



Image: Ibn Shoshan Synagogue (now the Church of Santa María la Blanca), first built 1180, Toledo, Spain

International Two-Day Conference

Tracing Jewish Histories The Long Lives of Medieval Hebrew Manuscripts, Judaica, and Architecture

19 - 20 May 2025

The Courtauld Institute of Art, Vernon Square

Introduction

Works of art and architecture made by or for Jewish communities in the medieval period are often examined through the lenses of persecution and expulsion, or are contrasted against Christian or Muslim “styles.” This symposium seeks to expand and nuance these narratives in order to highlight how works of art and architecture can uniquely trace the history of particular Jewish communities by mapping their movements and traditions across generations and geographies. Medieval Jewish objects and spaces can also serve as loci to examine ideas related to collective memory and cultural identity. To that end, the symposium seeks to open new dialogues regarding the “afterlives” of medieval Jewish art more broadly, initiating discussions regarding the ways in which works of art and architecture continued to bear witness to the richness of Jewish life and culture long after they were created.

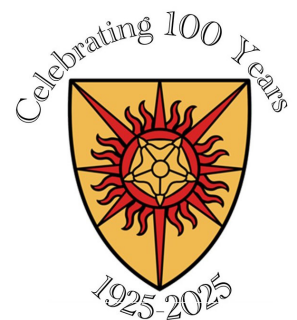
Organised by Laura Feigen and Reed O’Mara, this symposium is supported by Sam Fogg and the Mellon Foundation with additional support from The Department of Art History and Art at Case Western Reserve University and The Medieval Academy of America Graduate Student Committee Grant for Innovation in Community Building and Professionalisation.

With the support of:

SAM
FOGG



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences



Programme

Monday 19 May

- 10.00-10.30 **Registration opens**
- 10.30-11.00 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Tom Nickson, The Courtauld
Laura Feigen, The Courtauld
Reed O'Mara, Case Western Reserve University
- 11.00-12.30 **Session I - Manuscripts and movement**
Chaired by Claudia Haines, Case Western Reserve University
- Judith Olszowy-Schlanger, University of Oxford,
"Palaeography and the Tracing of the Origins and History of a Bilingual Psalter (MS Oxford, Corpus Christi College 10)"
Katrin Kogman-Appel, University of Münster,
"Illustrated Books, their Makers and Owners in an Age of Migration"
Javier del Barco, Universidad Complutense de Madrid,
"From Northern Italy to Dublin: The Journey of a Hebrew Bible at the Chester Beatty Library"
- 12.30-13.30 **Lunch break**
Provided for speakers and organisers only
- 13.30-15.00 **Session II - Making and remaking**
Introduced by Allison Boroff, Case Western Reserve University
Chaired by Sarah Frisbie, Case Western Reserve University
- Leor Jacobi, Bar-Ilan University,
"Bound in Catalonia: Jewish Bookbindings Produced for Christians as Historical Witnesses"
Hila Manor, Hebrew University of Jerusalem,
"The Long Lives of the Oldest Pair of Torah Finials"
Roni Cohen, Goethe University,
"Manuscripts, Gamblers, and Medieval Hebrew Hits"
- 15.00-15.30 **Refreshment break**
Coffee and tea provided
- 15.30 - 17.00 **Session III - New lives of architecture**
Introduced by Darren Helton, Case Western Reserve University
Chaired by Natalia Muñoz-Rojass, The Courtauld
- Ilia Rodov, Bar-Ilan University,
" 'A Time to Gather Stones': Spolia, Sacredness, and Memory in Ashkenazi Synagogues"
Eva Frojmovic, University of Leeds,
"A Second Life in the Museum: Jewish Tombstones After the Black Death"
Franziska Kleybolte, University of Münster,
"The Synagogue-Church of Santa Maria la Blanca in Toledo: A Site of Jewish-Christian Memory Between Entanglement and Disentanglement"
- 17.00 - 18.00 **Drinks reception**
Open to all

Programme

Tuesday 20 May

- 10.00-11.30 **Session IV - Collecting practices at large**
Introduced by Olga Morgalyuk, The Courtauld
Chaired by Tess Artis, Case Western Reserve University
- William Diebold, Reed College,
"The Darmstadt Haggadah's Turbulent 1950s"
Abby Kornfeld, City University of New York
"The Róza Gomperz Endowment: Rethinking the Kaufmann Collection of Illuminated Hebrew Manuscripts"
Anna Nizza-Caplan, The Israel Museum,
"'Accessible to All': The unlimited shelf-life of an illuminated *Mishneh Torah*"
- 11.30 - 11.45 **Refreshment break**
Coffee and tea provided
- 11.45 - 13.05 **Curatorial Panel - Problems and Priorities: the acquisition and display of Jewish material culture in museums**
Introduced by Sam Truman, Kress Fellow at The Courtauld
Response by Elizabeth Morrison, J. Paul Getty Museum
- Simona Di Nepi, Museum of Fine Arts Boston
Riva Arnold, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Alice Minter, Victoria & Albert Museum
- 13.05 - 13.30 **Closing Remarks**
Elina Gertsman, Case Western Reserve University

Notes