

**2nd International Workshop on Jewish Heritage, 2019
'Museums and their Communities'**

Jewish Museum London, Monday and Tuesday, 24-25 June 2019

Abstracts**Journey to Palestine: Refugees' Journey from Kraków to Eretz Israel****Paulina Banasik****Galicia Jewish Museum**

This exhibition at Galicia Jewish Museum tells the story of wartime exile of one Jewish family from Kraków. Many of Jews were deported to Siberia and they survived the war time there, with many of Poles and other nationalities. The exhibition creates an awareness about the Jewish refugees in Siberia at the background of the one family story. Pisek family was one of a number of fully assimilated and wealthy Jewish families living in Kraków before the war. They lived a peaceful life till the moment of the decision to escape. With the outbreak of the war they migrated from Kraków and they went through Zamość, Siberia, Iran, Irak and finally they reach Palestine. This journey took 3 years.

The exhibition will be devoted to very popular but still not developed enough topic. Although the Holocaust consumed about 6 mln Jews, it wasn't the only scenario of the Jewish fate during the war. According to the data, about 300 000 Polish Jews got to the territory occupied by Red Army.

A Recipe for Muranów**Ewa Chomicka****POLIN Museum for the History of Polish Jews**

The POLIN Museum is the only museum in Warsaw which maintains such strong links with its immediate surroundings. The residents of the Muranów neighbourhood live in an area which initially formed the very centre of the Northern District, inhabited mostly by Jews, and which then became a part of the Warsaw Ghetto, its buildings razed to the ground by the Nazis. Some of the local residents live in the houses forming part of the estate which acts as the monument to the Warsaw Ghetto, designed by Bohdan Lachert, who made a conscious decision to use the rubble from the devastated city as a building material. In that way, life was to blossom among the ruins once again – and so it happened. The studies conducted by sociologists prove

that all this makes history such an important factor for the residents of the Muranów district.

As a consequence, the POLIN Museum has placed a great emphasis on its cooperation with the local community from the very beginning. On numerous occasions, the Museum implemented projects linked to the Muranów district and addressed to its residents, including both major as well as more intimate events aimed at smaller groups: performances, workshops, neighborly meetings, city actions etc. During my speech I'd like to present projects designed for the close neighbours of the POLIN Museum, with special focus on initiatives engaging the local community at different levels and empowering the local residents to share their individual stories.

Communities, Conflict and Contested Histories in Northern Ireland's Museums
Elizabeth Crooke
Ulster University

Since the first scholarly exploration of the interpretation of a contested past in Northern Ireland's museums (Buckley and Kenny 1994; Crooke 2001), there have been two major shifts in thinking that can be considered when assessing the current museum offer in this area. The first is the broad question of the purposes of our publicly funded museums and the practice of museums becoming more socially and political engaged. The second relates to the rationale behind the increasing number of museums and heritage initiatives that explore contested or difficult histories in public spaces (Logan and Reeves 2008; Williams 2007). One could argue the discourse on purpose has shifted focus away from the tangible thingness of museums and towards how we make sense of the presences and absences in museum collections and spaces. This paper explores that debate in order to provide a foundation for thinking about the interpretation and display of contested histories in Northern Ireland's museums.

Fleeting Glimpses: Judaica at the Museum of London
Hazel Forsyth
Museum of London

The Museum of London's collection of medieval and early modern Judacia is extremely small. Very few artefacts with specific Jewish associations, datable to the 18th century or earlier, have been recovered from archaeological contexts in London and only those items intended for ceremonial religious or ritual usage can be recognized with any confidence; in nearly all known examples, it is the use of Hebrew script which gives the most reliable indication. Despite the paucity of material evidence the role played by London's Jewry was significant and needs to be demonstrated in our displays, so as we start to think about our move to a new site and new display content, we face a challenge. How can we best use the material we

have? A particular challenge is presented by the recent acquisition of a 13th land grant; an important record of the influence of English Jewry in the decades before the expulsion in 1290.

From Hidden in the Archive to Invisible in the Museum: The Case of Winchester's Medieval Jewish Synagogue Token

Toni Griffiths

University of Southampton

In 1968 a lead token with Hebrew inscription was discovered in Winchester, England. The artefact, dated to the late twelfth-thirteenth century, is thought to have been a synagogue token used by the medieval Jewish community. The Winchester Jewry was one of the earliest settlements in England; present there from the mid-1100s until their expulsion from the country in 1290. The lead token is one of a limited selection of artefacts in England relating to the medieval Jews and has been suggested by Martin Biddle as 'the only one of its kind to have been found in England securely dated before c.1250' (2012: 700). This paper will explore the interpretation and treatment of the Winchester token, considering its recent move from local archive to city museum and situating issues concerning the token's display within a wider context of forgetting and remembering Jewish history in Winchester.

Jewish Museums and their Communities of Interest

Léontine Meijer-van Mensch

State Ethnographic Collections of Saxony

Who 'owns' and 'controls' Jewish cultural heritage? Who has access, who can participate in the process of meaning making and interpretation and what does the concept of legal and moral ownership mean in relation to the term guardianship? Both in discourse, as well as in the everyday practice of Ethnological Museums, those questions are debated on a daily basis. Within the ethnological, the concept of community is almost tiring omnipresent. Within the context of Jewish Museums - at least in continental Europe - this is much less so. In my presentation, several case studies from in- and outside the museum context will serve as cases to look more closely at the concept of communities and its possibilities for safeguarding, 'unpacking' and the meaning making potential of Jewish cultural heritage, especially in Germany and other central European countries. The presentation evolves around the hypothesis that there is a variety of communities involved as stakeholders, and not just, what usually is referred to as source community.

'Ask the Rabbi' – A New vVdeo Installation Based on Contemporary Religious Concerns

Sara Soussan

Jewish Museum Frankfurt

As part of the current refurbishment of the Jewish Museum Frankfurt I and a media artist have produced a video installation on a large screen in a Cafe Lounge of the museum. The installation is based on the idea of the rabbinic responsa tradition which has in transformed into the ‚Ask the Rabbi‘ practice in the internet recent times. Such displays are popular in other museums (including the Jewish Museum London), but here the format and the questions have been updated. The films are compilations of the answers of five rabbis from Frankfurt on various topics, illustrating the diversity of beliefs and traditions within Judaism. I will briefly present this project and discuss what we expect from this installation for our predominantly non-Jewish audiences and how we chose the questions and this particular setting.

Galkoff's Goes on - Preserving the History of a Kosher Butcher's Shop

Liz Stewart

National Museums Liverpool

Galkoff's Kosher butcher's shop opened around 1907 and became a very popular local business at the heart of Liverpool's Jewish community in Pembroke Place. The shop closed around 1978 and the future of its beautiful tiles, and the heritage and stories they represent, hung in the balance.

In 2012 the building was acquired by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, who have themselves been based on Pembroke Place since 1918. The School approached the Museum of Liverpool to work with them to save the tiles and a project grew to explore the history of the street. With the support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund the tiles were saved, and histories captured and interpreted.

This paper explores this project and the ways in which it engaged local communities and preserved an iconic shopfront and its stories.

Navigating Purpose, People and Places at the Oslo Jewish Museum

Mats Tangestuen

Oslo Jewish Museum

For several years, people within the Jewish community in Oslo had put forward the idea of creating a Jewish Museum. In the early 2000, this question was raised again. Some wanted an internal museum for the community - an exhibition of artefacts within the walls of the Jewish community. Others wanted a museum for the population at large. The idea of establishing the museum in an old Synagogue, empty of Jewish presence since 1942, won through. In 2008, Oslo Jewish Museum opened its

first exhibition. This presentation will focus on the obstacles and opportunities experienced along the way.

Working with Jewish Communities at the Wiener Library

Barbara Warnock

Wiener Library

Barbara Warnock of The Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide will explain the origins of the Library in terms of the German Jewish community from which the organisation emerged, and explore how the Library connects today with those of German Jewish origin, and, more generally, with the descendants of Jewish refugees from Europe living in Britain. These communities are reached and served through The Library's family research service, its collections acquisition policy, its exhibition programme, and through its support for the Second Generation Network of Holocaust survivors.

Jewish Heritage in the UK – Working with the Community

Dawn Waterman

Jewish Heritage UK

Dawn Waterman will talk about Jewish Heritage UK, a small charity which is based here at the Jewish Museum in London and operates throughout the country. Drawing on a couple of case studies, she will consider some of the challenges in working with the Jewish community to care for its historic synagogues and cemeteries.