

# THE JEWISH MUSEUM OF GREECE

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## newsletter

53

AUTUMN - WINTER 2005

*The Second Seminar for Educators of the Jewish Museum of Greece*

## Teaching the Holocaust in Greece

*On Sunday, October 23, 2005, the second seminar for educators entitled "Teaching the Holocaust in Greece" took place at the Commercial and Industrial Chamber of Commerce in Thessaloniki.*

In 2004 the Jewish Museum of Greece planned and organised the first seminar held in Greece for primary and secondary school teachers and museum educators on the subject of *'Teaching the Holocaust in Greece'*.

The seminar took place under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs at the Electra Palace Hotel in Athens on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October and was supported by the Claims Conference, International Task Force for Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, and the Ministries of Education, Culture and Foreign Affairs. A total of 86 people attended and their numbers included primary and secondary school teachers, postgraduate students of museology and museum education, and representatives of related organisations.

The second seminar for teachers on the subject of *'Teaching the Holocaust in Greece'* took place in the Commercial and Industrial Chamber of Commerce of Thessaloniki on Sunday

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2005. This professional meeting was organised by the Jewish Museum of Greece under the auspices of, and in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education and Religion. The Jewish Community of Thessaloniki hosted the seminar and was also one of its sponsors. The seminar was also supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Task Force for Holocaust, Education, Remembrance and Research, and the cultural sections of the embassies of the USA and the Federal Republic of Germany. Maurice Gattenio SA kindly supplied the stationery for the seminar. Within the context of the seminar, the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki held a reception on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October in the foyer of the Chamber of Commerce. The reception was attended by representatives of local authorities, members of the Diplomatic Corps, members of the local community who had suffered and survived the Holocaust, and other specially invited guests.



From the reception given by the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki on the eve of the seminar (above). The President, Mr. D. Saltiel, gave an address on the inauguration of two JMG exhibitions (see next page), which took place during the reception (below).

## Seminar overview

The seminar lasted from 09:00 to 18:00 and included speeches by a panel of international experts in Holocaust research and education, a guided tour of the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki, a meeting between teachers and survivors of the Holocaust, special workshops and a presentation of the Museum-case as a teaching aid in the experiential approach to the subject in the classroom.

In addition to the abundant seminar literature, participants were also given Jewish Museum of Greece catalogues and informative publications for their school libraries.

***The seminar was attended by over 85 people, including 58 teachers, representatives of ministries, other organisations, official bodies and private individuals.***

ies. The Jewish Community of Thessaloniki gave teachers five books on Holocaust related issues to help them enrich their knowledge on the subject.

Three new JMG publications were also presented and distributed at the seminar; they were a handbook on the study of the Holocaust, and two illustrated children's books on related themes. The Jewish Museum of Greece plans to provide the Ministry of Education with enough copies

## Addresses



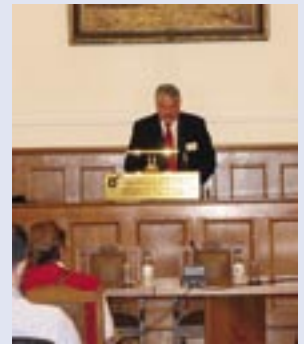
Mrs. Adriani Zagouta



Mr. George Karatassios



Mr. Alexandros Filon



Mr. Mariusz Edgardo



Mr. Minos Mordochai



Mr. Hasdai Kapon

The educational gathering was attended and addressed by: by **Mrs. Adriani Zagouta**, who works for the Secretariat for Intercultural Education of the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs and read a message from the Minister, **Mr. George Karatassios**, Director of Primary and Secondary Education of Central Macedonia, **Mr. Alexandros Filon**, Ambassador, representative of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who read an address by the Deputy Minister, **Mr. Mariusz Edgardo**, representing the Polish Chair of the *Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research*, **Mr. Minos Mordochai**, member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Museum of Greece,



Mrs. Erica Kounio-Amarillo

**Mr. Hasdai Kapon**, representative of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki. The last address was by **Mrs. Erica Kounio-Amarillo**, representing the Holocaust Survivors, who gave a brief account of her own personal experience.

Panel



Mr. Alexis Menexiadis



Mr. Joël Kotek



Dr. David Silberklang



Ms. Hara Galanou



During the seminar

to supply school libraries all over the country. We believe that giving teachers and pupils access to these books will help the effort to promote understanding of the Holocaust and understanding and acceptance of differences, thereby helping to produce well-informed, sensitive citizens for tomorrow's world.

Speeches

The first speaker, **Mr. Alexis Menexiadis**, doctoral candidate in history at the National Capodistrian University of Athens Department of German Studies, presented a short review of the historical facts of the Holocaust entitled *'The Holocaust of Greek Jews - The Case of Thessaloniki'*, putting participants in the historical picture, which is absolutely vital to any further discussion of the subject. He referred briefly to the most significant events that took place in Europe in general and Greece in particular, focusing mainly on events in Thessaloniki between 1941 and 1945, some of which are unknown to the public at large.

Then, **Mr. Joël Kotek**, educational director of the Paris based 'Memorial de la Shoah', spoke on *'From Anti-Semitism to the Shoah: The Culture of Hatred'*. He drew attention to the ignorance of the subject displayed by ordinary people, schoolchildren and, all too often, teachers themselves, basing his observations on his many years of experience teach-

Two of the Jewish Museum's travelling exhibitions were on display in a hall adjoining the Chamber of Commerce, throughout the seminar. They were the exhibitions entitled *'The Holocaust of Greek Jews, 1941-1944'* and *'Hidden Children in Occupied Greece'* (with the inclusion of three new stories).



ing about the Holocaust in Europe. He stressed the need for Holocaust teaching with a view to promoting awareness of the particular factors involved in this crime, and contributing to the process of producing better citizens.

In a talk entitled *'World Responses to the Holocaust'*, the next speaker, **Dr. David Silberklang**, editor of *Yad Vashem Studies* magazine, used specific cases in point to show how the events of the Holocaust itself, horrific beyond the imagination, were

Exhibitions

not believed at the time, and are still sometimes not believed, despite the initial indications and subsequent irrefutable proof. This resulted in people not being aware of the crime and led to complacency, which effectively facilitated the plans laid down by the perpetrators of this act of genocide, and furthered the spread of extreme attitudes and, worse still, policies, through all times.

Finally, legal criminologist **Ms. Hara Galanou** spoke on *'Genocide and the Holocaust: a Legal Term and a Case Study'* and drew attention to the importance of, and problems associated with precise definitions of 'genocide', 'war crime' and 'ethnic cleansing' both in punishing the guilty and in avoiding misuse

of the terms in cases where they are not applicable, as this has a weakening effect, not only on the terms themselves, but also on the severity of the acts they define. She also cited cases in point to demonstrate how the verified and proven genocide of the Jews in the Holocaust can be used to verify, disprove or identify other cases of a similar kind.

There followed a brief guided tour round the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki and participants met members of the local community who are survivors of the Holocaust. In the museum's hospitable, friendly library, teachers listened to the detainees' accounts and were able to ask questions and talk about thoughts and feelings.



*Guided tour at the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki*



*Meeting Holocaust survivors*

## Workshops

After lunch came the workshops and participants were given the opportunity to ask questions, broach issues that weighed on their minds, talk about their personal experiences and, generally speaking, take an active role in dealing with the subject.



JMG Director **Zanet Battinou** and the teachers present explored the issue of *'The Significance of Holocaust Education in Modern Society in Strengthening Democratic Values, Social Equality, Respect and Human Rights'*. A folder based on the literature, printed matter, opinions expressed and findings of international organisations that have been involved in Holocaust teaching for a number of years (the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the British Holocaust Educational Trust, the Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies, and the International Task Force for Holocaust Education), was produced



*This case is an educational box full of teaching material, copies of objects and activity files. It is an alternative teaching method, designed to be portable so it can be taken from the museum to the classroom and used to introduce pupils to the specific subject in an interesting, active way that encourages initiative and develops analytical ability. It is intended mainly for junior high school children and aims to augment the school curriculum and be the starting point and point of reference for the exploration of other, related historical events. The teacher participants showed particular interest in this original, useful and effective teaching tool*

and distributed to seminar participants. The folder contained photocopied articles and relevant printed material, distilled from the experience accumulated by the international organisations. Special attention was paid to the study handbook published by the JMG, which contains a chronology and bibliography, and to a handout with detailed instructions for teachers involved in teaching the Holocaust. The texts in the handout were selected by the JMG from the International Task Force website and translated into Greek. Once the usefulness and possibilities that processing and interpretation of this material has for a classroom situation, and the methodology suggested by the experts had been looked into, teachers worked on specific examples of related issues that may arise during Holocaust Education in Greek schools. Such issues are tolerance of difference, the creation and perpetuation of prejudice, individuals and groups in a society, the lessons that the Holocaust conveys concerning ordinary, everyday life in modern society.

Then, in the context of *'Using the Museum-Case in the Museum and at School'*, JMG Museum Educator **Orietta Treveza-Soussi** presented the Jewish Museum's second museum-case entitled *'The Holocaust of Greek Jews, 1941-1944'* which she created, inspired by the touring exhibition of the same title.

Dance teacher and dance therapist **Nina Alcalay** brought the workshops to a close by presenting the theoretical basis for an alternative teaching method,



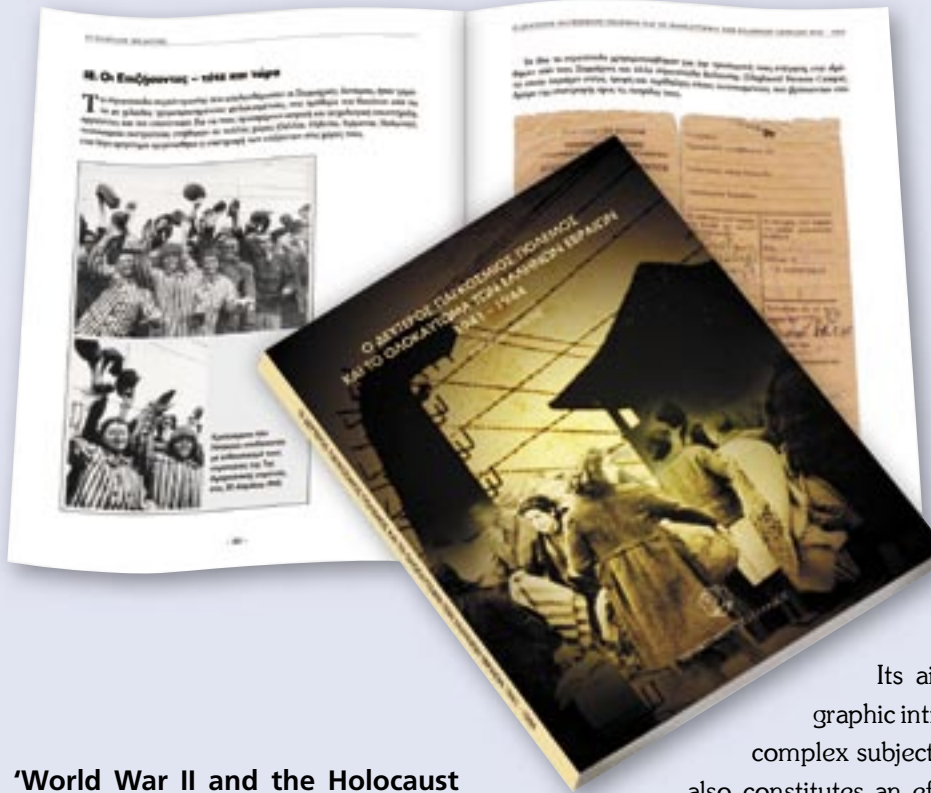
*The presentation by Nina Alcalay demonstrated how an experiential approach to the Holocaust through art - in this case, music and movement - speaks more directly to children than any historical/scientific presentation can. It thereby allows them to approach the experiences of the people who lived through the Holocaust, as well as the transformation of those experiences into artistic expression.*

and made her suggestions for *'Experiential Teaching of the Holocaust through Art'*.

The seminar ended with brief summaries of the conclusions reached. At the end of the proceedings participants filled in assessment forms, that had been distributed, with a view to improving this seminar and to organising other related activities and events. Participants' answers indicated that they had formed a positive opinion of the structure and content of the seminar. Many of them also made extremely constructive suggestions, observations and comments. Finally, a number of the participant teachers entered their details on a special page, choosing thus to stay in touch with the Jewish Museum of Greece. This way they will receive information about educational events in Greece and abroad, as well as about this educational meeting, which took place for the second time this year and will become a Jewish Museum of Greece regular event.

Book Presentation

*Three new publications by the Jewish Museum of Greece*



**'World War II and the Holocaust of the Greek Jews, 1941-1944'**

***A new publication by the Jewish Museum of Greece was presented during this year's seminar for teachers, held in Thessaloniki on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. It was the study handbook entitled 'World War II and the Holocaust of the Greek Jews, 1941-1944'.***

This handbook developed from a previous, smaller edition that the Museum had prepared, to accompany its first seminar for teachers in 2004. This year's publication is in the form of a printed book and has been augmented with new texts containing more data - the fruit of extensive research among the archives of the Museum itself, as well as among other archives. Special attention has been paid to the illustrations, with almost twice as many photographs,

some of which are taken from sources outside the Museum, such as books, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Photographic Archives, and the exceptional photographic archives of the Benaki Museum. The photographs bring the history to life, making its impact on the reader more direct.

The publication is designed for junior and senior high school children.

Its aim is to provide them with a graphic introduction to the composite and complex subject of the Holocaust in Greece. It

also constitutes an effective tool for teachers, as it provides a structure on which they can organise and base their classroom presentation of the subject. With this in mind, a brief chronology of events has been included, as well as more comprehensive Greek and foreign bibliographies, and a list of approved websites on the subject.

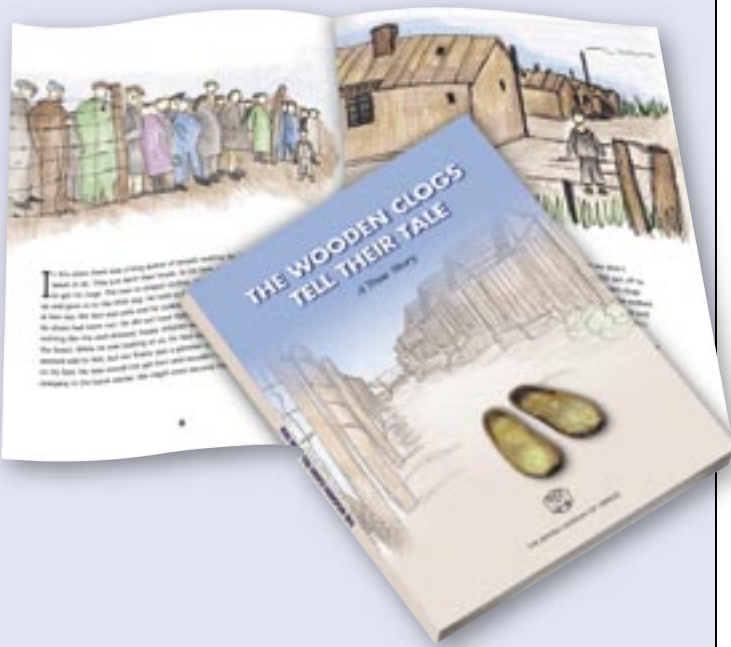
The work introduces and augments Holocaust Education in schools by providing a brief history

***The Jewish Museum of Greece published a study handbook which can be used as a departure point, but also trigger further investigation and discussion of issues of racism, prejudice, discrimination, persecution and genocide that, sadly, have never ceased to exist, as well as two illustrated publications for children, of a distinct educational nature.***

of anti-Semitism, while concentrating on actual events in Europe at large and Greece in particular, thereby acting as a basis, but also triggering further investigation and discussion of issues of racism, prejudice, discrim-

ination, persecution and genocide that, sadly, have never ceased to exist.

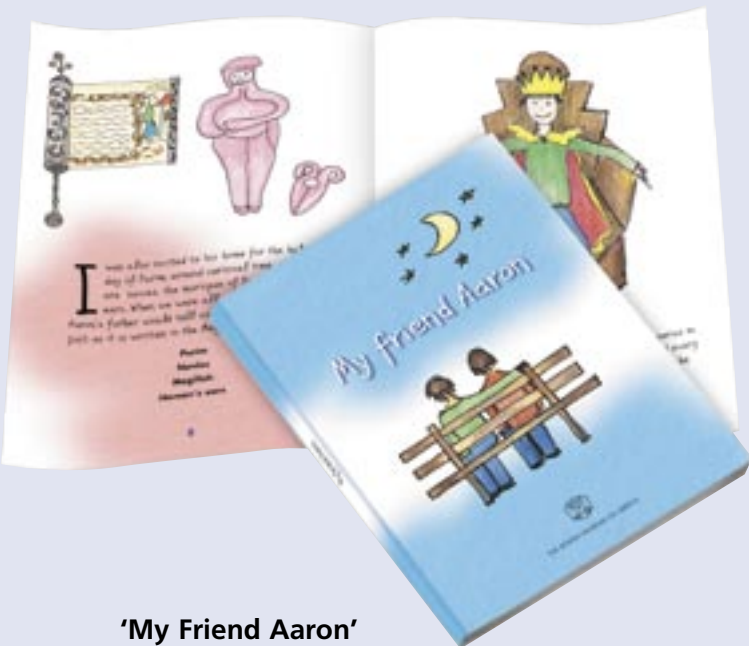
**The Jewish Museum of Greece also presented its first illustrated books for children at its second seminar for teachers, which was held in Thessaloniki on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2003. The books are entitled 'My Friend Aaron' and 'The Wooden Clogs Tell their Tale'. The first one is for primary school children and the second for both primary and junior high school children.**



**'The Wooden Clogs Tell their Tale. A True Story'**

This book bears the age of its readers in mind and tells of the Holocaust through the experience of a young boy, thereby easing children's introduction to this very difficult, but also extremely important subject. The tale is based on genuine experiences at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, which have been recorded by the Jewish Museum of Greece, and on genuine artefacts from the Museum's Holocaust Collection. The book is illustrated with sketches based on photographs taken at this camp and on narratives given by survivors. These accounts provide a lot of information about the layout of the camp and the conditions people endured there.

The clogs themselves come to life and tell their tale in their own words. They tell about how they came from a tree in a forest in Germany and ended up in the Holocaust display case of the Jewish Museum, where they now sit and tell their incredible tale to visitors. Through the adventures of the wooden clogs we learn about the unnamed child in the camp, his efforts to survive in that inhuman place, his childlike feelings and anxieties. The book is intended to be a child's introduction and first acquaintance with the subject of the Holocaust. It may be used as a self-contained reading exercise, a project in class, an introduction prior to a class visit to the Jewish Museum, or parents may use it in the Museum when they come with their children.



**'My Friend Aaron'**

This book develops inter-religious awareness through a story of friendship between two young boys. The inspiration for the story sprang from many years of experience working with groups of primary school children in the Jewish Museum. The book aims to help children understand the differences of the religion and tradition of Judaism, through the experiences of two children of their own age, and prompts them to think about the meaning of difference.

Learning about the ordinary lives of these two boys provides the young readers with insight into Jewish celebrations and ceremonies, as compared with Christian ones at different times of the year, as well as into the customs surrounding them. They help them realise that although people may celebrate different things at different times and maintain different traditions, this does not mean that they are essentially different as human beings, as we all have equal rights and expectations. Difference does not diminish our feelings for our friends and fellow human beings; on the contrary, it fuels them, adds interest and enriches our experience of life.

## International Activity

## JMG Visits, International Conferences and Participations

The JMG took part in the annual meeting of the International Task Force for Holocaust Education held in Trieste, Italy in **December 2004**, following an invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The **10<sup>th</sup> May 2005** saw the inauguration of the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin, that Germany has dedicated to the murdered Jews of Europe. The Memorial covers an area of 19,000m<sup>2</sup> with 2711 concrete pillar-cenotaphs arranged in it. There is also an underground Information Centre. In the information centre exhibitions and audio-visual material are used to present relevant historical events from 1933 to 1945.

Stories of families from a number of European countries are presented in one of the five exhibition galleries. These stories testify to the wealth of Jewish tradition in Europe, but also to the extent and tragedy of the loss. The story of Mrs Eftychia Nachman's

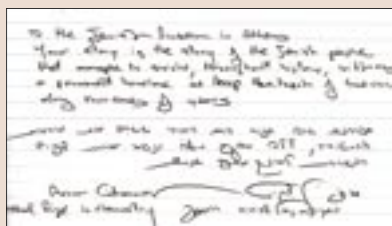
family, from Ioannina, is presented in this gallery. The Jewish Museum of Greece collaborated in the selection and production of this display by providing Mrs Nachman's account and relevant photographs from its records. Information about JMG Holocaust-related educational activities and programmes are also on display in the Memorial Information Centre.

In **June 2005** the JMG, as a member of the Greek delegation, took part in the International Conference of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe on 'Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Racism' held in Cordoba, Spain, as well as taking part in the first annual conference of the International Task Force for Holocaust Education, in Warsaw.

On **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005**, members of the Polish Presidency of the International Task Force for Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research visited the museum. They included the President Mr Daria Nalecz, the Educational Seminars Officer Mrs. Martina Majewska, and the organisation's General Director Mr Karel Fracapane. Their visit was one of a series of visits they were making in Athens. Museum Director Mrs Zanet Battinou showed the visitors round the Museum galleries. There followed an up-date on the progress and success of joint projects and a discussion on the present and future of the collaboration between the JMG and the ITF, which began in 2002.

In **November 2005**, the JMG took part in the annual conference of the Association of European Jewish Museums, held in Brussels. During the meeting, museum directors and heads of departments from Europe's major Jewish museums and representatives from comparable associations in the USA and Israel exchanged views and ideas, and discussed concerns and possible solutions. The JMG passed the baton of vice-president and treasurer to the newly elected governing body in celebratory style, having successfully contributed to the work of the Association from this post, as well as others, for the last six years.

## Nobel prize winner Aaron Chehanover visits the JMG



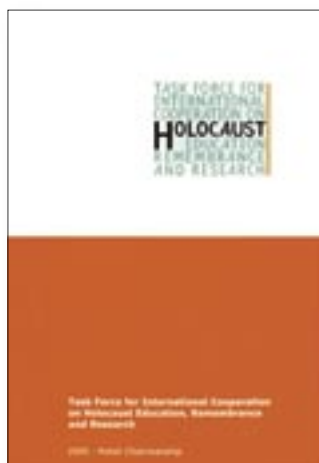
The scientist's handwritten dedication in the JMG Visitors Book

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2005, internationally renowned Israeli scientist, Aaron Chehanover, winner of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, was given an official guided tour of the Museum. The distinguished visitor had come to Greece to be awarded an honorary Doctor's degree by the University of Athens Department of Medical Care. He visited the

Museum with his wife, accompanied by member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Friends of the JMG, Mr Victor Asser.

## Greece becomes a full member of the International Task Force for Holocaust Remembrance, Education and Research

**The biannual meeting of members of the International Task Force for Holocaust Remembrance, Education and Research work groups took place in Krakow from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2005.**



This international organisation undertakes and funds research and teaching projects as part of its effort to establish Holocaust remembrance in the public conscience, so as to promote tolerance and understanding between different peoples, eliminate

anti-Semitism and racism and prevent such acts of genocide from taking place in the future.

Twenty countries were already permanent members of the ITF and applications from four more

countries, including Greece, were approved at the Krakow meeting. Greece's application for full membership of the organisation, with all the rights (e.g. project funding, participation in specific policy-making) and obligations that this entails (e.g. systematic Holocaust teaching in schools, opening archives and allowing free access to researchers) was supported by an eight-member delegation. This was made up of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, representatives of Greek Jewry (the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, and the Jewish Museum of Greece) and the community of scientific historians.

The delegation presented the work that has been done so far to help promote remembrance of the Holocaust, as well as plans for the future. Their one-on-one conversations with other permanent members and answers to their questions, also contributed to the acceptance of Greece as a permanent member.

The JMG played a particularly important role in the acceptance process, as the Holocaust related programmes, activities, events and seminars for teachers that it has been organising since 1999, are groundbreaking activities of their kind in Greece. Greece's participation in the ITF on equal terms opens up new possibilities with broader scope, both in the area of scientific research into Holocaust related issues and in practical issues of teaching and education.

Photography Exhibition

## 'Synagogues of Greece: Light and Shadows'

*The opening of Samuel Negrin and Ioannis Panagakos' exhibition of artistic photography entitled 'Synagogues of Greece: Light and Shadows' took place in the Contemporary Art Gallery of the Jewish Museum of Greece on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2005. The exhibition will remain open until the spring of 2006.*



About four years ago these two photographers told the JMG about their plan to capture images and details of all the synagogues in Greece they could have access to, functioning or not, on black and white film.

With the great synagogue in Athens as their starting point and inspiration, the two friends spent months touring the whole country before coming back with hundreds of photographs from which the Museum's ninth art exhibition was born.

These photographs are not an attempt to make an architectural or historical record. The two photographers make no attempt to describe or relate anything. On the contrary, their aim was to use the camera to capture the atmosphere of the places they stopped at. With their different religious backgrounds, the two artists observe, sense and immortalise the singular feel that exudes from the places they are in - places of faith and worship that, even when deserted, retain a



**Both photographers were born in Athens in the 1970s. They were both at the Athens College of Technical Education (TEI), where Samuel Negrin studied photography and Ioannis Panagakos studied conservation of antiquities and works of art.**

**Samuel Negrin** has been a professional photographer since 1998, sometimes working on a voluntary basis, and teaches photography at the Municipality of Ilion Cultural Centre. His work has been shown in group and individual exhibitions.

**Ioannis Panagakos** has been working as a conservator since 1998, but is also involved in teaching. He is an amateur, but passionate, photographer. His photographs have been included in group exhibitions and he received a special commendation in the photography competition of the 5<sup>th</sup> Festival of Cinema and New Media 'e-phos'.

mystic radiance that permeates the visitor and is captured with unique sensitivity by the lens. The intuitive eyes of the two photographers guide the visitor on a private tour round the places of worship of the Jews of Greece.

The camera unveils secret places, explores corners overlooked by the unsuspecting eye, caresses vessels laden with memories and symbolism, stands silently before sacred objects, discovers simple forgotten details, fingers the traces of time on the well-worn pews and age-old stones.

It follows the light that travels through the buildings, along the walls, over the sacred vessels and watches the game light plays with the shapes it touches.

The artists' decision to use black and white film was a spontaneous one. They both agree that only black and white images can convey the mystic sense that these places exude. The absence of human forms from every image, every frame, enhances the effect. The photographers' decision to capture the syna-

gogues with no hint of human presence means that the objects become all important and the place is free to converse with the light. And it is precisely this dialogue between light and textures that makes the images vibrant, gives them a peculiar, ethereal feel of peace and warmth, and conveys the sanctity of the places with exceptional felicity and delicacy. Alone and free, the objects speak about the touch and the presence of the people who are not there, and who - in some cases - never will be again.

***New Activities and Initiatives in Education***

by Orietta Treveza-Soussi, Educational Programmes Officer of the Jewish Museum of Greece

**'SACRED BOOKS'**

**The Torah – The New Testament**

**The Qur'ān**

***Acting on a proposal made by the Principal of the Jewish School of Athens Mr G. Kanelos, the Jewish Museum of Greece took the initiative to produce the first educational programme, made in collaboration with two of the most outstanding museums in Athens – the Byzantine and Christian Museum, and the Museum of Islamic Art (Benaki Museum).***

Our aim was to work on the basis of the curriculum to bring children into close contact with the most interesting and creative stimuli available, and to make full use of the wealth of art and culture. Our object was to approach art through religion and to investigate the ways of life, occupations and crafts that developed in relation to religions and under their influence.

We also wanted to find similarities, as well as differences in the sacred texts of the three major monotheistic religions. We wanted to understand the contribution of each culture, as seen in its religious art and, lastly, to explore their harmonious co-existence.

We contacted the education departments of the



other museums and suggested that we should collaborate on the creation of a joint project. There were many challenges. But, after a number of meetings between educational programmes officers, in order to make museum spaces and objects more familiar, and to get to know each museum's philosophy and educational programme management, all three museums put forward their proposals.

Given that no chronological links could be made and that we did not want to address purely religious



aspects, it seemed difficult at first to find a point of contact.

The suggestion that we should use the sacred texts immediately grabbed our interest, as all three museums had suitable material. And there were many similarities, as well as many differences, in writing, illumination, materials and techniques in all of them.

The programme was designed and brought to completion following a number of meetings between education officers, and was then carried out with the Jewish Primary School of Athens. Fifth and sixth grade schoolchildren took part in the programme.

The first visit took place at the Museum of Islamic Art, on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2005. With the help of museum educator Foteini Galanopoulou and the specially designed leaflet, the children gleaned information from the Qur'ān about the way it was written and illuminated, the materials that the craftsmen used, such as ink pots, holders and the quills used by the calligraphy artists. At the end of the visit the children tried it out for themselves by writing their own names in a variety of calligraphy styles.

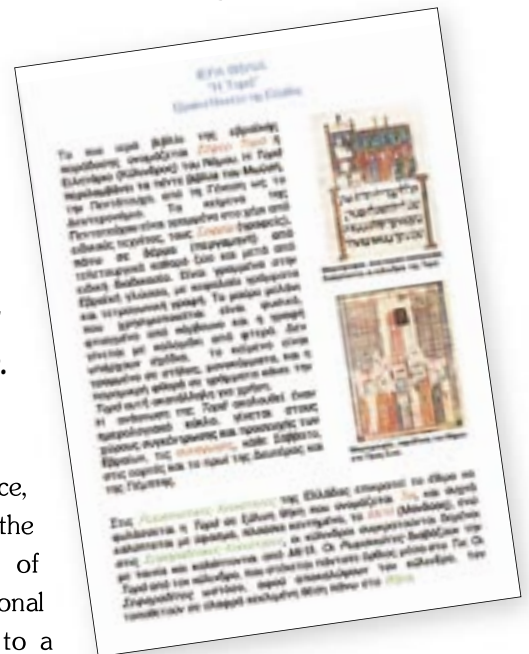
The second visit was to the Jewish Museum of Greece, on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2005. With museum

*Our aim was to find similarities, as well as differences in the sacred texts of the three major monotheistic religions. We wanted to understand the contribution of each culture, as seen in its religious art, and to explore their harmonious co-existence.*

educator Orietta Treveza-Sousi and the educational leaflet to help them, the children took part in an educational programme based on the Torah (the Pentateuch). They explored the way it was made, the writing, the illumination and the objects that accompany and adorn it. At the end, the children made a little Torah of their own, out of paper.

The children's third and last visit in the programme was to the Byzantine and Christian Museum, on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2005. With the help of museum educators Stathis Gotsis and Panos Vosnidis and with yet another educational leaflet to guide them, the children looked at the New Testament and discovered how it was written and illuminated, before finally writing and adorning their own names in a similar way.

At the end of the programme the children and the officials of the museums gathered



in one place, to bring the whole cycle of this educational programme to a close. Everyone was given a questionnaire to fill in. There was a brief review of what the children had seen in the three museums and an assessment of what they had learnt through this educational venture.

At the end of this two-hour meeting the educators of all three museums made their assessment of the programme, and decided that it should be made available to all interested schools during the 2005 - 2006 school year.

## 'Welcome to our table'

**Many interested parties responded to the open invitation issued by the Jewish Museum of Greece, in the context of the Ministry of Culture's programme 'European Heritage Days 2005' entitled 'Culture at our Table - different approaches to the history of nutrition' and took part in the educational programme for families, 'Welcome to our Table', on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2005. The response was enthusiastic, so participants were divided into two groups of twenty-five adults and children.**



The purpose of this programme was to use food to teach people about Jewish traditions. Participants learnt about the dietary rules of the Jewish tradition and which foods they forbid. They learnt about customs pertaining to food that are adhered to during Jewish holidays, about the preparation of the house and the table, about celebratory vessels and objects, and the special significance of olive oil, wine and bread. They found out about the importance

of food at significant occasions such as birth, name giving, marriage and death. They learnt about, and tried, traditional Jewish-Greek dishes. As part of the programme, after everybody had learnt about all the Jewish festivals, they tasted all the corresponding victuals: 'astari' and apples with honey for Jewish New Year, doughnuts for Hannukah, 'halah' and wine for Shabbat, 'novies' for Purim which the children made themselves with almond dough, 'matsah' and 'haroset' and 'huevos haminados' (hard baked eggs) for Pessah. There were information leaflets, recipes and printed copies of the Jewish religion's dietary rules to go with the programme. At the end of the programme we asked all the participants to fill in an assessment form.

When the event was over, teachers expressed the wish to bring groups of schoolchildren to take part in the programme. For this reason, the Jewish Museum of Greece decided to include it in its list of permanently available educational programmes, so that any interested school can select it.



**The following are some of the comments they made:**

*"A wonderfully warm atmosphere."*

*"There are a lot of similarities in the diets of both our peoples."*

*"A very interesting presentation."*

*"I learnt a lot. A very successful event."*

*"We would like more events of this kind."*

*"We would have liked it to have lasted longer."*

*"You should produce similar programmes on other subjects the Museum deals with."*

Association of Friends of the JMG Events

## The Association of Friends of the JMG Visits the Benaki Museum



*Makis Matsas, President of the Association of Friends of the JMG and Lila De Chaves, member of the Board*

## Private Function in Memory of Doctor Nissim Cohen



*During the event*

**The planned visit of members of the Association of Friends of the JMG to the Benaki Museum took place on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2005.**

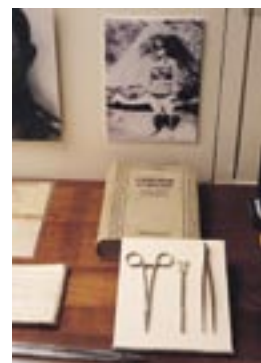
The guided tour round the museum was organised and led by Mrs Lila de Chaves, member of the Friend's Board of Directors, who has close ties with the Benaki Museum. After the comprehensive tour of the museum there followed a reception on the Museum's veranda. Comments made by the members of the Association of Friends were most enthusiastic and it was decided on the spot that their next organised museum tour should be to the Museum of Islamic Art and be conducted by the same, excellent guide.

**On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2005, the family of the late Doctor Nissim Cohen paid tribute to him by dedicating the display case 'Contribution of the Greek Jews to the Military Struggles of the Nation' to his memory.**

JMG Director Mrs Zanet Battinou briefly reviewed the life, military service and medical career of this distinguished surgeon. Well-known journalist Mrs Eleni Bistika spoke about her personal acquaintance with Nisim Cohen and his family. Nissim Cohen's son, Mimis, also a surgeon and distinguished member of the Association of American Friends of the JMG, addressed those present on behalf of the family. After the dedication of the display case, the family gave a reception for the guests.



*Doctor Nissim Cohen*



*Surgery manual and tools belonging to Dr. Cohen, in the JMG display case*



Invited guests during the commemorative event for Colonel Frizis (above). Right, Iakovos Frizis, son of Mordochai, and Moissis Konstantinis, during the unveiling of the plaque.



## Unveiling of Commemorative Plaque in memory of Colonel Mordochai Frizis

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2005 saw the unveiling of a commemorative plaque placed on the facade of the Jewish Museum of Greece, by the Municipality of Athens, in memory of Colonel Mordochai Frizis.**

The modest ceremony was arranged by the Association of Friends of the JMG and honoured by the presence of the late colonel's family, representatives of church and military bodies, Jewish organisations, the US Ambassador, the Israeli Ambassador and a host of ordinary people. The main speaker of the event was the President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece and General Secretary of the Board of Directors of the JMG, Mr Moissis Konstantinis. He spoke about the heroic colonel's sacrifice, his ideas, the choices he made and the priorities he set himself, that together made him into a symbol, not only for Greek Jews, but for all Greeks.

There followed a reading of a poem about the hero of the Albanian front from the collection of poems entitled 'A Journey through Greece' by Anna Daskalopoulou, poet and friend of the Frizis family.

## 'A Hero'

by Anna Daskalopoulou

### **In memory of Colonel Mordochai Frizis**

The first of a different faith to die in that war.  
In his memory this laurel wreath I devoutly lay.

Different faith, yes, but homeland the same,  
And with his blood he wrote a glorious page.

'Onward' this word began the hours of the day,  
Hours prompting hope-bearing thoughts.

Valiantly, and always there with his troops,  
In the Legend of Forty his own chapter he wrote.

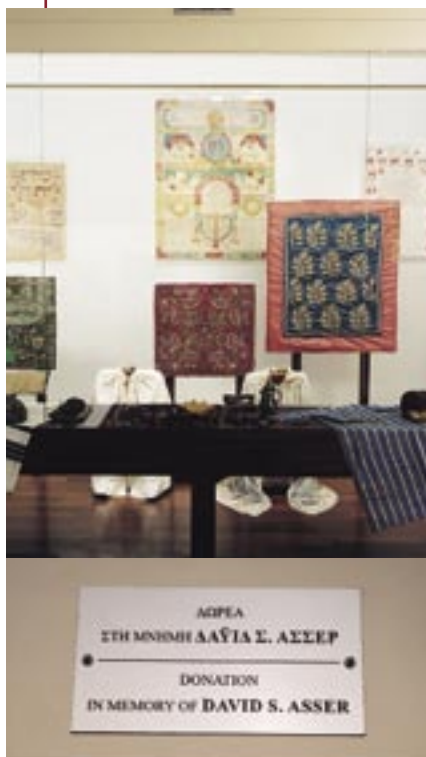
His dreams snatched away at the Front by a bullet.  
Its own whistling sound by his last battle cry.

For him that day in Premeti the river changed its  
name.

From Aaos as it was, Aherontas it became.

Now in history an illustrious place he holds  
And his name in the annals of heroes lies.

## The Association of Friends of the JMG



The Annual General Meeting of the Association of Friends was held on Thursday 14/4/2005 with 54 members present in person or present by proxy. The General Meeting elected the new Board of Directors of the Association of Friends, which formed itself into a governing body on the same day as follows:

**Makis Matsas**, President,  
**Lila de Chaves**, Vice-president,  
**Guy Natan**, General Secretary,  
**Solomon Berahas**, Treasurer  
**Victor Asser, Allegra Saltiel**, and **Isidoros Tiano**, members.

The Board of Directors of the Association of Friends appointed Makis Matsas, Sam Benrubby and Minos Mordochai as its representatives to the Board of Directors of the JMG, with Guy Natan, Solomon Beraha and Isodoros Tiano as substitutes.

The Association of Friends now has 780 members in Greece, whose moving contribution to the work of the Museum in achieving its aims is ceaseless. They contribute through their regular moral and financial support, as well as by donating objects to the JMG's collection. Naturally, the annual aid received from the Association of American Friends of the JMG still remains a significant factor in the Museum's finance.

### Donors of the Jewish Museum of Greece-2005

*Our benefactors – private persons, non-profit organisations and companies that donated sums of between 1,000.00 Euro and 30,000.00 Euro– are given below in alphabetical order:*

- **Abravanel Errikos**  
(donation in memory of Freddy Abravanel)
- **Abravanel-Davari Liza**  
(donation in memory of Freddy Abravanel)
- **Argyriades Dimitris**  
(sum for up-grading of Internet Site)
- **Asser Solomon**  
(donation in memory of David Asser  
- sum for up-grading of Internet Site)
- **Asser Victor**  
(donation in memory of David Asser  
- sum for up-grading of Internet Site)
- **B'noth B'rith of Athens**
- **EFG Eurobank Securities**  
(donation in memory of Lina Taraboulous  
- sum for up-grading of Internet Site)
- **Matsas Makis**  
(sum for printing of books)
- **Mordochai Lila and Minos**  
(donation via the Jewish Community of Athens)
- **Natan Guy**  
(sum for care of objects and collections & donation in memory of Ino Fais)
- **Restis Family**  
(donation in memory of Massia Resti)
- **Rizzuto Leandro**  
(donation in memory of Paul Diamond  
- sum for up-grading electronic equipment)
- **Saltiel Allegra**

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**DOCENTS:** R. BENVENISTE, J. SIMHA



The Jewish Museum of Greece  
 39, Nikis Street, 105 57 Athens, Greece  
 Tel.: 210 32.25.582, Fax: 210 32.31.577  
 e-mail: [jmg@otenet.gr](mailto:jmg@otenet.gr)  
 website: [www.jewishmuseum.gr](http://www.jewishmuseum.gr)

**Opening hours:** Daily from 9.00-14.30,  
 Sunday 10.00-14.00, Saturday closed.

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