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## Editorial

In May the first edition of the Educator's Training Programme took place at the Jewish Historical Museum Amsterdam. This new programme initiative strongly connects with the objectives of the AEJM: to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and experience between its members and to offer possibilities for further professional training to its members. In this edition you can find a report on the first ETP.

This edition of the AEJM Newsletter announces the upcoming Annual Conference 2012 in Vienna. In 'Museum Object' new AEJM member the Sephardic Museum of Toledo highlights its building, a synagogue from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, as one of its main treasures. AEJM members are invited to submit their applications for the Advisory Visits Grant Programme before September 1.

## Annual Conference 2012

This year's Annual Conference *Change and Complexity: How Jewish Museum Remember and Reinvent Themselves* is hosted by the Jewish Museum Vienna and will take place from November 17 to 21, 2012.

### *Programme*

The Conference Programme will take place at the Jewish Museum Vienna and the Palais Epstein and will include keynote lectures by Martha Keil, director of the Institute for Jewish History Austria, and Reesa Greenberg (Canada). The Panel Discussion will further explore the question of how museums reinvent themselves. The workshops will focus on topics such as Judaica in the Age of Globalization, Museum Education, and Archives & Provenance. See for more information the preliminary [programme](#).

### *Excursions*

A sightseeing tour of collections and sites of Jewish interest in Vienna and Burgenland will be included in the Sunday programme. This programme is organized in cooperation with the Jewish Museum Vienna and the Austrian Jewish Museum Eisenstadt. On Wednesday 21 November an optional excursion programme to Bratislava will take place. Participants will visit the Bratislava Synagogue, the new Jewish Community Museum, the Museum of Jewish Culture, and the Chatam Sofer Memorial. Please [register](#) in advance for the optional excursion programme to Bratislava.

### *Annual General Meeting*

On Tuesday 20 November the Annual General Meeting of the AEJM will take place at the Palais Epstein in Vienna. This meeting is open for AEJM members only. The agenda and other relevant information will be sent out in October.

### *Registration*

Each AEJM Full Member has the right to send up to three delegates to the conference, and Associate Members may send up to two delegates. In case of a third delegate from Full Members there will be a conference fee of 150 euro. Please note that guests who are not Full or Associate Members of the AEJM may only attend the conference by prior invitation and authorisation of the AEJM Board and on payment of a guest fee of 150 euro. For more information, see the registration form. Due to high demand for places, we recommend you to [register](#) as soon as possible for the Conference and the excursion to Bratislava and book your [accommodation](#) in advance. Please contact Eva Koppen ([aejm@aejm.org](mailto:aejm@aejm.org)).

## **Future Conference Venues**

The AEJM would like to invite museums that are interested in hosting the Annual Conference in future years to express

their interest. If you are interested, please download and fill out the Future Conference Venues [Form](#) and forward it to Eva Koppen ([aejm@aejm.org](mailto:aejm@aejm.org)).

## **Educator's Training Programme, Amsterdam 2012**

The first edition of the Educator's Training Programme (ETP) took place from 20 to 23 May 2012 at the Jewish Historical Museum Amsterdam. The programme was organized in close cooperation with Petra Katzenstein (Jewish Historical Museum Amsterdam) and her staff.



*Workshop at the Children's Museum*

Twenty museum educators from all over Europe participated in an extensive four days programme with workshops, lectures and discussions on education in Jewish museums. The programme was structured around three general themes that are considered as common issues for European Jewish museums: religion, Shoah, and culture. These themes formed the starting point for exploring and discussing different educational programmes and approaches and sharing best practice methods. The participants worked at different locations in the Jewish Historical Museum, such as the Children's Museum and the Hollandsche Schouwburg (Dutch Theatre) and also visited the Anne Frank House for an extra workshop with Karen Polak from the Anne Frank Foundation.

"I found this spirit of open discussion and reflection very fruitful as it offered a

forum and safe space to ask questions and run ideas by colleagues who drew on their experiences to comment critically and constructively. I returned to Munich on Wednesday with a head buzzing with ideas, questions and the hope that there



*Participants at the Hollandsche Schouwburg*

will be more opportunities to meet colleagues and continue the conversation.” says Elisabeth Schulte from the Jewish Museum Munich, who participated in the programme. See here a [report](#) by Elisabeth Schulte.

The AEJM would like to thank director Joel Cahen, Petra Katzenstein and the team from the Jewish Historical Museum for the active contribution in setting up the programme of the first edition of the ETP and for kindly hosting the event. The AEJM also kindly thanks the Rothschild Foundation for contributing towards the travel grants for ETP participants.

## **AEJM Board vacancy**

This year the current AEJM Treasurer Hetty Berg will step down from her post, after completing five years as a member of the AEJM Board. At the Annual General Meeting of the AEJM in November 2012, a new Board Member will be elected. In order to provide members with information in advance of the AGM, the Board requests that candidates who wish to stand for a position on the Board send their application by e-mail to Eva Koppen ([aejm@aejm.org](mailto:aejm@aejm.org)) in advance, at the latest by 1 October 2012. A written statement

indicating candidates’ relevant experience and how they feel they can contribute to the AEJM should accompany the application. Details of candidates will then be sent out to AEJM members in advance, together with the agenda of the AGM.

## **AEJM Grant Programme**

To preserve, document, interpret and display European Jewish material culture is one of the objectives of the AEJM. Assistance in the preservation of this heritage for future generations plays a key role. The new Advisory Visits Grant Programme (AVGP) is developed to assist AEJM members in need of expert advice and training. The Programme is particularly focused on key issues for Jewish museums, such as the identification and interpretation of Judaica and Jewish material culture. The Programme provides AEJM members with expert advice and in house-training through the support of visits by museum experts.

Applications are welcome in three categories: Collection Management, Museum Education, and Permanent Displays. After the AEJM Project Coordinator has received an application, the AEJM Board will evaluate the application. As part of the assessment process, the AEJM will consult experts familiar with the applicant museum and the references indicated by the applicant. Applications will be assessed according to their contribution to the long-term sustainability of the applying institution and its holdings.

For the second round of the AVGP in 2012, AEJM members can submit their applications before **September 1**. For more information see the [AVGP brochure](#) and the [application form](#).

## Museum Grant Programme of Rothschild Foundation Europe

### *Call for applications*

State Museums with significant Judaica collections and Jewish Museums in Europe and FSU are invited to apply at the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe to one of the following four categories: Collections Management, Exhibition Support, Professional Staff Support, and Strategic Collaboration among museums.

Applications to the Museum Grant Programme will be available online from 16 July 2012. The first stage is a short application form that must be submitted by 10 August 2012. Applicants invited to the second stage application process will be informed by the end of August 2012.

For further information about museum grant programmes, applications process and deadlines please visit [rothschildfoundation.eu](http://rothschildfoundation.eu) and look under the Jewish Heritage section. Please pay careful attention to the guidance notes accompanying the application forms which are available on the website. For specific queries regarding projects and eligibility to apply please contact: [d.bairamov@rothschildfoundation.eu](mailto:d.bairamov@rothschildfoundation.eu)

## Museum Object

*Sephardic Museum of Toledo (Spain)*

*Synagogue of Transito* by Samuel ha-Levi Toledo, 1361

The synagogue was built in 1361 by Samuel ha-Levi, a significant Toledan figure that held several important posts in the court of King Pedro I of Castile such as Royal Treasurer. The synagogue was not affected by the many attacks that the Toledan *ghetto* suffered, which included the partial destruction of the Jewish Quarter in 1391.



*Prayer Room, early 20<sup>th</sup> century*  
© Sephardic Museum of Toledo

The large Prayer Room has a rectangular shape; a rafter and a plug pine eight sided roof truss cover it with doubles ties. In spite of partly having lost its original polychrome, much of the green, blue, red, orange, black and white colours remain the same. Special attention should be paid to the plasterwork decoration along the walls. These epigraphic and decorative ribbons reach their greatest expression in the eastern wall where the *hejal* (Torah ark) is located. When the *mudejar* (muslim) builders modelled the plaster, they made stems, columns, spires and Hebrew inscriptions.

A Women's Gallery along almost the entire southern wall occupies the first floor; its five large windows look down into the synagogue. Around the Women's Gallery and its highest part, remains of decorated plasterwork and Hebraic inscriptions (*Psalmes*) can be found. It also contains Kufic inscriptions next to undecorated ovals.

After the expulsion of the Jews in 1492, the Catholic Kings gave the synagogue to the military Christian Order of Calatrava and during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century the building was remodelled and renamed as the Church of the Transit, due to the painting of the *Transit of the Virgin* (of



*Details of the Prayer Room, 2012*

© Sephardic Museum of Toledo

Diego Correa, today in the Museo del Prado in Madrid). A sacristy with entry door and an embedded arch in the

plateresque style were constructed and a retable was installed in the former *hejal*.

The building was used again as a hermitage until the expropriation of church properties in 1843-1875. On May 1887 the synagogue was declared a National Monument and in 1910 began to be restored by Vega-Inclán Foundation. In 1964 the Sephardic Museum of Toledo was created as a national museum and a remodelling plan was carried out in the building in order to adapt it to its current museological uses. In 2011 we had 301.000 *happy* visitors.

Santiago Palomero Plaza, director  
[museosefardi.mcu.es](http://museosefardi.mcu.es)