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Editorial

The exchange of knowledge and experience in museum theory and practice is one of the key aspects of the work of the Association of European Jewish Museums. Our members are invited to submit their applications for the Advisory Visits Grant Programme before 1 September.

In this edition of the Newsletter you will find information on our Annual Conference (November) in Munich and Hohenems. In 'Museum Object' the Jewish Museum in Prague highlights one of the many treasures of its collections.

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 2013, AEJM members can submit their applications before **September 1**. For more information see the [AVGP Brochure](#) and the [AVGP Application Form](#).

Annual Conference 2013

The AEJM Annual Conference 2013 will take place in Munich and Hohenems from 16 November until 19 November 2013. Participants of our Conference will have the chance to see, visit and experience two very different Jewish museums in two different countries. This year's edition will be hosted by both the Jewish Museum Munich (Germany) and the Jewish Museum Hohenems (Austria).



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Programme

The Conference Programme *Where we*

are. Site, Space, Context offers a wide range of interesting activities in two countries. It will include keynote lectures by Dr Jörg Skriebeleit, director of the memorial site Flossenbürg, and Dr Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek. The panel discussion will further explore the general theme of the Conference: how Jewish museums deal with their spatial context. The workshops will focus on exhibition making, museum education and the redevelopment of Jewish heritage sites. See for more information the preliminary [programme](#).

Excursions

On Saturday 16 November Conference delegates are invited to visit to permanent and temporary exhibitions of the Jewish Museum Munich. A detailed programme of optional tours of Munich museums, galleries and private collections will be published in October. The programme will further include a visit to the Barbara Kruger exhibition *I shop therefore I am* at the Kunsthaus Bregenz, group tours to the Jewish Museum Hohenems and the Jewish quarter of this Austrian town.

Delegates are also invited to participate in an *optional excursion to Switzerland* on Wednesday 20 November. The group will visit the Jewish Museum of Switzerland in Basel and two highly interesting private collections in Zurich. See the preliminary [programme](#) for more information. Please note that there is only a limited availability of places, therefore we recommend registering in advance for the optional excursion programme to Switzerland.

Annual General Meeting

On Tuesday 19 November the Annual

General Meeting of the AEJM will take place in Hohenems. This meeting is open for AEJM members only. The agenda and other relevant information will be sent out in October.

Registration

Each Full Member has the right to send up to three delegates to the Conference, and Associate Members have the right to send up to two delegates. In the case of a third delegate from Full Members, there will be a conference fee of E.200. Due to the demand for places, we cannot accept registration from the partners of delegates.

Please note that guests who are not Full or Associate Members of the AEJM may only attend the conference by prior invitation and authorization of the AEJM Board and on payment of a guest fee of E.200. Within a month after submitting your request, you will receive information on your participation.

Due to high demand, we recommend you to [register](#) for the Conference and the optional excursion to Switzerland as soon as possible.

Travel and Accommodation

To assist you with arranging your travels to/from Munich and Hohenems, please find more information on [Travel & Accommodation](#) here. We strongly recommend arranging your bookings as soon as possible – especially in and near Hohenems – and by 30 September at the latest to ensure you find a room.

ETP 2013 Warsaw

Fifteen delegates from different AEJM member institutions from all over Europe will participate in the second edition of the AEJM Educator's Training Programme. This year's seminar will take place from 13 until 16 October in Poland. The four-day programme offers various workshops, lectures and presentations on common issues for museum education at Jewish museums.



© Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw

The programme is organized in cooperation with hosting venue Museum of the History of Polish Jews and partner institutions the Emanuel Ringelblum Historical Institute (Warsaw), the Oswiecim Jewish Centre, the Dialogue Centre (Lodz) and the Muzeum Sztuki (Lodz).

Amsterdam wins the Museum Prize 2013

Last April the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam won the Dutch Museum Prize 2013. A panel of museum professionals selected the candidate museums from a pool of 43 Dutch museums. The eligibility requirements differ from year to year; this year, the panel was in search of the museum 'best able to forge a bond with a particular group or community'. The general public then votes for its favourite museum. The Jewish Historical Museum won the prize in part because of its launch of the [Jewish Monument Community](#), an interactive website where people can search for lost family members and engage each other in discussion.

Museum Object

Jewish Museum in Prague
(Czech Republic)

Torah Shield

Silver, partially gilded, decorated with emeralds and rubies

Richard Fleischmann, Prague 1784

Acquired from the Pinkas Synagogue, Prague

Inventory Number JMP 046.075

This Torah shield is part of a set of Torah adornments donated to the Pinkas Synagogue by one of its *gabaim*, Prague based businessman with precious metals, Wolf Zappert, in the course of a few years. Zappert employed many gold- and silversmiths in Prague and he delivered his luxury goods to spa towns in Western

Bohemia and to some parts of today's Germany.



© Jewish Museum in Prague

The Torah shield is very elaborate and it is one of the earliest examples of neoclassicism in Bohemian lands. His exceptional quality is even more evident when compared to other local production of that time. Zappert obviously knew very well who from among the Prague masters to entrust with this challenging commission.

As the master to produce this Torah shield, Zappert chose a famous Prague based silversmith Richard Fleischmann. Compared to other Fleischmann's works, it is obvious that this *tas* was created according to a drawing or a printed design chosen undoubtedly by the donator himself. It was most likely also Zappert who

delivered the precious stones that are only rarely seen on Bohemian silver Judaica to decorate the upper crown on the Torah shield.

The donation of the Torah shield to the Pinkas Synagogue met with an extraordinary response not only within the Prague Jewish community; in following decades, the other Bohemian Jewish communities had at least four copies of this shield produced. Three of them are preserved in the collection of the Jewish Museum in Prague.

In 2012, this Torah shield was included into a representative catalogue of the silver collection of Prague Jewish Museum entitled *Silver Judaica from the Collection of the Jewish Museum in Prague*. The catalogue presents almost 500 items and shows the richness and diversity of the collection. It can be

purchased in our online [museum shop](#).

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