Tel: 591.

Rev. Rabbi Shemtob Gaguin
Ab Beth-Din.
of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation,
London.
and Principal of Montefiore Theological College.

8, Montefiore College,
Ramsgate. 24. March 1938

בעזה"י א"ך אד"ש ש' חרצ"ת

With the help of the Blessed God, 21 Adar II, 5698

לך נא ראה שלום ידידי הרה"ג המפורסם,
כמוהר"ר בן ציון מאיר חי עוזיאל יצ"ו,

Go and see if it is well[1] with my friend, the famous Rabbi,
His honor, Rabbi **Ben Zion Meir Hai Uziel**, God keep him!

יקרת מכתבו הגיעני לנכון, ושו"ש מידיעת שהט"ו כ"י וכ"י, וגם לדעת שספה"ק מצא חן בעיניו. אם יעזרני ה' להו"ל את יתר החלקים לר"ה ויוה"ך ולג' רגלים וד' תעניות, בלי תפונה אשלח לכת"ר העתקה מכל אחד מהם.

Your estimable letter arrived safely, and I was overjoyed at the news of your well-being – may it proliferate and increase – and at learning that my religious treatise found favor in your eyes. If God may grant me to publish the remaining volumes on Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur, the Three Festivals, and the Four Fasts, then I will send your honor a copy of each of them without hesitation.[2]

בנוגע להג' פונדים שקבל במתנה בעד ספריו, אדמה כי נשלחו מקופת הישיבה דפה של השר מ"מ ז"ל.

Regarding the £3 that you received for your books, I imagine that they were sent from the account of the *yeshibah* here at Ramsgate, The Montefiore Theological College.

עודני מחכה מיחל ומקוה לדעת אם המ"ס שבמח"ק מצא הד' חלקי שו"ע דפוס א' (בלי הגהות הרמ"א) לע"ע טרוד הנני להגיה השו"ע משבושיו וטעיותיו ושינוי נוסחאותיו עם הערות והגהות שחדשתי בעניי בעזרת הנותן לאדם דעת. בחלק או"ח עלו מספר השינויים לד' אלפים. בידי נמצא ש"ע או"ח הראשון שנדפס בחיי מרן ז"ל בכפר ביריא אשר בצפת, וגם שו"ע רק על או"ח כת"י, ויען כי רצוני אי"ה להשלים המלאכה ליתר החלקים משו"ה רצוני להשיג מהמ"ס שאר החלקים, אבקשה עוד הפעם מכת"ר לתת צו למשרתיו ע"ר להשתדל בזה ולהתחקות אם אפשר להשיגו, ואהיה אסיר תודה לרו"ם על החסד שיעשה לי ושכמ"ה.

I am still waiting with bated breath to know whether the chief librarian in your revered headquarters has found the first ed. of the four volumes of the *Shulhan Arukh* (without the glosses of the Rema). I am currently engaged in proofing the *Shulhan Arukh* of its errors, misprints, and textual variations, and I will include illuminations and glosses that I humbly composed with the help of the One Who grants knowledge to mankind. In the volume of *Orah Hayyim*, the number of variants has risen to 4,000. I currently have access to a copy of the first ed. of *Orah Hayyim* that was published in Maran's lifetime in Kafr Biriya, which is in Safed,[3] as well as a manuscript that covers *Orah Hayyim* alone. Because I hope, God-willing, to complete the work on the remaining volumes, I am keen to procure them from the chief librarian. I therefore renew my appeal for your honor to order to your assistants to redouble their efforts, and investigate whether it is possible to obtain them. I would be greatly indebted to your grand exaltedness for this favor, for which God may reward you twofold!

והנני דורש שלומו ושלום ב"ב
באהבת ידידו המוקירו ומכבדו

שם טוב גאגין ס"ט

I hope that all remains well with you and your family.
With love from a friend who esteems and honors you,

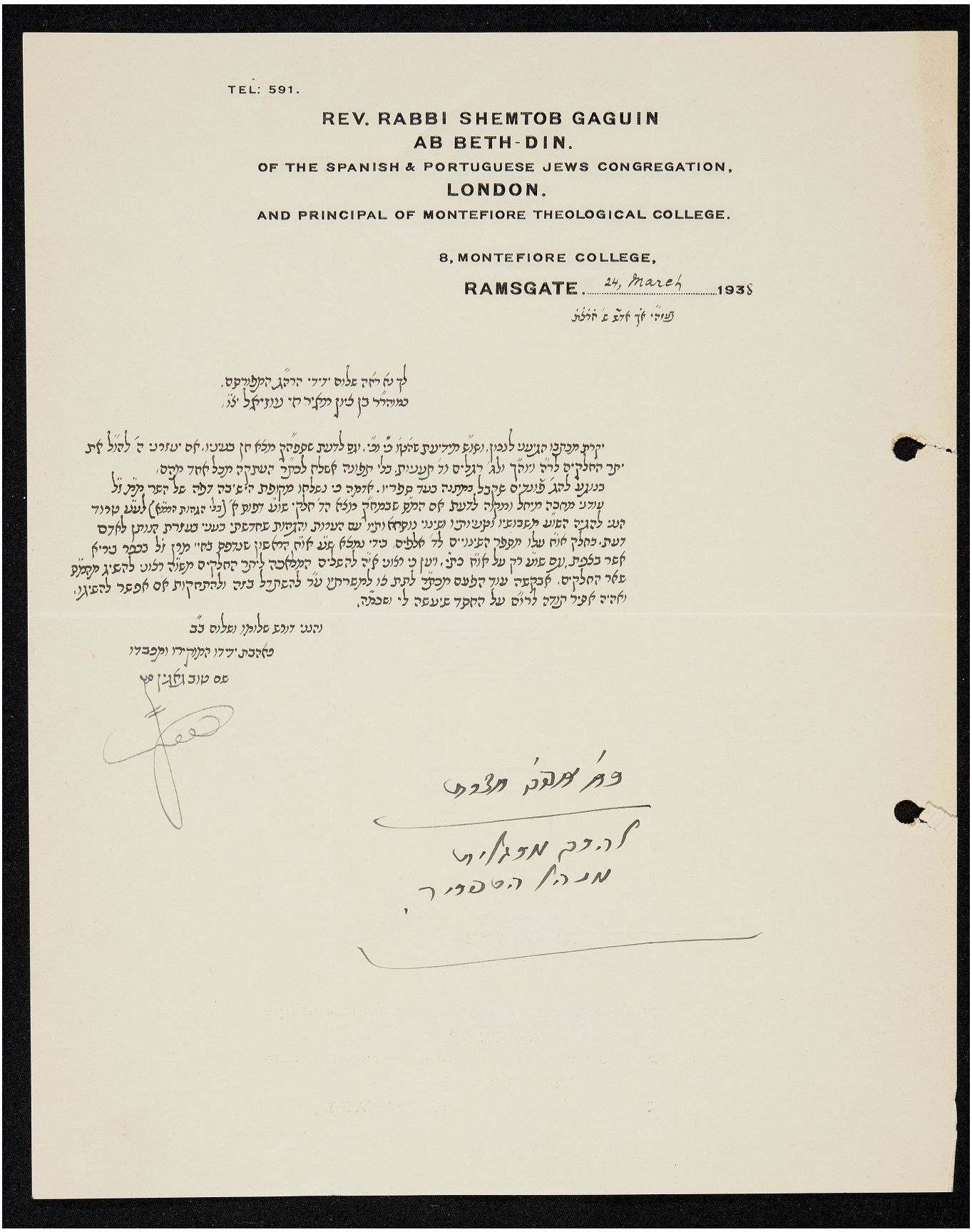
Shemtob Gaguine, may he meet a good end!

כ"ח אדר"ש חצרת
להרב מרגלית
מנהל הספריה

28 Adar II, 5868
To Rabbi Margulies[4]
Chief Librarian

1. Gen 37:14. Rabbi Uziel (1880-1953) was Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv in 1938; from 1939 until his death, he was Chief Rabbi of Israel.
2. Vols. 1-2 of *Keter Shem Tob* were published together in 1934, and vol. 3 in 1948. The next 4 were published after both men died.
3. The first ed. was actually published in Venice in 1565, but the colophon to OH 697 says that Maran finished writing it in Kafr Biriya.
4. There is a *vav* missing in this notation, which was likely addressed from Rabbi Uziel to Rabbi Reuben Margulies (1889-1971). As chief librarian of Tel-Aviv's Rambam Library, he would have been in a good position to find the requested volumes.

The Original Manuscript



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Dedicated in honor Raif Melhado's daughter Penina Miriam, whose birth joyfully forestalled the translation work on this document.