



**The Center for Jewish Art  
News Update  
April 2004**

**Conferences/Seminars/Lectures/Exhibitions**

Our Symposium on Jewish Art in Emilia, Italy scheduled for 30 August – 9 September 2004, has been postponed, mainly for security reasons. We would like to hold a symposium on the various Jewish communities **in Israel in 2005**. Please give us your thoughts on this idea.

As a result of cooperation between the Center for Jewish Art and various universities in Germany, an exhibition of wooden models of synagogues was held at the Parliament of Niedersachsen; the models were then moved to the Centrum Judaicum in Berlin, and in November 2003, Prof. Aliza Cohen-Mushlin opened the exhibition. Attending the opening, which was most dignified and moving, were the German Federal Minister of Science and Culture, the Israel Representative and other dignitaries.

Prof. Cohen-Mushlin then travelled to Toronto on behalf of the Hebrew University to give lectures on the Center's work in an attempt to raise funds for scholarships.

In December/January we held our annual Mordechai and Nessia Narkiss Lecture Series, which presented results of documentation and research carried out recently. The lectures were held in Mishkenot Sha'ananim in Jerusalem and were given by Prof. Bezalel Narkiss, Prof. Architect David Cassutto and Ms. Ariella Amar.

In March, the Center for Jewish Art, in cooperation with the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv, held a short seminar on the documentation of synagogues in Germany.

**Seminars held with the cooperation of the Society for Jewish Art**

- "Women's Professions among Iraqi Jews and their Neighbours" was the subject of a seminar held in December 2002 in Or-Yehuda with the cooperation of the Center for the Heritage of Iraqi Jews.
- A seminar and exhibition entitled "Roads, Cities and Palaces: In the Footsteps of Artists in Jewish Ukraine" were held in Jerusalem in December 2002.
- The 12<sup>th</sup> Conference on the Design of the Hebrew Letter entitled "Words, Words..." was held last March with the cooperation of Emunah College of Art.
- A series of seminars entitled "Spotlight on a Community" dealt with the various communities in Israel. The first in the series on the Persian community was held in Jerusalem last April; the second seminar on the Lybian and Tunisian communities was held in June in Zeitan, near Lod and in Ramla. The third seminar, which took place in September, threw light on the Ethiopian community, and the fourth in the series, held in November 2003, dealt with the Jews of Cochin. It was a great success with over 400 participants from all over the country.
- The Society's 35<sup>th</sup> annual conference was held in May 2003 and dealt with myths, new festivals and more.

- The Society's 36<sup>th</sup> annual conference will be held of **May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004** and will deal with The Jew and The Other.

### **Expeditions**

The expedition to Greece was carried out in April 2003, led by Ms. Ariella Amar, with the participation of architect Dr. Boris Lekar, researchers Ms. Sandrin Revivo, Ms. Einat Ron and Mr. Omer Gavri, and photographer Mr. Zeev Radovan.

The expedition to Macedonia and Albania, led by Prof. Cohen-Mushlin, also took place in April. Architects Ceresnjes and Mrs. Zoya Arshavsky and archeologists Ms. Orit Sehayk and Ms. Orit Peleg took part in the expedition.

The expedition to Vienna to continue documentation of Hebrew illuminated manuscripts in the Austrian National Library was carried out in May, and was led by Mrs. Michal Sternthal with the participation of researchers Ms. Anna Nizza and Mrs. Esterlee Kenan. The next expedition to the National Library in Vienna took place in September, and was headed by Prof. Cohen-Mushlin. The next and probably the last expedition will complete documentation of the manuscripts in preparation for the publication of a catalogue of 61 Hebrew illuminated manuscripts housed at the Library.

Our documentation in Uzbekistan continued in June 2004: Architect Mrs. Arshavsky led the expedition to Samarkand, Shahriziabz and Tashkent, with the participation of Dr. Mavluda Yusupova of the Academy of Arts in Tashkent and students of the Institute for Architecture and Building in Samarkand. They documented synagogues, synagogues in private houses and *mikvaot*.

### **Guests at the Center**

Dr. Leonora Bergman, Deputy Director of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, visited the Center in April 2003 to discuss with Prof. Cohen-Mushlin the documentation of synagogues in Poland. This was followed by further discussions between Dr. Bergman and Dr. Sergei Kravtsov, a senior researcher at the Center,

A group of members of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University were the guests of the Center in May last. Prof. Cohen-Mushlin and Ms. Amar guided them around the Judaica and the Ardon exhibitions at the Israel Museum.

### **Book Fairs**

The Center participated in a book fair organized by the Dinnur Center for Jewish History and held at the University in December 2002, and will be held again in March 2004. The International Book Fair took place at the National Convention Center in Jerusalem in June, in which the Center exposed its publications to a wide and varied public.

### **The Jerusalem Index of Jewish Art Serves the Public**

In recent years, we have been inundated with requests for material from the *Jerusalem Index of Jewish Art*, either for research purposes or for physical reconstruction of Jewish buildings around the world. Lately, the National Building Research Institute at the Technion in Haifa sought the cooperation of the Center with regard to the physical reconstruction of synagogues in Western Ukraine. Dr. Kravtsov is involved in this project.