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## Editorial

The AEJM considers assisting its members in meeting the challenges facing European Jewish museums today as an important task. The third edition of the Curatorial Education Programme (CEP) in February at the Jewish Museum Frankfurt particularly focused on fields specific to Jewish museums by offering both practical and theoretical learning opportunities for AEJM members. A report on the CEP can be found in this Newsletter.

In this edition of the Newsletter the AEJM announces its upcoming activities: the new Educator's Training Programme (April) in Amsterdam and the Annual Conference (November) in Vienna. In 'Museum Object' new member the Chernivtsi Museum of the History and Culture of Bukovinian Jews highlights one of the treasurers from its collection. AEJM members are invited to submit their applications for the Advisory Visits Grant Programme before April 1.

## 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.

In 2012 AEJM members can submit their applications before **April 1** and **September 1**. For more information see the [AVGP brochure](#) and the [application form](#).

## Educator's Training Programme 2012 - Amsterdam

The AEJM considers museum education as one of the key aspects of the work of Jewish museums. The Educator's Training Programme (ETP) is developed to promote educational skills and expertise specific to Jewish Museums that are not taught in standard museological courses. The Programme offers AEJM members both professional training in the field of museum education and the opportunity to share common challenges. By this, the Programme aims at improving the performance and the impact of museum education of AEJM member institutions.

The first ETP will take place from May 20 till May 23 at the Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam. The Programme is developed in close cooperation with the Education Department of the hosting museum and contains various workshops and lectures on common issues for Jewish museums, such as the development of educational programmes and materials for special target groups, temporary exhibitions and permanent displays. In order to meet the needs of our members the organizational team is interested in specific topics dealing with museum education in Jewish museums you encounter in your own daily museum education practise. See the preliminary [programme](#) and the [registration form](#) for more information.

The ETP 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 **April 1** 2012.

## Curatorial Training Programme, Frankfurt 2012

The third edition of the Curatorial Training Programme (CEP) took place from 27 to 29 February 2012 at the Jewish Museum Frankfurt. The 2012 programme was organized in close cooperation with dr. Eva Atlan (Jewish Museum Frankfurt), dr. Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek and prof. dr. Annette Weber (Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg).



*Workshop on silver objects from the collection of the Jewish Museum Frankfurt*

Staff members from sixteen museums participated in an extensive three days programme with workshops, lectures and discussions and curatorial work in Jewish museums. Workshops by Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek, Annette Weber and Eva Atlan focused on identifying and interpreting textile objects, Chanukah lamps and other silver objects from the collection of the Jewish Museum Frankfurt. Curator Anja Lippert was so kind to bring recently discovered Torah wimples from the collection of the City Museum in Aschaffenburg to Frankfurt for

further identification and interpretation at the workshop. During the excursion to the new synagogue in Mainz the participants of the CEP had the opportunity to study Torah ornaments that were previously never documented.

“After participating in AEJM’s curatorial education program at the Jewish museum in Frankfurt am Main for three days, I felt that my eyes will never be the same. Patiently guided by experts of Judaica, participants from all over Europe together learned how to examine rare pieces, and what to look for when trying to date them.” says Yael Fried from the Jewish Museum Stockholm, who participated in the programme. See here a [report](#) by Yael Fried.



*Textiles from Aschaffenburg in Frankfurt*

The AEJM would like to thank director Raphael Gross, Eva Atlan, Johannes Wachten and the team from the Jewish Museum Frankfurt for kindly opening the museum and its collections to the CEP. The AEJM also kindly thanks the Rothschild Foundation for contributing towards the travel grants for CEP participants.

## **New members of the AEJM**

The AEJM has welcomed the Chernivtsi Museum of the History and Culture of Bukovinian Jews (Ukraine) and the Sephardic Museum of Toledo (Spain) as new full members.

## **Annual Conference 2012 Vienna**

This year’s Annual Conference will take place at the Jewish Museum Vienna, from November 17 to 21, 2012. More details will be available in the next newsletter. However, due to high demand, we recommend you to already register for the Conference. 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)).

## **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.  
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## Museum Object

*The Chernivtsi Museum of the History and Culture of Bukovinian Jews*  
(Chernivtsi, Ukraine)

*Alef Beis* by Eliezer Steinberg  
Chernivtsi, Romania, 1921

אלף בית פון אליעזר שטיינבערג



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The *Alef Beis* is a manual for teaching pupils to read and write in Yiddish. The book has 148 pages, contains 56 black and white line drawings, and is adorned with numerous little decorative elements. In the top-left corner of the front page there is the author's inscription: 'To dear comrade Fuks from the author'. The condition of preservation of the book is satisfactory.

The interbellum period in the history of Jews of Bukovina, the region that was incorporated into the Romanian state after World War I, was marked by an unexpected active development of Jewish cultural life in Yiddish. There were two main reasons for this phenomenon. On the one hand it is explained by the purposeful policy of elimination of the German language and the Austrian cultural decline by the Romanian

authority. On the other hand, a circle of prominent Jewish cultural leaders appeared in Chernivtsi and they took on a mission of leading the *Yiddishkeit* in the area.

The true leader of this group was Eliezer Steinberg, a former schoolteacher from the town Lipkan (Lipkany) in Bessarabia, who between 1919 and his death in 1932 – with some breaks – lived in Chernivtsi. Today Steinberg is known first of all as an author of fables in Yiddish and he belongs to the classics of the modern Jewish literature. However, in Chernivtsi he was also famous as a talented organizer of Jewish schooling. Chairing since 1919 the association *Der Jiddischer Schulverein*, Eliezer Steinberg made a great contribution to the development and popularization of the school education in Yiddish among Jewish population of Bukovina and entire Romania.

From his own teaching practice Steinberg knew very well about the lack of educational and methodological literature for Jewish schools. Trying to solve this problem in the 1920s he published in the Chernivtsi Jewish printing house *Cultur* a series of teaching materials for Jewish schools, including the special methodology of teaching children two Jewish languages. However he considered his first task to provide Jewish children with an interesting and easy-to-learn school manual that would stimulate them to learn the native language.

*Alef Beis*, published by Steinberg in 1921, was such a manual. The peculiarity of this school manual was that new rules of the Yiddish orthography, approved on the all-Romanian conference on the Jewish culture (December 1920), had been incorporated into this book. Undoubtedly it is also interesting that Steinberg invited famous local Jewish artists to illustrate the spelling book. Those were Ruben Zelikovych, Solomon Lerner and Arthur Kolnik, who in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was

destined to become the world-known Jewish graphic artist, representative of the famous 'Paris school' of art. Modern specialists consider this school manual *Alef Beis*, the first book of this kind in that time in Romania, which is a masterpiece of pedagogical art.

This edition was given in 2008 to the collection of the Chernivtsi Museum of the History and Culture of Bukovinian Jews as a gift from Isaia (Shaia) Kleiman from Chernivtsi, a former schoolteacher and famous Jewish social activist of the last decade. The latter was an earnest supporter of the native language - *mamme loschn* (מאַמע לשון) – and during the last years of his life he anchored the Jewish educational program *Dos Jiddische Wort* on the Chernivtsi radio. The original book is a part of the museum's permanent exhibition. It is shown in the

display case, dedicated to the history of Jewish literature of Bukovina.



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Natalia Shevchenko, curator  
[www.muzejew.next.net](http://www.muzejew.next.net)