

## **A Tribute to a Valued Friend and Colleague, Ilana Tahan**

I had the great privilege of working with Ilana at the British Library, from 1986-2011, primarily in my capacity as Curator of Medieval and Illuminated Manuscripts. There was frequent overlap between our collection areas, especially in relation to exhibitions and outreach work as well as research questions.

We collaborated on several exhibitions in the British Library galleries and also on external loans. When I curated the 'Bibles Before the Year 1000' exhibition at the Smithsonian in 2006 Ilana was unfailingly helpful.

Ilana had great expertise in her own field and was always eager to collaborate and learn from others. She would often consult me on the methodology of codicological and palaeographical western manuscript studies and was keen to apply and modify them to her areas of study. The synergies and contacts between Hebrew and Christian manuscript production and illumination were particular areas of interest to her.

There can be few colleagues as affable, approachable and helpful as Ilana was, always keen to assist other scholars and to promote her area and make it more accessible to academics and public alike, whatever their age and background. She was a kind, warm, empathetic person and will be much missed in so many ways. I am thankful to have known her.

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Curator of Illuminated Manuscripts at the British Library (1986-2004)