The Collection's copy of Sefer Raziel haMalach was printed in the Hebrew year 5553, corresponding to the Gregorian date 1792-3. The cover page states that it was printed in the "Holy Community of Hrodno the capital in the printing house of our master the splendid and pious and wise king of kings Stanislaus August [Poniatowski (1732-1798) who abdicated the throne in 1995]) King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, [etc.], may his grandeur be extolled Amen."

The book itself was based on gaonic traditions of the Babylonian Talmudic Academies of Sura and Pumbedita, approximately 620-1030. The geonim were the heads of the academies and were generally acknowledged as the accepted spiritual leaders of the Jewish community world-wide in the early medieval period.

The geonic traditions which comprise much of Sefer Raziel haMalach are angelic names, unpronounceable names of God, and amulets for theurgic use of these names. The book is thought by some scholars to have been composed in the environment of the Hasidei Ashkenaz, the German pietists of the 12th and 13th centuries. The narrative in which this is presented is that the angel Raziel descended to earth to teach Adam the secrets of the universe following the expulsion from Eden.

The most famous edition of the book was printed in Amsterdam in 1701. It has been translated into various languages. There is a modern English edition. During the period of Christian "kabbalah", portions of the book translated into Latin were incorporated in Christian magic and angelology. There have been many articles The inscription in the collection's book states that the book belongs to Herr Herzl Margolis. The inscription is written in an early form of Yiddish known as Judeo-German.

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