

Content

The heterogeneity of Jewish communities through time and space is mirrored by the equally heterogeneous appearance of their religion-related material culture. This is due to the entanglements and interactions of Jewish with regional cultures, of context-specific religious content with general art and aesthetics, and to the varieties of Jewish life and customs in different socio-political settings. Jewish religious material culture thus not only reflects internal Jewish perspectives, but also the coexistence of Jews with people from various backgrounds; furthermore, it may reflect tension and rupture among various factions within the community as well as of Jewish communities vis-à-vis surrounding societies.

This conference will focus on Judaica, i.e. objects required for Jewish religious practice. It will cover the period from the Middle Ages until the present, post-modern times and deal with Jewish material cultural expressions in a variety of non-Jewish societies. Since Judaica are multi-dimensional objects, the conference aims to reveal and discuss their inherent challenges and ambiguities. Judaica have to be interpreted not only as vehicles of religious significance but also as media of transcultural, transsocial, economic, historical, and political meaning.

With the support of

- Faculty of Theology, University of Zurich
- René & Susanne Braginsky Foundation
- Swiss National Science Foundation

RSB STIFTUNG
RENÉ & SUSANNE BRAGINSKY STIFTUNG
ZÜRICH

FNSNF

SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Further Informationen

Venues

June 12, 2017
Room KAB-G-01
University of Zurich
Kantonsschulstrasse 3
8001 Zürich

June 13–14, 2017
Room RAA-G-01
University of Zurich
Rämistrasse 59
8001 Zürich

Organization

Dr. Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek, Prof. Dr. Christoph Uehlinger,
Sarah Werren lic.phil.

Contact

Sarah Werren
Religionswissenschaftliches Seminar
Kantonsschulstrasse 1
8001 Zürich
Tel. + 41 (0)44 634 09 33
e-mail: sarah.werren@uzh.ch

Registration

Please register until June 5, 2017: sarah.werren@uzh.ch.
Apéro riche (June 12) and lunch (June 14) will be provided
at the conference.

Photo courtesy of the Jewish Museum Hohenems:
"Silberschatz", Eastern Europe, 19th century.

Religionswissenschaftliches Seminar

Challenging Judaica Objects: The Ambiguity of Jewish Material Culture

June 12–14, 2017

International Conference



Sigi Feigel-Gastprofessur für Jüdische Studien

Conference Program

Monday, June 12

17:00 Welcome

Session A: Introducing the Challenges

Chair: **Emile Schrijver** (University of Amsterdam)

17:15 **Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek** (University of Zurich)
What about Judaica?

18:00 **Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett** (Polin. Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw)
Interpreting Judaica: Prismatic Approaches

19:45 Discussion

20:15 Apéro riche

Tuesday, June 13

Session B: Early Literary and Material Evidence

Chair: **Christoph Uehlinger** (University of Zurich)

9:00 **Vivian Mann** (The Jewish Theological Seminary, New York)
The Role of Texts in Interpreting the Ambiguous and the Challenging. The Ezrat Nashim and Aesthetics in the Synagogue

9:45 **Annette Weber** (Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg)
A Bond between Jews and Christians? Ashkenazic Torah-Binders and Christian Complements

10:45 Coffee/Tea Break

11:00 **Martha Keil** (Institute for Jewish History in Austria, Vienna/St. Pölten)
“Sidel” and “Hadass”: Ritual Objects in Medieval Ashkenazic Sources

11:30 Response and Discussion

12:30 Lunch

Session C: The Transformative Character of Judaica

Chair: **Naomi Lubrich** (Jewish Museum of Switzerland, Basel)

14:00 **Dana Veselská** (Jewish Museum in Prague)
Ready-Made? Contextual Transformation of Jewish Ritual Objects Based on Examples from the Collection of the Jewish Museum in Prague

14:45 **Daniela Schmid** (Curator of the Private Muzicant Collection, Vienna)
Blossoming Phantasies. Hanukkah Chimeras of Eastern Europe

15:30 Coffee/Tea Break

15:45 **Sharon Weiser-Ferguson** (The Israel Museum, Jerusalem)
When the Old Becomes New and the New Becomes Old: Contemporary Questions for Contemporary Judaica

16:30 **Michal Friedlander** (Jewish Museum Berlin)
Looking Forward—The Design and Manufacture of Jewish Ritual Objects in Post-War Bremen

17:15 Response and Discussion

20:00 Conference Dinner

Wednesday, June 14

Session D: Judaica: Personal Life Stories and Jewish History

Chair: **Sarah Werren** (Universities of Zurich and Basel)

8:30 **Cilly Kugelmann** (Jewish Museum Berlin)
Judaica and Audience: Core Task and Frustration of Jewish Museums

9:15 **Hanno Loewy** (Jewish Museum Hohenems)
With a Janus Face. Objects of Everyday Life Between Biography and History

10:00 Response and Discussion

10:30 Coffee/Tea Break

11:00 **Naomi Lubrich** (Jewish Museum of Switzerland, Basel)
What’s in a Mantle? Ritual Textiles from the Swiss “Judendörfer” Eendingen and Lengnau

11:20 **Student Presentations** (Universities of Zurich and Basel)

12:00 Lunch

Session E: Provenance Research and World War 2

Chair: **Erik Petry** (University of Basel)

13:00 **Julie-Marthe Cohen** (Jewish Historical Museum Amsterdam)
Tracing Paths of Fate. Provenance and Quovadiance Research of Judaica Looted During WW2

13:45 **Emile Schrijver** (Jewish Historical Museum and the Jewish Cultural Quarter Amsterdam)
Identifying Jewish Books from Pre-War Collections in Post-War Collections: Methodological Challenges and Practical Impossibilities

14:30 Response and Discussion

15:00 Coffee/Tea Break

Session F: Terminology and Documentation

Chair: **Erik Petry** (University of Basel)

15:15 **Bernhard Purin** (Jewish Museum Munich)
“Probably Augsburg or Nuremberg...” The Southern German Landscape of Jewish Ritual Art and Its Surroundings

16:00 **Magda Veselská** (Jewish Museum in Prague)
Taxonomy of Judaica Collections: The Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague Sorted Out

16:45 Response and Discussion

Concluding Words (Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek)