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## Editorial

After a short break, the AEJM newsletter is back, with a new educational programme, a new website and new members. Our new newsletter still contains the items it used to comprise, such as information on past Annual Conferences and the results of the board elections, but we have broadened our focus to include some information on our new website as well as the Curatorial Education Programme (CEP), launched in 2010 with a pilot programme run by the Jewish Museum of Vienna. This year's CEP will take place in Berlin in April. The Annual Conference will be held this year in London and will give us the opportunity to see the newly redeveloped museum.

We are also very pleased to inform you that the Trustees of the Rothschild Foundation have approved a grant to the AEJM. This enables us to appoint a Project Coordinator for the next three years, who can help us to further improve the networking and educational activities by the AEJM. Until the Project Coordinator has been assigned, Titia Zoeter, from the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam, will act as AEJM administrator. She is continuing the work of Ulrike Roth, who took care of the AEJM administration with great effort. We would like to thank Ulrike for her enthusiasm, initiative and dedication.

## New Website: [aejm.org](http://www.aejm.org)

The website of the AEJM, [www.aejm.org](http://www.aejm.org), was relaunched in autumn 2010. It was redesigned to meet our new needs. With the new website we aim to provide a more effective channel of communication to members, as well as to serve as a resource for the wider public. The website includes facilities such as newsletters, the dissemination of members' annual reports and opportunities to exchange information about travelling exhibitions, current developments and other projects. In the near future we would also like the AEJM website to create the means to help members communicate with each other on topics or projects of common interest. The AEJM would like to thank Head of the Media department at the Jewish Museum Berlin, Mirjam Wenzel, and her colleagues for their expertise and help in creating the style of the new site.

## Curatorial Education Programme

The professional training and development of curatorial staff plays a key role within the AEJM's mission to assist members in meeting the challenges of today. The AEJM therefore offers an annual Curatorial Education Programme (CEP), to be held in different European Jewish Museums in cooperation with relevant academic institutions.

The training courses focus on vital aspects of curatorial work: the identification and documentation of Judaica, the development of conservation, research tools and skills, interpretation and educational aspects of Judaica.

The first CEP was held in March 2010 at the Jewish Museum of Vienna. Chief Curator, Dr. Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek organised the five-day programme. "It is designed to meet the particular needs of curatorial staff in Jewish Museums" says Heimann-Jelinek, former board member of the AEJM. The educational programme has been a long term goal of the AEJM since its founding in 1988. As evaluation and participant feedback have shown, the first CEP was clearly an overall success. Opportunities for further improvement have been taken in consideration in the planning of the second educational programme, which will be kindly hosted by the Jewish Museum Berlin, and will take place from April 11 to 15, 2011. For information on the CEP, the programme and registration, see [www.aejm.org](http://www.aejm.org).

## Annual Conferences

The next Annual Conference of the Association of European Jewish Museums will take place at

the Jewish Museum, London from November 19 to 22, 2011. More details will be available in the next newsletter. However, due to high demand, we recommend that you [register](#) for the conference and book [accommodation](#) as far in advance as possible.

Last year's AEJM Annual Conference was hosted by the Jewish Museum of Rome, and took place from November 20 to 23, 2010. The conference theme was "Past and Present - The Contemporary Role of Jewish Museums in Europe". A special focus was given to Contemporary Collecting. The workshops gave the guests an opportunity to gain deeper insights in the Judaica collections and archives as well as special educational programmes of the Jewish Museum of Rome. The sightseeing tour on Sunday, prior to the conference gave insights into the historic Jewish community of Rome. The AEJM would like to thank the team in Rome for organising the conference that took place in special memory of our dear colleague Daniela di Castro, who passed away in 2010.

A [report](#) by Judith Margles, Chair of the Council of American Jewish Museums, who attended the AEJM conference in Rome is attached.



AEJM Conference session in progress, Rome, 2011 © Julie-Marthe Cohen, Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam

The Jewish Museum of Greece hosted the Annual Conference of 2009, which took place in Athens from November 21 to 24, 2009. The programme gave participants insights into local Jewish history and culture with a keynote lecture by Prof. Euridice Antzoulidou-Retsila, as well as visits to sights and exhibitions in and around Athens. The conference brought together museum professionals from all over Europe and included workshops, keynote lectures and panel discussions, on themes such as Building Bridges with other minorities and the wider community. The AEJM would like to once again thank Zanet Battinou and her colleagues at the Jewish Museum of Greece for organising the Conference, and also the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki for kindly hosting nine of the participants following the conference.

### **Elections to the AEJM Board**

At the Annual General Meeting of the AEJM in Rome, on November 22, 2010, Erika Perahia-Zemour, Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki, was elected as a member of the Board. She replaces Anne H el ene Hoog, who stood down from the Board this year. We thank Anne H el ene for her stimulating input and her valuable contribution on behalf of the Association, and welcome Erika to the Board.

#### **Current Board members:**

President: Rickie Burman  
Jewish Museum London, United Kingdom

Treasurer: Hetty Berg  
Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam,  
The Netherlands

Secretary: Magda Veselska  
The Jewish Museum Prague, Czech Republic

Erika Perahia-Zemour  
Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki, Greece

Daniela F. Eisenstein  
J udisches Museum Franken – F urth, Schnaittach  
& Schwabach, Germany

### **New members of the AEJM**

The AEJM has welcomed the Czech Memorial Scrolls Museum in London, the Mus e Judeo-Alsacien de Bouxwiller (France) and the Izmir Project in Tel-Aviv as new associate members. New full members are the Museum of Jewish Culture, and the Slovak Jewish Heritage Center, both in Bratislava.

### **World War I Workshop**

On March 6-7, 2011 the Jewish Museum Munich organised an exhibition workshop on “World War I as an European, National and Jewish Experience”. In 2014 the 100 year anniversary of World War I will be commemorated. Jews all over Europe were affected by the first “modern war” in many ways. The workshop discussed possibilities for collaboration in a European-wide focus of exhibitions on World War I in 2014. The idea was discussed first in an extra session at the last AEJM meeting in Rome last fall and at the workshop interested museums gave presentations on perspectives and issues relevant in their own local contexts, as well as material they could draw on to illustrate the topic.

The workshop began to discuss possibilities for collaboration and a special session dealt with EU funding possibilities, although this indicated that potential EU sources seemed limited and quite specific in their requirements. It is planned to continue these discussions at a further workshop to be held following the Annual Conference in London, on the afternoon of November 22 and morning of November 23, 2011.

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