

## **Information on Henri Friedlaender**

Friedlaender was a well-known book designer and pioneer typographer. The brother of ceramic artist Marguerite (Friedlaender) Wildenhain, Henri was born in Lyon, France in 1904. When he was six years old, his family moved to Berlin, Germany. In 1925, he began to study calligraphy and printing at the Academy of Graphic Art and Book Design in Leipzig, but fled Germany in the face of rising anti-Semitism in 1932. He moved to The Hague, Netherlands, to work as art director at the Mouton Publishing House. In 1936, Friedlaender expanded his professional interests into education, teaching calligraphy and typography in Amsterdam. Following the Nazi invasion of Holland in 1940, Henri hid in the attic of his house for 1,018 days. He was kept alive by his wife, Maria (he was Jewish, she was not) who gave him food through a small hole in the attic. Much of his existing work was buried in the backyard to keep it from the Nazis. He occupied his time in hiding by continuing to work on the creation of a modern Hebrew alphabet, something he had started years before. Their only child, Hanna, was born in 1949, and the following year the family relocated to Israel where Henri headed the Hadassah-Brandeis Apprentice School of Printing in Jerusalem. Finally, in 1958, after 27 years of development and setbacks, he completed the first modern Hebrew typeface, "Hebrew Hadassah." In 1971, Henri Friedlaender received the Gutenberg Prize, the highest award given to typographers. Friedlaender died in 1996.