

THE JEWISH MUSEUM OF GREECE

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The new JMG website

The new website has been built utilizing state of the art technical methods and has a solid foundation for the future. Further to its sound structure, it aims to be user friendly and easy to navigate through its many layers. It is an interactive and dynamic site that the visitor can use to gain general information or further research for specialised information.

This new and improved site was designed by a team headed by Mr Isidoros Tiano, General Secretary of the Museum's Association of Friends and former President of the American Friends. The team did a lot of research and utilized museum, technical and business principles, bringing together know-how and experience, in order to meet the objectives of the Museum's Internet presence. The Museum aims to use the Internet in order to communicate with its members and the public at large and to present the many programs and activities throughout the years of its operation, as well as upcoming events. In addition, the Internet will be the medium which will be used to present the wealth of artefacts, books, music and other parts of its rich collection and exhibits. Through this ever expanding medium, people all over the world will have immediate access to the Museum and thus its mission will be fulfilled.

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that the visitor can use to gain general information or further research for specialised information. In the context of a friendly environment, the site presents accurate and comprehensive content, coupled with a wealth of photographs, which is expected to keep those who are interested in the Museum and its activities fully-informed. For the casual visitor the site offers quick and easy answers providing effective access to the Museum.

More specifically, the site provides information on the Museum's history, permanent exhibition, its collection, storage areas and conservation methods. Information about its past activities, periodic exhibitions, publications, participation in international exhibitions, as well as a comprehensive place to promote future events, are also displayed as well as updated on regular basis. The photographic archives, the library, the Museum's publications and its newsletters can now all be accessed from this site. The educational programs, events organised, publications and other activities aiming to acquaint the entire educational community, with the heritage and history of Greek Jewry take its significant place on the site and have

already proved to be a popular part to visit. Finally, the site meets its objectives for the development of inter-cultural awareness, by approaching issues such as Holocaust education and human rights in a sensitive way.

The website was built with tools that allow the museum's staff to dynamically update information shown on regular intervals. There are many new functions that are also planned for the future, thus keeping the visitor of the site constantly interested on not only what is new at the museum, but what is new with the site itself. The frequent visitor will see many improvements and new features.

The site was constructed by a technical company specializing in large projects called "Greek Geeks - Information Systems and Web Communications S.A" They are located in Holargos, a suburb of Athens, and have a solid reputation,



including that of building the Athens 2004 Olympics Internet Presence. The design was completed by a team which included all of the Museum's staff, a volunteer technical committee, consisting of Isidoros Tiano, Victor Solomon and Erriko Alkalai, the youngest member of the team, an 18 year old Systems Engineering student, and of course the competent technicians and analysts of the Greek Geeks team.

This most significant project for the JMG was generously underwritten by the families of Solomon and Victor Asser, in memory of their father David Asser. The JMG would like to take this opportunity to thank the Asser Family most kindly for their continuous and valuable support for the museum.

It would also like to thank the committee of technical volunteers, the Greek Geeks company, the Museum staff and the members of the Board of Directors who contributed by making test visits and providing comments. Sponsors, volunteers, staff, technicians and all, really did make for a well-balanced team and we believe that the result confirms once again the great importance of sound strategy and methodical organisation, qualities which have become the trademark of the Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers of the Jewish Museum and are a major factor of its success to date.

There is much that still has to be done so that this project can be completed. We shall keep you informed about how this website fits in the overall strategy of the Museum's Operating Environment and Organisation. If you feel you would like to contribute to this effort at any of the levels described here, please contact us. All members' presence and support are vital to the continuation of this project.

You are always encouraged to come to the Museum in person. If, however, you are unable to visit soon, please access the Museum at its website, www.jewishmuseum.gr whenever you can. After visiting the site, you can contact us at info@jewishmuseum.gr. Your comments are always welcome and will become the source of continued improvements for this website, as well as for the Museum itself.

"Teaching about

Introduction



The General Secretary of the Younger Generation Ms. Vasso Kollia with JMG Director Ms. Zanet Battinou



Arrival of the participating educators



The seminar hall. Right, Ambassador Mr. A. Philon, Head of the Greek Delegation to the ITF

Introduction

In the year 2004, the Jewish Museum of Greece planned and organized a seminar for primary and secondary school teachers and Museum Educators under the title: "Teaching about the Holocaust in Greece", the first such seminar to be held in Greece. The seminar took place under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, on Friday, October 22nd 2004, at the Electra Palace Hotel, in Athens, with

The third seminar for educators by the JMG

the Holocaust in Greece"

Addresses

On the first day of the seminar, Thursday, October 19th 2006, the participants were greeted by the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Georgios Avgoustis (on behalf of

the ministry's General Secretary, Mr. H. Rokanas, who was called away at the last minute), the representative of the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs, Ms. Ismini Kriari-Katrani, Special Secretary for Intercultural Education, the Secretary General of Youth, Ms. Vasso Kollia, the President of the Board of the J.M.G., Mr. Makis Matsas, and last, but not least, Ms. Berry Nahmia, president of the Association of Greek Jewish Holocaust Survivors. Ambassador A. Filon, head of the Greek delegation to the ITF attended nearly the entire seminar.



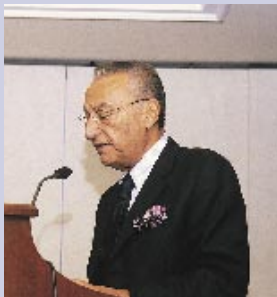
Mr. Georgios Avgoustis



Ms. Ismini Kriari-Katrani



Ms. Vasso Kollia



Mr. Makis Matsas



Ms. Berry Nahmia

the support of the Claims Conference Committee, the International Task Force for Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, and the Greek Ministries of National Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Foreign Affairs. A total of 86 people attended the seminar, among them primary and secondary school teachers, post-graduate students of Museum Studies and Museum Education, and representatives of various organizations and authorities.

On Sunday, October 23rd, 2005, the second seminar for educators on the same subject took place at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in the city of Thessaloniki. This event was organized by the Jewish Museum of Greece under the auspices of the

Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs and hosted by the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, which was one of the sponsors. The seminar was also supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by the International Task Force for Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research and by the cultural departments of the Embassies of the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany. The seminar lasted from 9.00 until 18.00 and included lectures from a host of experts on Holocaust research and education from various countries, a guided tour at the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki, a meeting of the participants with Holocaust survivors, special workshops and the presentation of a Museum Case, specially designed for the teaching and experiential approach of the subject in the classroom. More than 85 people attended the seminar, among them 58 educators, representatives of ministries, organisations and institutes, as well as interested individuals.

Framework

This year, the Jewish Museum of Greece organised the third seminar for educators on the subject of teaching about the Holocaust in Greece. The seminar was once again under the auspices of the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs and was supported by the Ministry of Education (through the General Secretariat of Youth), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Task Force for Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research. All stationery for the seminar was again kindly provided by the company Maurice Gattegno Ltd. It took place on Thursday and Friday, October 19 and 20, 2006, at the Electra Palace Hotel, in Athens.

Despite initial fears - mainly because of the negative atmosphere created by the previous summer's developments in the Middle East, but also by the upheaval in Greek education at the time - attendance rose this year to 93 people, 59 of whom were mostly high school teachers (see attached list of participants).

Following a request by the Ministry of Education, the required 30 Euros attendance fee was changed to optional, after it became obvious that a large number of educators from small towns would pay their own way to take part in the seminar. Therefore, no revenue was made from attendance fees. The Ministry also requested that the programme, which initially was to last two full days, be shortened to one and a half. Despite being shorter than originally intended, this seminar was still longer than the two previous ones, something that permitted a more analytical development of the programme (see attached programme). The speakers were given fifty minutes

The third seminar for educators by the JMG

1st day Presentations



Ms. Maria Efthymiou



Mr. Alexios Menexiadis



Ms. Anastasia Kyrkini - Koutoula



Ms. Berry Nachmia

2nd day Presentations



Mr. Joël Kotek

each, which allowed them to focus on detail and analyse in depth various facets of the Holocaust which had not been touched upon in previous seminars (e.g. Tzavaras, Menexiadis) or to present specialised educational programmes and bibliography on the subject (e.g. Kyrkini-Koutoula, Kokkinos et al.). As the subsequent questions and discussion proved, the issues that had been chosen for presentation were those that were the most interesting to the attendees, while the latter's positive feedback after the end of the seminar demonstrated that the programme was neither overly ambitious nor too fast-paced.

The collaboration with the International Task Force for Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research proved especially constructive, as the organisation,

besides financial support, also offered useful advice and recommendations on the practical aspects of the seminar. It also sent an observer to provide feedback, with the aim of further improving future seminars.

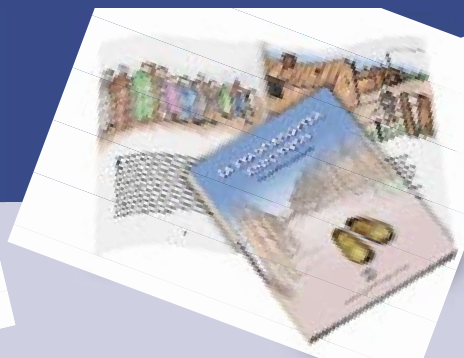
Of no less significance was the Museum's collaboration with the Yad Vashem Institute, which has a vast experience on teaching about the Holocaust. The participants had the chance to meet with a speaker of the Institute's who developed the rationale as well as the practical approaches to teaching about the Holocaust, which Yad Vashem successfully employs.

The lectures were followed by workshops of applied teaching, in combination with a series of special reference material (printed matter, DVDs of survivors' testimonies,

Besides the rich printed material of the seminar, the participants also received catalogues and information publications of the Jewish Museum of Greece for their school libraries. The Jewish Museum also gave the educators three of its publications which are already part of every school library in the country, on the initiative of the Ministry of Education:



"The Second World War and the Holocaust of the Greek Jews, 1941 - '44", a study manual on the Holocaust in Greece, based on historical evidence and material from the Jewish Museum's archive and collection. Besides stating the historic facts, necessary for a first contact with the subject of the Holocaust in Greece, the book contains photographs of the period, as well as photographs of items and documents. A chronological list of events, a catalogue of the Greek "Righteous of the Nations" and recommended bibliography are also included.



"The wooden clogs tell their story", an illustrated children's book which tells the story of the Holocaust through the narration of a pair of wooden clogs, now part of the Jewish Museum's collection.



"My friend, Aaron", an illustrated book for young children, which uses the story of two young friends to introduce the children to another religion - the Jewish one.

The third seminar for educators by the JMG



The presentation of Ms. Shira Magen, Head of the Greek Office at Yad Vashem



The excellent educators group headed by Mr. Giorgios Kokkinos



Mr. Nikos Tzavaras



During the seminar, participants visited the travelling exhibition of the JMG "The Holocaust of the Greek Jews, 1941 - '44", inside the Museum premises.

A reception was held at the Jewish Museum of Greece, on the evening of October 19th, in honour of the educators participating in the seminar and guests. It was attended by representatives of the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs, the General Secretary of Youth, the ambassadors and officials from the embassies of Israel, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary and Austria, as well as representatives of the USA Embassy. Also present were the representative of the Greek Archbishop Christodoulos, the President, Honorary President and members of the Board of the J.M.G., the presidents of the Central Jewish Board and the Jewish Community of Athens, many of the educators attending the seminar, as well as several of the speakers. The educators were given a guided tour of the exhibition, focusing especially on the Holocaust area and

museum cases), which offered the participating educators ideas and practical means for the approach in the classroom of a subject as difficult, sensitive and important as the Holocaust.

During the seminar, participants also had the chance to see the Jewish Museum's travelling exhibition "The Holocaust of the Greek Jews, 1941 - '44" presented at the Museum.

Each of the participants also received a DVD produced by the Jewish Museum of Greece, containing a selection of survivors' testimonies, from interviews made between 1987 and 1992 by Ms. Berry Nahmia, herself a survivor from the Auschwitz concentration camp and president of the "Association of Greek Jewish Holocaust Survivors". The educators were also given videotapes of the film "Return", which was made by Greek Jewish youths participating in the 2002 "March of the Living", which is an annual pilgrimage to the sites of the Holocaust.

Finally, three museum cases were presented, two of which, "Hidden Children in Occupied Greece" and "The Holocaust of the Greek Jews 1941 - '44" had been examined also in previous seminars. The third one "Jewish Holidays" is new and is part of an effort to familiarise students with the daily life and traditions of the Greek Jews.

An important innovation of the Museum's was the translation and distribution to the educators of three manuals by recognised international organisations, regarding teaching about the Holocaust. These were the "Guidelines for Educators" by the International Task Force for Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, "Teaching about the Holocaust" by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and "Preparing Holocaust Memorial Days", by Yad Vashem and ODIHR.

the travelling exhibition "The Holocaust of the Greek Jews, 1941 - '44".

Presentations

After the addresses, the presentations of the first session followed.

Ms. Maria Efthymiou, professor of the department of History and Archaeology of the University of Athens, made a brief - but lively as well as thorough - presentation of the more than 23-century-long history of the Jews of Greece, which nearly came to its end during the German occupation. She also referred to their relations with the Christians, thus introducing educators to the general framework of the historic period under examination.

The third seminar for educators by the JMG

Mr. Alexios Menexiadis, PhD candidate of History at the Department of German Studies of the University of Athens, focused on two aspects of the Holocaust in Greece. The first was the difference in survival rates among the various Jewish Communities of Greece, depending on their respective degrees of assimilation, not only socially, but also spatially, i.e. with regards to whether they lived in Jewish or mixed neighbourhoods. The second was the mostly passive stance of a portion of the Christian population, a behaviour which - to a large extent - let the Germans continue their "work" undisturbed. He also referred to examples of the exact opposite behaviour, such as the island of Zakynthos, where the entire community was saved unscathed.

The next speaker was Ms. Anastasia Kyrkini-Koutoula, doctor of History at the University of Athens, Advisor to the Institute of Pedagogics. She presented the new resources and handbooks regarding the Holocaust, which have been approved by the Ministry of Education for use in both elementary and secondary schools. Many of these are already being used at schools, while others are in the final stages of the publishing process.

A discussion followed, during which the audience addressed several questions to the speakers. Five educators, who had taken part in the seven-day summer seminar organised by Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, had the chance to inform their colleagues about their impressions and conclusions from the seminar, the knowledge, methodology and educational techniques they got from it, and recommend it unreservedly.

As in previous seminars, the testimony of Ms. Berry Nahmia, a Holocaust Survivor and president of the Association of Greek Jewish Hostages proved of special interest to the participants. She was asked several questions regarding her experience, her life after the Holocaust, and how her contribution to Holocaust learning by visiting schools.

The second day session began with a presentation by Ms. Shira Magen, head of the Greek Office at Yad Vashem, whose title was "Why, what and how to teach about the Holocaust in the classroom: the ITF guidelines and Yad Vashem educational philosophy". In it she analysed the guidelines of the two organisations, regarding the practical aspects of approaching and teaching the subject. As a means of helping them in that task, participants received a translation of the ITF manual, "Guidelines to Educators".

Mr. Joël Kotek, professor at the Brussels University, addressed the same issue from a different perspective and linked it to contemporary phenomena of racism and anti-Semitism. In his presentation "From

Antisemitism to the Shoah: the Culture of Hatred. Contemporary Aspects", he demonstrated, based on his long experience of teaching about the Holocaust in Europe, how ignorant about the subject the average person is, including the students and often the teachers themselves. He highlighted the importance of teaching about the Holocaust with a view to raising awareness about the unique parameters of this crime and its usefulness in the process of raising better citizens.

In the interactive workshop that followed, Ms. Shira Magen addressed the issue of Holocaust perpetrators, according to the methodological approach practiced at the International School of Yad Vashem. The latter has

Workshops

Ms. Zanet Battinou, Director of the J.M.G., worked with the participants on the issue: "The Significance of Holocaust Education in Modern Society: Strengthening Democratic Values, Social Equality, Respect and Human Rights."



amassed a vast experience regarding techniques and practical aspects of teaching about the Holocaust and is one of the best advisors in the effort of introducing the teaching of the Holocaust in Greek schools.

An excellent group of educators presented a particularly interesting proposal for the teaching approach of the Holocaust phenomenon in Secondary Education. The group consisted of Maria Vlahou, Kiki Sakka, and Stavros Papadopoulos, and was headed by Giorgos Kokkinos, Associate Professor at the Department of Pedagogics of Elementary School Teachers of the University of the Aegean. Their didactic example was based on taking account of local history, in this case the history of the Jewish Community of the island of Rhodes, which it managed to incorporate into the teaching of a broader historical unit, namely the history of the Second World War and the Holocaust.

The last of the lecturers was Mr. Nikos Tzavaras, Neurologist and Psychiatrist, Director of the Psychiatric Clinic of the Democritian University of Thrace. His particularly interesting speech was an attempt to investigate - from a psychological perspective - the phenomenon of anti-Semitism, based on the theories of Freud and mass psychology. He gave clinical examples of how it is possible to ascribe terrifying properties to the "Other", in our case, the Jew.

The third seminar for educators by the JMG

Workshops

Next in the programme were the workshops. Both the lack of time and the interest of the attending educators for all the issues to be presented led to a decision to present the workshops to the entire audience, instead of dividing the participants into sub-groups.

The second manual, “Preparing Holocaust Memorial Days” is an adaptation and translation of the recommendations to educators available on the websites of Yad Vashem and the ODIHR (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe).

The educators discussed the usefulness and the potential of presenting and explaining this material in the classroom, as well as the methodology recommended by experts. They then examined specific examples of related issues that may come up



Left, Ms Orietta Treveza - Soussi, Museum Educator, demonstrated the Museum Cases created by the JMG. Right, Dance Therapist Ms. Nina Alcalay, elaborated on the theoretic foundation of an alternative form of teaching, in her presentation: “Experiential Teaching of the Holocaust through Art”

Ms. Zanet Battinou, Director of the J.M.G., worked with the participants on the issue: “The Significance of Holocaust Education in Modern Society: Strengthening Democratic Values, Social Equality, Respect and Human Rights.” A folder with photocopies of articles and other printed matter was prepared and distributed to the participants; its contents were based on texts, material and the experience of several international organisations (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, British Holocaust Educational Trust, Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies, International Task Force for Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research) that have been teaching about the Holocaust for many years.

Two new manuals, published by the J.M.G., were also presented. The first, “Teaching about the Holocaust” is an adaptation and translation of the greatest part of a manual published by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. It contains guidelines for teachers which are helpful in approaching the issue of the Holocaust, as well as specific educational techniques and advice on how to deal with the difficult questions that usually come up when teaching about the Holocaust.

when teaching about the Holocaust in Greek schools, such as tolerance towards difference, how prejudice is created and perpetrated, the role of individuals and groups in a community, and the lessons that the Holocaust may provide about everyday life in our society.

In her presentation “Museum Cases on the Holocaust, an Effective Educational Tool”, Ms. Orietta Treveza-Soussi, Museum Educator at the J.M.G., demonstrated two museum cases created by the Jewish Museum. Their titles are “Hidden Children in Occupied Greece” and “The Holocaust of the Greek Jews, 1941 - ’44” and each is accompanied by a travelling exhibition of the same title. A museum case is a small suitcase containing visual material about a subject, reproductions of related items and a folder of activities. They are an alternative form of educational programme, designed to be easily carried from the Museum to the classroom, to introduce the students to the subject in an interesting and captivating way and encourage them to develop their own initiative and analytical thinking. Their target audience is 12-15 year-old students, and their aim to enrich the school curriculum and become a starting point for the examination of other, related historic issues. Educators showed particular interest for these

The third seminar for educators by the JMG



A reception took place during the seminar. Top, from left, Israeli Ambassador Mr. Ali Yahia, Honorary President of the JMG Mr. Sam Benrubi, Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Historical Archives Ms. Fotini Konstandopoulou and Ms. Alice Barnstone, representative of the Fulbright Foundation.



original, useful and effective educational tools.

Ms. Treveza-Soussi then briefly presented the J.M.G.'s new museum case, "Jewish Holidays". This may not be directly linked to the issue of the Holocaust, but it contributes to the presentation of Greek Jews as ordinary people, with hopes, dreams, joys and agonies like any other. It also introduces students to Jewish life before and after the war, helping to contradict the false image of a people of victims or martyrs, which may be the impression formed after a limited, one-dimensional study of the Holocaust.

In the last workshop, Ms. Nina Alcalay, Dance Teacher and Dance Therapist, elaborated on the theoretic foundation of an alternative form of teaching, and mentioned her own recommendations about an "Experiential Teaching of the Holocaust through Art". In her presentation, she demonstrated how the experiential approach of the Holocaust through art, namely music, dance, drama and painting, may reach children more directly than any historical presentation. The former method helps them approach the experiences of people who lived through these events, as well as the transformation these experiences through the means of artistic expression.

At the end of the seminar, conclusions were briefly presented. The participants filled in the evaluation forms that had been handed out with the aim of helping to improve this seminar, as well as organising other similar events. The answers given prove that the educators'



Seminar participants in discussion

opinion regarding the organisation and content of the seminar is positive. Many added particularly constructive recommendations and comments. Finally, many educators provided contact numbers and addresses in order to remain in touch with the Jewish Museum and receive information on future educational initiatives in Greece and abroad. They also want to be informed about this particular seminar which took place for the third time this year and will become an annual event of the J.M.G.

Two JMG exhibitions on the Holocaust



National Remembrance Day for Victims and Heroes of the Holocaust was honoured in an event organized by the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, on 30th January 2006 at the Athens Megaron of Music. The yearly ceremony to pay tribute to the 65,000 Greek Jews murdered in the death camps in the name of unprecedented cruelty, was attended by the President of the Republic Karolos Papoulias and the main speaker was the former President of the European Parliament Simon Veil, herself a survivor of Auschwitz and President of the Fondation de la Shoah in Paris.

The Jewish Museum of Greece took part in the event by presenting two travelling exhibitions under the general title of 'The History of the Holocaust in Greece'.

The presentation of these exhibitions was made possible thanks to the kind invitation of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece and generous sponsorship by the Claims Conference Committee.

One of the exhibitions is entitled 'The Holocaust of Greek Jews: The Persecuted and the Rescuers' and acts as an introduction to the events of 1941-1944. It presents the greater historical context that led to the displacement and extermination of thousands of our fellow citizens during the German occupation. A brief but concise exploration of all aspects of the Holocaust, as it took place in Greece, provides visitors with insights into the main events and circumstances, and paints a comprehensive, overall, picture. The exhibition does not cover only the tragic events that took place at that time and led to the slaughter of thousands, but traces the even more difficult struggle of those few, who managed to survive and start a new life when the war was over. It is they who shaped the new image of Jewish people in Greece today - people who are an inherent part of Greek society. Tribute is also paid to the rescuers who risked their own lives to help Jews escape or

helped them hide, thereby saving them from a horrible fate in the death camps.

The other exhibition is entitled 'Hidden Children in Occupied Greece' and explores the theme of Jewish children who managed to survive in hiding in spite of tremendous danger. Nineteen stories of children from all over Greece provide a wide array of personal experiences and hardships that these children suffered. People who are now elderly retold what had happened to them in moving accounts; accounts that they gave not only to make them known and reinforce memory, but also as a tribute to those who helped them back then and in order to rouse in the exhibition visitors, an awareness and sense of responsibility to fight against racism in whatever form. The personal accounts of the "children" were made even more vital and graphic with the inclusion of photographs of objects from their daily lives; objects such as toys, notebooks and diaries from the times of hardship, that illustrate the accounts and underline their authenticity. After the completion of this first show, the two travelling exhibitions remain at the disposal of schools and cultural centres anywhere in Greece or abroad, who can borrow them and the accompanying educational material. The bi-lingual exhibition catalogue produced by the JMG provided visitors with more detailed versions of the stories.

The publication entitled 'The Holocaust of the Greek Jews. Monuments and Memories' was presented during the event. This publication was prepared by the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece with funding from the General Secretariat for the Younger Generation. The bi-lingual (Greek and English) texts outline the history of every Jewish Community in Greece, its fate during the time of German persecution and how it has fared in post war years. Among the many pages of this quality publication are over a hundred and twenty photographs from the JMG Photographic Archives.

Museum Diary 2006

Visits and events

- 31st January 2006. After taking part in the National Holocaust Remembrance Day 2006 ceremony, Academician Simone Veil visited the JMG where she was given



a guided tour of the exhibition galleries and informed about the Museum's educational work on the Holocaust.

- 14th February 2006. Mrs Gilla Katsav, wife of the President of Israel, visited the JMG while accompanying her husband on an official visit to Greece.
- 1st March 2006. A guided tour was arranged for the First Secretaries of foreign embassies in Athens at



the suggestion of Sylvia Barouch Berlatski, First Secretary of the Embassy of Israel. The tour was followed by cocktails in the JMG library.

- 27th March 2006. Officials from the U.S. Embassy to Athens



visited the JMG. From left, Messrs. Galanopoulou, Levin and Berbena.

- Monday 8th May 2006. The presentation of Nata Gattegno Osmo's book 'From Corfu to Birkenhau and on to Jerusalem: The story of a woman from Corfu' took place in the JMG's periodic exhibitions area and library. Publication of this work by Gavriilides Publishers was made possible through generous funding from Mr Makis Matsas, President of the JMG Board of Directors. Mr



Matsas, who also sponsored the presentation event, gave a short address in which he welcomed the author and the members of the public to the presentation. Mr Marcel Yoël, who helped to bring the book to completion, but was unable to attend the presentation, sent his greetings. Mrs Battinou, Director of the JMG, read out his message after a short address sent especially for the occasion by the Deputy Minister of Culture, Mrs Fanni Pali Petralia. The work was

edited by Mrs Rita Gabay, who spoke movingly about the book itself and about her experience of editing it. A meaningful and eloquent detailed presentation of the book was given by the writer Mr Vasilis Boutos. He referred to each and every chapter in the book, explaining its meaning and significance for Nata's story,



for the Community and the island. Finally, the author herself read selected excerpts and answered questions from the public. There followed cocktails for those present, while Nata Gattegno Osmo signed copies of her book, exchanging comments and greetings with old and new acquaintances.

- The Athens War Museum organised an exhibition on 'Accounts and Epic Images of 1940', within the context of its general aims, while also supporting the Greek Community of Montreal in events to mark the 100 years since it was established. The exhibition was dedicated to the Greek people's struggle against the Axis forces (1940-44) and was opened on 15/09/06 by Minister of National Defence Mr I. Lambropoulos. Most prominent among the exhibits was the special section devoted to the suffering of Greek Jews during World War II and to the help Greek Christians afforded them. On display was the text of the protest and petition against the 'deportation' of the Jews of Thessaloniki that was signed by Archbishop Damascinos and a great number of eminent Greek people, as

well as photographs of mass arrests made in Ioannina, Didymoticho and Thessaloniki, and false identity cards giving their religion as Orthodox Christian - all supplied by the Jewish Museum of Greece. The section aroused great interest among visitors. The exhibition remained open until 15th October 2006 and the possibility of taking it to the Greek Community of Toronto is being looked into.

- 14th November 2006. The JMG joined forces with Nefeli Publications for the presentation of Iossif Ventura's latest work 'Jewish Poets of the Middle Ages'. The presentation was given by writers and literary critics, Alexis Ziras, Savvas Mihail and Andreas Belezinis in the packed function room of Patakis Bookshop.



- 28th November 2006. His Excellency Ali Yiahia, the new

ambassador of Israel in Greece, visited the JMG. After being taken on a tour of the Museum's exhibition areas and being informed about its educational and cultural activities, Mr Yiahia met the members of the JMG's Board of Directors and the Board of Directors of the Association of Friends and discussed suggestions, ideas and areas of common interest.



Conferences and seminars

- 16th December 2005. The Ministry of Culture held the 9th Meeting on Education in conjunction with ICOM. During the meeting Mrs Orietta Treveza, the JMG's museum educator, presented the educational programme 'Sacred Texts' which was created by the JMG in collaboration with the Byzantine Museum and the Benaki Museum of Islamic Art.

- 17th February 2006. The Director of the JMG took part in a one-day event on 'Museum Design and Heritage Management' held by the British Embassy.

- July 2006. A seven-day seminar was held at the Yad Vashem Found-

ation in Jerusalem on the subject of Holocaust Education in Greek schools. The seminar was organised with the support of the Ministry of Education and Religion. Eighteen



teachers from various parts of Greece were accompanied by the JMG Director Mrs Battinou, and its Museum Educator Mrs Treveza, who gave presentations on 'The Jews of Greece: A Short Review of 2,300 Years through JMG Collections' and 'JMG Educational Programmes, Activities and Material on the Holocaust'.

meeting held by the Atelier Culturel Mediterranean was held in Paris. The organisation's mission is to arrange cultural exchanges and co-operation between Mediterranean countries. The JMG took part in one of the particularly interesting workshops held there at the invitation of the French Foreign Ministry.

- 19th-21st November. The annual meeting of the Association of Jewish Museums in Europe, hosted in 2006 by the local Jewish Museum in Venice, was, as always, extremely interesting and constructive.

- 3rd-5th December 2006. At the bi-annual conference of the International Task Force for Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, held in Budapest, Mrs Zanet Battinou gave a presentation of the JMG's third seminar for teachers to the organisation's Educational Committee and also represented Greece on the Monuments and Museums Committee, of which she is a full member.

- 12th-15th September 2006. The first



Education



At the Jewish School of Larissa



At the Jewish School of Thessaloniki

Educational Museum Case

'The Second World War

and the Holocaust of Greek Jews, 1941- 1944'

In January 2006 the JMG visited the Jewish schools of Larissa and Thessaloniki for the presentation of an educational program and activities

On Monday 16th January 2006 the Educator of the Jewish Museum of Greece, Mrs Orietta Treveza-Soussi, visited the Jewish School of Larissa where she led the educational programme and activities of the JMG Museum Case 'The Second World War and the Holocaust of Greek Jews, 1941-1944', which accompanies the travelling exhibition of the same title. This Museum Case was first presented at the second seminar for teachers on Holocaust Education in Greece. It is a teaching tool designed for secondary school teachers as an aid to Holocaust Education in schools, through personal accounts and bringing replicas of objects in the JMG's collection into the classroom. All 15 children from all classes at the Jewish Primary School of Larissa took part in the programme, which began with an introduction to the subject of the Museum Case. The children discussed stories about the Second World War that they had heard from their grandparents and other relatives.

The children were then divided into six teams and each team was given an envelope containing the story of one person from the Second World War. The stories selected for this activity are completely different from one another - the aim being to present the history of the Holocaust from every angle and show the resistance that people put up in an attempt to stay alive. The stories are those of a member of the resistance, a rescuer, a hidden child, two inmates at Auschwitz-Birkenau and one Spanish national prisoner at Bergen-Belsen. These people's personal accounts are augmented by replicas of objects, photographs and documents in the Jewish Museum's collection. The teams presented the results of their

research and an exhibition of photographs and personal objects was set up in the classroom. The children were then given Internet addresses and translated material downloaded from the Internet relating to genocide taking place in the world today (in Darfour, Sudan and so on) and suggestions for research that the children themselves can do, on what is happening in the world today. Then came a creative activity for the children on 'House-Masks' which they decorated with a variety of materials, to create a display in the classroom. There followed a dramatisation game in which a narrator read from Alberto's diary while the children improvised to express how the family must have felt in the war with constantly being forced to move from place to place and hide in order to stay alive. The session was followed by an evaluation by participants and teachers and gifts and souvenirs from the Jewish Museum of Greece were handed out to the children.

On Tuesday 17th January 2006, Mrs Treveza went to the Jewish School of Thessaloniki where she led the educational programme and activities of the JMG Museum Case 'The Second World War and the Holocaust of Greek Jews, 1941-1944' for children in the third, fourth and fifth grades of the primary school. The programme was conducted in the same way, as it had been at the school in Larissa. At the close of the session the children made a collage using photographs and documents dating from that time.

The Museum Case was given to the Jewish School of Thessaloniki, where it remains at the disposal of any school that would like to use it for educational purposes.

The Jewish School of Athens comes to the Jewish Museum of Greece to take part in an educational programme

On Tuesday 21st March 2006 the sixth grade of the Jewish School of Athens came to the Jewish Museum to take part in an educational programme. The programme designed for the children was entitled 'Elements of the History of the Jews of Greece'.

The programme sets out to acquaint children with the age-old history of Jewish communities in Greece, which began in the 3rd century BC. It looks at how the communities evolved over the course of time and what their present status is.

The children learnt about places of prayer for those of the Jewish faith in Greece, about the Holy Scriptures of Judaism that are read in synagogues, about practices during services and the decorative



themes and symbols that they discovered in the exhibition of black and white photographs, entitled 'Synagogues of Greece: Light and Shadow', which was on display in the Jewish Museum's temporary exhibitions area.

For the next part of the programme, the children were divided into four teams. Each team was given printed material that was specially-designed for this programme and a notebook with references to three towns in Greece where there were or still are Jewish communities. The children discovered objects and information relating to these towns within the Museum and then presented what they had found to their classmates.

They then went into the JMG library where they were able to talk to the President of the Jewish Community of Athens and the Vice President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece. They talked about issues that concern them at present

and about the past and future of Jewish Communities in Greece.

At the end of the presentation the children were all given commemorative gifts from the Museum, museum publications, catalogues and information leaflets.

The 'Training Seminar for Museum Educators' of the Hellenic Children's Museum visits the Jewish Museum of Greece

Evening workshops for the above seminar are held on the premises of the Jewish Museum of Greece every year, as part of the collaboration between these two museums.

From 17:30 until 20:30 on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 29th March 2006, Despina Kalessopoulou and Orietta



Trevezza-Soussi joined forces at the Jewish Museum to present the educational programme entitled, 'The Historian's Method'. It is a teaching method that can be applied to great advantage in Historical Museums. It involves the application of the same procedures used in problem solving and scientific method: Recognition, Establishing the problem - Planning the investigation - Gathering information - Processing data - Analysing information - Composition (conclusions, interpretation).

While in the Jewish Museum, the trainee museum educators looked at issues that might occupy people in the Museum, decided what they would like to work on, divided themselves into teams and conducted

Education

their research in the Museum, basing it on careful observation of artefacts, comparison of artefacts with familiar objects, and on other sources (Museum texts and labelling).

The teams presented their initial conclusions and decided that more research was called for using bibliography and suitable websites. By the end of the workshop, the trainee educators had realised how an educational programme can be conducted in the Jewish Museum, and had learnt a lot of things they had previously been unaware of, concerning Jewish history and traditions in Greece.

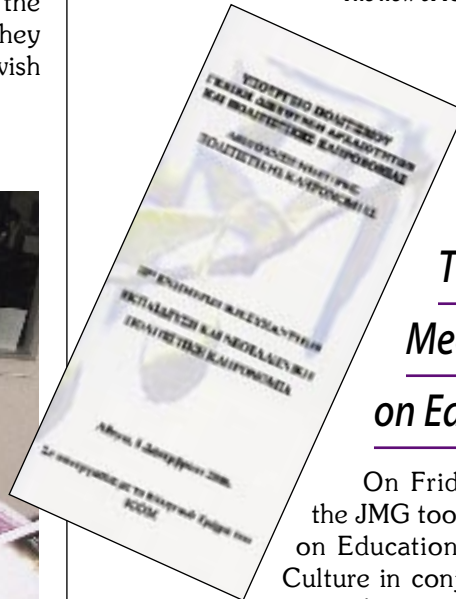


The European Programme 'Culture at the Table'

On Friday 22nd September the Jewish Museum of Greece took part in the celebration of Days of Cultural Heritage held by the Ministry of Culture on the theme of 'Culture at the table - Different approaches to the history of food', for the second year running. It provided the educational programme 'Welcome to our table' for visitors to the JMG that day. The aim of this programme is to teach people about Jewish traditions through food. Visitors were invited to try some Greek-Jewish food and were given leaflets with recipes and information about each holiday.



The new JMG Museum Case on the "Jewish Holidays"



The 10th ICOM Meeting on Education

On Friday 8th December 2006, the JMG took part in the 10th Meeting on Education held by the Ministry of Culture in conjunction with ICOM. The Museum's Head of Education, Mrs Orietta Trevezza - Soussi, presented the new JMG museum case on 'Jewish Holidays'.

The aim of this educational tool is to teach children about the main holidays of Judaism and the widespread influence established celebrations have had on people everywhere and at all times. Also, to discover features they have in common with Christian celebrations, examining their respective calendars and customs.

The museum case consists of six envelopes - one for each team of schoolchildren - each containing material (passages for reading, pictures, poems, recipes, photographs and replicas of objects in the JMG's collection) relating to one specific holiday. Each team is asked to conduct some research into the holiday using the material in the envelope, as well as audio-visual material and bibliography contained in the museum case or available on the Internet. At the end of the research phase, the teams give their presentations and display the material relating to their specific holiday on cloth-covered panels included in the museum case, the idea being to create an exhibition for the classroom. The educational museum case also contains a file on creative activities offered for the children, such as handicraft and dramatisation.

THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN FRIENDS: EVENTS

New York event to mark National Holocaust Remembrance Day 2006

The American Friends of the Jewish Museum of Greece have been very active recently and this has spread their fame as never before, not only among the greater Greek community of North America, but also among the entire Jewish community of New York. The first step came on 3rd November 2005 when Dr Cohen, member of the Board of Directors of the American Friends, gave a very successful slide show and talk on the long history of Jewish people in Greece and their creative role in Greece. The talk, held under the auspices of the University of Columbia, was given in one of the halls of the same university and was attended by a host of students of every nationality.

Two and a half months later, ceremonies were held all over the world, to pay tribute to the victims of the Holocaust. In New York the Friends had for a long time been planning and making the necessary arrangements for a programme that would bring to mind the suffering of the Jews during the Occupation and the Auschwitz Liberation, but would also bring the Athens Museum into the heart of New York.

The event took place in the centre of Manhattan in close collaboration with the American Sephardic Federation and the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce and was held under the auspices of the Hellenic General Consulate in New York. On the part of Greece and the Museum, addresses were given by the Consul General Mrs Ekaterini Boura, the President of the Chamber of Commerce Mr Gregong, a representative of the Archdiocese and the President of the American Friends Mr Solomon Asser. Short talks by two 'Hidden Children of the Occupation', Mrs Rosa Asser Pardo and Dr Laura Molho from Thessaloniki, which followed, were deeply moving.

These two talks served to open the exhibition

'Hidden Children in Occupied Greece' in the U.S. and to formally present the English translation of Mrs Rosa Pardo's memoirs entitled '548 days with another name'. On the subject of the exhibition, it should also be noted that after a few days at the premises of the American Sephardic Federation, the exhibition was moved to the General Consulate, where it was greeted with a reception given by the Consul on 1st February. In March it will be transferred to the Embassy of the Hellenic Republic in Washington DC and plans are already being made to take it to other cities in America, such as Tampa in Florida, Chicago in Illinois, Columbus in Ohio and Los Angeles in California, where suitable, friendly surroundings have been secured.



These successes have encouraged the American Friends of the JMG and strengthened the close collaboration that characterises their relationship with the Jewish Museum and the Jews of Greece as a whole.

The Association of Friends of the Jewish Museum of Greece

The new Board of Directors of the Association of Friends was decided on 5/10/2006 and was constituted as a body with the following composition:

Guy Natan - President

Lila De Tsaves - Vice President

Isidoros Tiano - General Secretary

Solomon Berahas - Treasurer

Allegra Saltiel, Minos Mordohai and Victor Asser - members

The Board of Directors of the Association of Friends appointed Makis Matsas, Guy Natan and Minos Mordohai as its representatives on the Board of Directors of the JMG.

The Association of Friends of the JMG in Greece has a large number of members who unceasingly contribute to the cultural and educational work of the Museum in moving and constructive ways with their moral and material support. It should be pointed out that many students became members of the Association of Friends in the year gone by, indicating that more and more young people are responding to its programmes and expressing an interest in the Jewish people of Greece. It is with reverence that the Jewish Museum expresses its gratitude to all those members who make kind and regular contributions by subscribing to the Society of Friends. Needless to say, the support given by the Association of American Friends of the JMG each year is still vital to the Museum's ability to function financially.



Warm thanks are due to those people whose constant interest in the Museum and its work leads them to generously offer their services voluntarily and also make material contributions. To be precise, we extend a warm thank you to the following people whose names are given in alphabetical order:

- **Amarilio Vikos**, for his valuable work for the JMG during the arrangements for the third JMG seminar for teachers entitled 'Teaching about the Holocaust in Greece'.
- **Gatenio Maurice**, for generously providing all the stationery required for the aforementioned seminar.
- **Tiano Isidoros**, for his continuous support and effective work on planning, organizing and carrying out the upgrade of the Museum's Information Technology Infrastructure. Starting from the data and telephony rewiring of the

entire museum, and the replacement of all its computer equipment the Museum now has a new state-of-the-art working operating environment. We would like to also include here the dedicated team of volunteers, Victor Solomon and Erriko Alkalai, who worked with him to complete this project.

It is with great pleasure that we pay tribute to our members, be they private persons or organisations, who helped to set up the souvenir outlet with their work and their material donations. To be more precise, our warm thanks go to those whose names appear in alphabetical order below:

- **Asser-Pardo Rosina**
- **Ezra Bella**, Tel Aviv, Israel
- **The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece**
- **The Association of American Friends of the JMG** (special thanks to the Association's general secretary and representative Mr Dimitris Argyriades).

Donations – Sponsorship 2006:

Private individuals donating sums of 300,00 Euros or more are listed in alphabetical order below:

- **Argyriades Dimitris** (donation in tribute to the Isaac Mordohai family and the Minos Mordohai family)
- **Barzilai Zak & Eri** (donation in memory of Isidoros Benrubi)
- **Benrubi Sam** (donation in memory of Danny Alvo & donation for programme to maintain objects in collection)
- **Cohen Mimis-Abraham** (donations made through the Jewish Community of Athens to mark the religious coming of age of Michail Asser & in memory of Harry Perez)
- **Covo Dareios** (donation made through the Jewish Community of Athens)
- **Kalb Edersheim Peggy** (donation in tribute to Mrs Marianna Ponns Cohen)
- **Matsas Makis** (donations in memory of Harry Perez & Zano Misrahi, sponsorship of the presentation of

Nata Gatenio's book 'From Corfu to Birkenhau & to Jerusalem' & donation for metal shelters)

- **Modianos Albertos** (donation)
- **Mordohai Minos** (donation)
- **Natan Guy** (donation in memory of Isidoros Benrubi & donation for setting up the souvenir outlet)
- **Simha Alexandros** (donation)
- **Tsavdaris Sotiris & Chiona** (donation)
- **Yusurum Noe & Matzy** (donation in memory of Jacovos Yusurum)

We would particularly like to thank for their generous support, **Maurice** and **Allegra Saltiel**, as well as **Errikos Abravanel** and **Liza Abravanel-Davari** for their donation in memory of the Museum's great and unforgettable benefactor, **Freddy Abravanel**. In addition to being moving, their donations are vital to the Museum's existence.

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