימש חומר הגלם העיקרי להכנת כלי הכתיבה - הקולמוס, ששמו מעיד על מוצאו. עם כניסת השימוש בנוצה, התרחב השימוש במונח זה, וכלל גם כאלה העשויים נוצה.

סופרי סת"ם כפופים לדינים המפורטים בספרי הלכה כגון "קסת הסופר" מאת הרב שלמה גאנצפריד, "משנת סופרים" של החפץ חיים וכדומה.

לאחר שבתקופות אחרונות נמצאו הרבה סופרים שלא למדו את ההלכות כלל או שלא ידעו אותן די טוב, חייבו רבנים ובראשם ה"חתם סופר" את הסופרים לקבל כתב אישור מבית הדין הרבני. כתוצאה מכך הוקם בווארשא בשנת ה'תרצ"ה גוף בשם "שומרי סת"ם", אשר היה הגוף היחיד שהיה מוסמך לתת אישור לעבוד כסופר סת"ם בפולין וסביבתה. אמנם הארגון לא התקיים הרבה זמן - בשנת ה'תרצ"ט השואה הגיעה לפולין. היום קיים בארץ ובארצות הברית ארגון "משמרת סת"ם" שהוא הממשיך דרכם של שומרי הסת"ם בפולין.

על סופר סת"ם לכתוב על קלף או גויל העשוי מעור של בהמה טהורה ובדיו מיוחדת הנעשית לפי "מתכון" עתיק-יומין. מזוזה ותפילין חייבים להיכתב לפי הסדר בלבד "כסדרן", ולפיכך נדרשת מהסופר זהירות שבעתיים.

על פי ההלכה, מגילת אסתר שנכתבה בידי אישה תהיה כשרה לקריאה בציבור, אך ספר תורה שנכתב בידי אישה ייפסל.



סופר סת"ם תימני בעבודה בירושלים. שנת 1950 לערך.

## 1 כתיבה "לשמה"

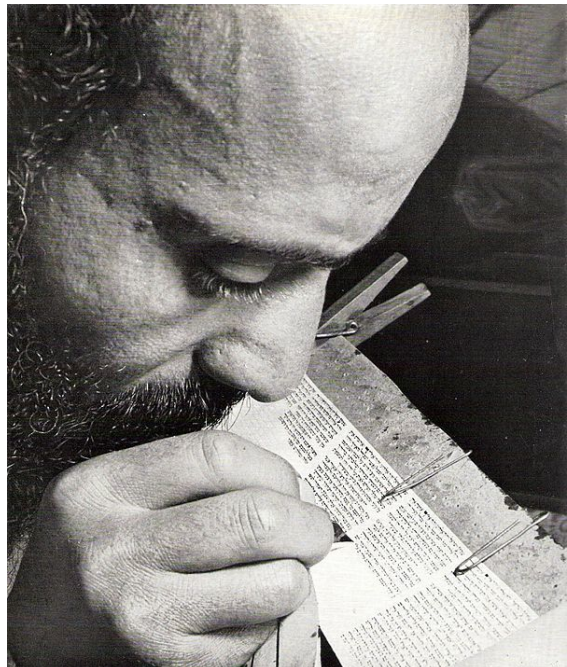
בכוונתו, בדיבורו ובמעשיו מקשר הסופר את העצמים הגשמיים לעולמות הרוחניים.

הלכות:

- בתחילת הכתיבה יאמר: "אני כותב - לשם קדושת ספר תורה/מזוזה/תפילין/מגילת אסתר"
- מלבד זה, בכל פעם שכותב אזכרה (=שם ה') צריך לומר בפירוש שכותב האזכרה לשם קדושת השם.
- ישנם סופרים המקפידים לטבול במקווה לפני כתיבת השם המפורש.

## 2 הערות שוליים

הבהרה: המידע בוויקיפדיה נועד להעשרה בלבד ואין לראות בו פסיקה הלכתית.



סופר סת"ם בעבודתו.

סופר סת"ם הוא אדם העוסק בכתיבת ספרי תורה, תפילין ומזוזות (בראשי תיבות: סת"ם). סופר סת"ם כותב בכתב סת"ם ומשתמש בקולמוס העשוי קנה או נוצה, ובדיו מיוחד - דיו סת"ם. כמו כן, ישנם סופרים הכותבים גם ספרי נביאים וכתובים וכן פרשת "פיטום הקטורת".

## 3 מקורות הטקסט והתמונה, התורמים והרשיונות

### 1.3 טקסט

- **סופר סת"ם** מקור <http://he.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D7%A1%D7%95%D7%A4%D7%A8%20%D7%A1%D7%AA%22%D7%9D?oldid=15722745>  
תורמים: דוד שי, שמוליק, גילגמש, נטע, AlexKarpman, FlaBot, עוזי ו., עמית אבידן, YurikBot, Amire80, Netan'el, סקרלט, יואל וסרמן, Yinone, בן נון, DGtal, מארק ברלין, Hidro, שחר גלבויע, Thijs!bot, Vargenau, Escarbot, Cogito ergo sum, ספקן, Yonidebot, Golf Bravo, קונילמל, בנצי, Shkedi, נרו יאיר, מחל, Grrrtt, ItaiCohen, ט-בוט-זרם, חורתי, Mr. W, וינברג, גרגור סמסא, ZéroBot, EmausBot, Matanyabot, ג'יס, Mendeleyev, Margavriel, שדשכ, טישיו, Guy Levi123, OfekBot, Rezabot, Legobot, MerllwBot, וגם אנונימי: 17

### 2.3 תמונות

- **קובץ:Sofer\_STaM.jpg** מקור: [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/96/Sofer\\_STaM.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/96/Sofer_STaM.jpg) מקור: Ba'Asor Le'Israel. תורמים: Masada Publishing, Jerusalem, 1958 האמן המקורי Myself
- **קובץ:Sofer\_Stam1.jpg** מקור: [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/he/a/a8/Sofer\\_Stam1.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/he/a/a8/Sofer_Stam1.jpg) מקור: Jerusalem Living City, 1950 האמן המקורי? תורמים

### 3.3 רישיון לתוכן

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# Sofer

For other uses, see *Sofer* (disambiguation).

For the talmudic tractate, see *Soferim* (Talmud).

A **Sofer**, **Sopher**, **Sofer SeTaM**, or **Sofer ST" M** (Heb:



*A sofer finishing the final letters of a Torah scroll*

“scribe”, סופר סת"ם) is a Jewish scribe who can transcribe Torah scrolls, tefillin and mezuzot, and other religious writings. (ST" M, סת"ם, is an abbreviation for Sefer Torahs, Tefillin, and Mezuzot. The plural of sofer is “soferim”, סופרים.)

By simple definition, a sofer is a copyist, but in their religious role in Judaism they are much more. Besides Torah scrolls, *Tefillin*, and *Mezuzot*, scribes are also necessary for the writing of *megillot* (scrolls of the Song of Songs, Book of Ruth, Book of Esther, Ecclesiastes, and Book of Lamentations), *Nevi'im* (the books of the prophets, used for reading the haftarah), and for *gittin*—divorce documents. Also many scribes function as calligraphers—writing functional documents such as marriage contracts, or ornamental and artistic renditions of religious texts—which do not require any scribal qualifications, and to which the rules on lettering and parchment specifications do not apply.

The major Jewish law (Halakha) pertaining to “**Sofrut**,” the practice of scribal arts, is in the Talmud in the tractate *Maseket Sofrim*. In the Torah’s 613 Mitzvot (commandments) the 613th<sup>[1]</sup> is that every Jew should write a Sefer Torah in their lifetime.(Deut. 31:19)

(The (") in ST" M is a transliteration of the Hebrew punctuation character (") gershayim (see that article).)

## 1 Qualifications and education

A sofer should be religiously observant, of good character, and knowledgeable about the laws concerning sofrut. It is a common misconception that one has to be a rabbi in order to become a sofer, which is not required by Jewish law.

People who want to become ritual scribes usually learn from another expert scribe by undergoing Shimush (Apprenticeship), since it would be impossible for someone to be a scribe without any actual practice. The hardest part about learning to be a sofer is not the calligraphy, but rather remembering the thousands of laws that apply to Sifrei Torah (Torah scrolls), tefillin (phylacteries) and mezuzot and all the other texts that are written on parchment.

Some people who want to become ritual scribes learn at the *Vaad Mishmereth STaM* with the option of receiving a certificate. (This is an international organization whose goal is to protect the halachic and artistic integrity of the scribal arts. It is located in Jerusalem and Bnei Brak in Israel as well as and in Brooklyn, New York, United States.) Certification of this sort is not a halachic requirement, nor does it necessarily guarantee the quality of a particular sofer’s work. This process does however ensure that a certified sofer has received the proper education and is a recognized expert in the field of sofrut.

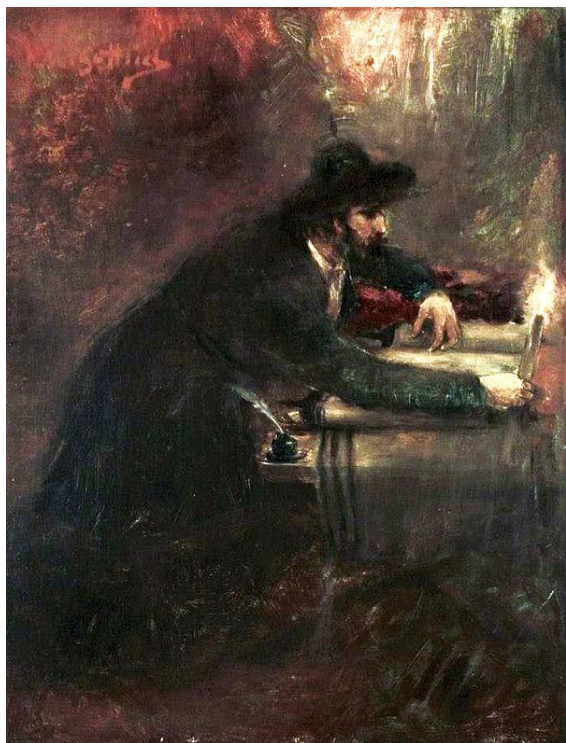
### 1.1 Texts teaching sofrut

The main texts from which Sofrim learn the scribal art include: The Keset Ha-Sofer, Chasdey David, *Mishnah B'rurah* Volume I(B)—The laws of T'fillin, *Mishneh Torah*: Hilchot Tefillin u'Mezuzah v'Sefer Torah. *Hilchot Tzitzit*, *Mishnat Hasofer*, *Mishnat Sofrim*, *Likkut Sifrey*, *Shulchan Aruch HaRav*. Stam.<sup>[2]</sup>

### 1.2 Women and sofrut

Forming the basis for the discussion of women becoming soferim, Talmud *Gittin* 45b states: “Sifrei Torah, tefillin and mezuzot written by a heretic, a star-worshipper, a slave, a woman, a minor, a Cuthean, or an apostate Jew, are unfit for ritual use.”<sup>[3]</sup> The rulings on Mezuzah and Tefillin are virtually undisputed among those who hold to the Talmudic Law. While *Arba'ah Turim* does not include women in its list of those ineligible to write Sifrei Torah, some see this as proof that women are permitted





The Torah Scribe by Maurycy Gottlieb, National Museum in Wrocław

to write a Torah scroll.<sup>[4]</sup> However today, virtually all Orthodox (both Modern and Ultra) authorities contest the idea that a woman is permitted to write a *Sefer Torah*. Yet women are permitted to inscribe *Ketubot* (marriage contracts), *STaM* not intended for ritual use, and other writings of *Sofrut* beyond simple *STaM*. In 2003 Canadian Aviel Barclay became the world's first known traditionally trained female *sofer*.<sup>[5][6]</sup> In 2007 Jen Taylor Friedman, a British woman, became the first female *sofer* to scribe a *Sefer Torah*.<sup>[7]</sup> In 2010 the first *Sefer Torah* scribed by a group of women (six female *sofers*, who were from Brazil, Canada, Israel, and the United States) was completed;<sup>[8]</sup> this was known as the Women's Torah Project.<sup>[9]</sup>

From October 2010 until spring 2011, Julie Seltzer, one of the female *sofers* from the Women's Torah Project, scribed a *Sefer Torah* as part of an exhibition at the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco. This makes her the first American female *sofer* to scribe a *Sefer Torah*; Julie Seltzer was born in Philadelphia and is non-denominationally Jewish.<sup>[10][11][12][13]</sup> From spring 2011 until August 2012 she scribed another *Sefer Torah*, this time for the Reform congregation Beth Israel in San Diego.<sup>[14][15]</sup> Seltzer was taught mostly by Jen Taylor Friedman.<sup>[16]</sup> On September 22, 2013, Congregation Beth Elohim of New York dedicated a new Torah, which members of Beth Elohim said was the first Torah in New York City to be scribed by a woman.<sup>[17]</sup> The Torah was scribed by Linda Coppleson.<sup>[18]</sup> As of 2014, there are an estimated 50 female *sofers* in the world.<sup>[19]</sup>

## 2 Documents written by scribes

Besides Torah scrolls, *Tefillin*, and *Mezuzot*, scribes are also necessary for the writing of *Megillot* (scrolls of the Song of Songs, Book of Ruth, Book of Esther, Ecclesiastes, and Book of Lamentations) and *Nevi'im* (the books of the prophets, used for reading the haftarah), and for *gittin* divorce documents. In some communities, especially Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky's community in Bnei Brak, *soferim* also write the other books of the Bible, such as Psalms or Ezra. (This was promoted in 19th-century Jerusalem by Rabbi S. S. Boyarski).

## 3 Calligraphy and lettering



The first four letters of the Hebrew alphabet as they would be written scribally (a digital approximation)

There are many rules concerning the proper formation of letters that must be adhered to if a written text is to be deemed religiously valid. Some details on letters, with animations The Ashkenazi, Sefardi, Chabad (Lubavitch), and Am Mizrahi each have their own script for forming the letters, though the same rules apply throughout the text. Generally, regarding *Sefer Torahs*, none would consider the other *posul* i.e. forbidden, though they would each consider their own "highly preferable."

The documents must be written on properly prepared parchment or vellum known as *klaf*.

Main article: *Klaf*

Main article: *Ashuri alphabet*

Also many scribes function as calligraphers—writing functional documents such as marriage contracts, or or-



*The four-pronged Shin on tefillin*

namental and artistic renditions of religious texts—which do not require any scribal qualifications, and to which the rules on lettering and parchment specifications do not apply.

## 4 See also

- Klaf
- List of sofrers
- Scribe
- Soferet
- Tiqqun soferim

## 5 References

- [1] 82nd of the 613 mitzvot as enumerated by Rashi, and the final as it occurs in the text of the Torah, in Deuteronomy 31:19
- [2] <http://www.sofer.co.uk/html/sources.htm>
- [3] <http://www.geniza.net/ritual/women.shtml>
- [4] Tur, Orach Hayyim 271.
- [5] <http://www.forward.com/articles/3614/>
- [6] <http://jwablog.jwa.org/soferet>
- [7] <http://www.forward.com/articles/11604/>
- [8] <http://jta.org/news/article/2010/10/15/2741313/womens-torah-dedicated-in-seattle>
- [9] <http://www.jweekly.com/article/full/59670/cjms-resident-scribe-takes-part-in-group-torah-project-in-seattle/>
- [10] <http://www.jweekly.com/article/full/59670/cjms-resident-scribe-takes-part-in-group-torah-project-in-seattle/>

[11] [http://www.theejournal.org/index.php?option=com\\_ccevents&scope=prgm&task=detail&fid=8&oid=563](http://www.theejournal.org/index.php?option=com_ccevents&scope=prgm&task=detail&fid=8&oid=563)

[12] <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/08/arts/design/08sfculture.html>

[13] <http://www.jweekly.com/article/full/61328/cjm-to-celebrate-end-of-groundbreaking-torah-project>

[14] <http://www.jpost.com/JewishWorld/JewishFeatures/Article.aspx?id=286912>

[15] <http://www.cbisd.org/news-and-stories/87-news-and-stories/1158-a-special-open-house-with-torah-scribe-julie-seltzer-observe-the-com>

[16] <http://www.jpost.com/JewishWorld/JewishFeatures/Article.aspx?id=286912>

[17] <http://brooklyn.news12.com/news/congregation-beth-elohim-in-park-slope-dedicates-new-torah-for-150th-anniversary-6119015>

[18] <http://torah.cbebk.org/about/our-soferet/>

[19] <http://www.pressherald.com/2014/08/23/female-jewish-scribe-helps-keep-tradition-alive/>

## 6 External links

- Vaad Mishmereth STaM
- What makes ST" M pasul
- Overview of a sofer's work [www.sofer.co.uk](http://www.sofer.co.uk)

## 7 Text and image sources, contributors, and licenses

### 7.1 Text

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- **File:Tefillin.JPG** *Source:* <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/22/Tefillin.JPG> *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* Chesdovi

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- #5613b.
- סִפֵּר
- sopher or
- [or] סוֹפֵר
- **sopher** (708b); from the same as 5612; *enumerator, secretary, scribe*:—
- NASB - learned(1), office(1), scribe(39), scribe's(2), scribes(5), secretaries(1), secretary(2), writer(1), writing(2).

<http://lexiconcordance.com/hebrew/5613.html>

**Sopheriel:** keeps the books of life and death

<http://www.kheperu.org/other/other2.html>

... [S]opheriel is the angel set over the books of the living and the dead ...

<http://www.hollywoodinsiders.net/occult/a/angel.html>



## Re: **Soper** genealogy

[genforum.genealogy.com](http://genforum.genealogy.com) › Surnames › Soper Family Genealogy Forum ▼

Dec 10, 2000 - 4 posts - 1 author

**Soper** may have roots in the **hebrew** name "Sofer" which means scribe. The Sofer's were the ones who would be in charge of writing the Torahs ...

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?jewish::soper::598.html>

Soperiel YHVH (Soperiel Mehayye and Soperiel Memeth)

In 3 ENOCH and the Zohar, two PRINCES in the seventh HEAVEN who keep the records of the names of all the living and the dead. In 3 Enoch, they are both referred to as Soperiel.

Rosemary Ellen Guiley. *The Encyclopedia of Angels*, Second Edition (Kindle Locations 7866-7867). Kindle Edition.