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Editorial

The fifth edition of the Curatorial Education Programme (CEP), held at the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam, showed the importance of offering a platform for study and exchange. Participants took part in a seminar with practical and theoretical learning in the field of Judaica from Ashkenazi and Sephardic origins and at the same time they could share experiences and challenges. A report on the CEP can be found in this Newsletter.

In this edition of the Newsletter the AEJM announces its upcoming activities for 2014: the next edition of our seminar for museum educators in Oslo (October), the Annual Conference in Warsaw (November). With the support of a new grant from the German Federal Foreign Office an Advanced CEP will be organized in Berlin next September. In 'Museum Object' The Israel Museum highlights one

of its modern treasures. AEJM member institutions are invited to submit their applications for the Advisory Visits Grant Programme before April 1.

Museum Education Seminar in Oslo

The AEJM considers museum education as one of the key aspects of the work of Jewish museums. In previous years the AEJM organized the Educator's Training Programme (ETP) in Amsterdam and Warsaw to offer member institutions both professional training in the field of museum education and the opportunity to share common challenges and experiences.

This year the ETP will continue as the AEJM Museum Education Seminar and will take place from 12 October until 15 October in Oslo, Norway. The four-day

programme offers various workshops, lectures, presentations and discussion sessions on common issues for museum education at Jewish museums in Europe and will give an insight into Norwegian Jewish history.



© Oslo Jewish Museum

The seminar will be kindly hosted by the Oslo Jewish Museum and is developed in close cooperation with the Museum Education Task Force, the hosting venue, the Jewish Museum in Trondheim and the education department of the Center for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities in Oslo. See the preliminary [programme](#) for more information. The Museum Education Seminar 2014 is supported by The David Berg Foundation, NY.

The programme is open for museum educators from AEJM member institutions. AEJM members may send one delegate each. Participants may apply at the AEJM for a Travel Grant to partly cover the expenses for travel and accommodation; indicate your travel costs on the registration form. Please [register](#) before **July 1** 2014.

Grant Programme: Call for Applications

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 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. The AVGP 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 next round of the AVGP in 2014, AEJM members can submit their applications before **April 1**. For more information see the [AVGP Brochure](#) and the [AVGP Application Form](#).

Annual Conference 2014 in Warsaw

From 15-19 November 2014, the AEJM Annual Conference will take place in Warsaw, Poland. The programme will be hosted by the Museum of the History of Polish Jews and is organized also in cooperation with The Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute. The AEJM offers an optional excursion programme to Łódź on Wednesday 20 November. More details will be available in the next newsletter. However, due to high demand, we recommend you to already [register](#) for the Conference. For more information please contact Eva Koppen.

Curatorial training in Amsterdam

The fifth edition of the Curatorial Education Programme (CEP) took place from 2 until 5 March 2014 at the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam. The 2014 programme was developed and organized in close cooperation with Dr Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek, Amsterdam curators Mirjam Knotter and Julie-Marthe Cohen, head of the collection department Irene Faber, and Emile Schrijver of the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana.

Curators from eighteen European Jewish museums participated in an intensive four-day programme with workshops, lectures and discussions on curatorial practice in Jewish museums. The programme started with a lecture on the history of the museum by Julie-Marthe Cohen and Mirjam Knotter, followed by a tour through the different museum spaces, including a visit to the Ets Haim Library.



Workshop on Sephardic and Ashkenazi metal objects
© Jewish Museum Historical Museum, Amsterdam

The collections of the Jewish Historical Museum and the Portuguese Synagogue offered the possibility to explore both

Ashkenazi and Sephardic Judaica objects. The comparative workshops largely focused on the identification and interpretation metal and textile objects and a selection of objects from the museum's storage rooms. The issue of provenance research was discussed during a special workshop by Julie-Marthe Cohen and Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek. During a workshop at the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana Emile Schrijver lectured on the history of Jewish books in Amsterdam and introduced several treasures of the manuscript collection of the library.

The group furthermore participated in a joined programme together with the participants of the seminar *(Re)shaping the (re)presentation of Jewish Culture*, organized by the Rothschild Foundation and Paideia the European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden, wherein they analysed the different galleries of the Jewish Historical Museum.

Christina Meri, curator of the Jewish Museum of Greece in Athens, tells: "I was impressed by the splendour of these Amsterdam Sephardic artefacts, and I clearly realized here that every Sephardic community developed its own more or less unique tradition and style dependant on its locality, history and exegesis of the Jewish law." According to Daniela Schmid, curator of the Ariel Muzicant Collection in Vienna "one of the most important outcomes of this programme was the widening of our perspectives of history, provenance and ritual context of objects, next to focussing our awareness of Sephardic Judaica and its particular features. These sharpened thoughts will highly contribute to my daily work of cataloguing Judaica." Read the full reports by [Daniela](#) and [Christina](#) online.



Workshop on Sephardic and Ashkenazi textiles
© Jewish Museum Historical Museum, Amsterdam

The AEJM would like to thank director Joel Cahen, Hetty Berg and their team for their kind hospitality and for opening the museum and its collections to the CEP. The AEJM also kindly thanks the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe for contributing towards the travel grants for CEP participants.

Advanced curatorial training

The AEJM is very pleased to announce that a grant from the German Federal Foreign Office enables the AEJM to organize two curatorial training sessions per year. The Jewish Museum Berlin played an important role in acquiring this grant and will be responsible for the financial administration of the grant.

The Advanced Curatorial Education Programme offers structural learning in the field of Judaica to a new generation of curators working in Jewish museums or with Jewish collections. The programme addresses an important skills gap, since formal university-based museological courses and Jewish studies do not include key issues and skills relevant for Jewish museums and collections. It focuses on vital aspects of curatorial work in a Jewish museum, such as the identification,

interpretation and documentation of Judaica.

With support of the German grant Dr Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek has been assigned as programme director; she will be assisted by Dr Michaela Feurstein-Prasser. The content of the programme will be developed by the programme director and in close cooperation with the AEJM Board. As for all AEJM activities and events, the AEJM will be responsible for coordination of the programme on location.



Academy of the Jewish Museum Berlin
© Jewish Museum Berlin

The next edition of the Advanced Curatorial Education Programme will take place at the Jewish Museum Berlin from 14 until 18 September 2014. More information will be available in the next newsletter.

Fire at the Oslo Jewish Museum

In the evening of 16 December 2013 a smouldering fire broke out in the Oslo Jewish Museum. Neighbours alerted the fire department and the fire was extinguished a few hours after its outbreak. Fortunately there is no suspicion of arson, no one was injured by the fire and no objects exhibited were damaged. However, the entire exhibition hall was badly damaged from smoke and soot and the museum has remained closed to the public since.

Currently the museum faces a hectic time. Meetings with the insurance company, property damage restoration experts, carpenters, conservators etc. have ensured a swift reconstruction process. Museum director Sidsel Levin hopes to have the museum up and running again by Pesach and she looks forward to welcoming visitors to the exhibitions, educational programmes and cultural events.

In memoriam: Jiří Fiedler (1935–2014)

On March 6 the Jewish Museum Prague announced the tragic death of Jiří Fiedler, a former staff member of the museum, and his wife Dagmar who were found murdered in their Prague home. According to the museum the circumstances of the crime have not yet been fully clarified. Czech police has launched a news black out and is still investigating.

Those who worked on topics related to the Jewish history of Bohemia and Moravia in the last two decades came in contact with Jiří Fiedler. Before the fall of the iron curtain he worked as a co-editor for a publishing house. In the 1970s he started to document on a private base Jewish heritage in Bohemia and Moravia. The outcome of his work was not only about 70,000 photos but also his book *Jewish Sights in Bohemia and Moravia* published in 1992. This guide book was one of the first books documenting former synagogues, cemeteries and other points of interest of Jewish history and became the ideal for many other similar guide books published since then.

In 1996 he joined the staff of the Jewish Museum Prague where he became the contact point for all researching aspects of

Bohemian and Moravian Jewish history and culture. He was employed at the Jewish Museum until 2012.

The AEJM is deeply shocked about the tragic death of our colleague Jiří Fiedler and his wife Dagmar and is deeply mourning the loss of a treasured colleague. – *Bernhard Purin*

A comprehensive obituary by Helen Epstein can be found in the [New York Times](#)

Museum Object

The Israel Museum (Jerusalem)



© Elie Posner, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

Hanukkah lamp, first half of the 1950s

Brass, spun

Ludwig Yehuda Wolpert

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; gift of Anna and Lamberto Perugia, Rome, in honour of their six grandchildren
Inv. Nr.: B09.0936

Ludwig Yehuda Wolpert (1900–1981) was among the first silversmiths to bring Modernism's International style to the Land of Israel, upon his immigration from Germany in the 1930s. At the time, local markets were flooded with eastern-style filigree items and Jewish ceremonial objects characterized by a traditional

design and adorned with a host of Jewish symbols. Together with other visionary designers, Wolpert helped found the New Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts in Jerusalem where he and other teachers taught in the spirit of Modernism and the influential school of art and design, the Bauhaus. Wolpert's involvement in the early growth of industrial design in Israel is evident in the story behind this Hanukkah lamp, in the collection of the Israel Museum.



© Elie Posner, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

When the State of Israel was founded, the Railways board, rather than forbidding

people to smoke, provided ashtrays in every carriage. These rounded ashtrays revolved on their axis so that they could be emptied. Wolpert, apart from teaching in Bezalel's metalwork department, also had a workshop of his own, and the Railways board commissioned him to produce the needed ashtray. Following this commission he was left with hundreds of quarter-spheres that had been cut off from the ashtray bowls. Wolpert, who was a creative artist with broad horizons, found a solution that was both artistic and practical: with a minimum of additional work he turned these quarter-spheres into parts from which he constructed charmingly original Hanukkah lamps and candleholders that captivated buyers both at home and abroad. He exhibited these items at a Bezalel Museum competition, and the panel of judges awarded him the prize for industrial design.

Sharon Weiser-Ferguson, curator
The Israel Museum

Works by Ludwig Yehuda Wolpert © Chava
Wolpert Richard