

Jewish Craftspeople and Their Material Evidence

Leeds International Medieval Congress

Emmanuel Centre, Room 10

Wednesday 03 July – 09.00-21.00

Recent research has shown that there is more evidence for Jewish craftspeople in medieval Europe than it had been previously assumed. Jews worked in different professions – not only within their community – and with a wide range of materials: kosher parchment sheets were needed to create Torah scrolls and codices for the synagogue service, shofarot were made from ram's horns and goldsmiths handled such precious materials as gold, silver or pearls. The sessions will focus on a number of topics from an interdisciplinary approach and discuss questions dealing with legal conditions, ritual requirements and interactions with the Christian environment. Methodology from the disciplines of art history, history, archaeology and applied natural sciences will be employed to gain new insight into the roles of Jewish craftspeople, their objects, their techniques, and materials used.

Session 1021

Wednesday 03 July - 09.00-10.30

Jewish Craftspeople and Their Material Evidence, I: Writing, Illuminating, and Binding Books

Organiser	Maria Stürzebecher, Kulturdirektion, Erfurt
Moderator/Chair	Julie Harris, Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning & Leadership, Chicago
Paper -a Speaker:	The Leather Cut-Book Binding Technique and Meir Jaffe Ilana Tahan, British Library, London
Paper –b Speaker:	From Material to Sound: The Craft of Storytelling in the Medieval Haggadah Zvi Orgad, Department of Jewish Art, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan
Paper –c Speaker:	The Work of a Scribe as a Craft and the Materials Used Mark Farnadi-Jerusálmi, Jewish Theological Seminary – University of Jewish Studies / PSL Research University, Paris



Session 1121

Wednesday 03 July - 11.15-12.45

Jewish Craftspeople and Their Material Evidence, II: Writing, Illuminating, and Binding Books

- Organiser Andreas Lehnertz, Department of Jewish History, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Moderator/Chair Zvi Orgad, Department of Jewish Art, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan
- Paper –a Material and Holiness: The Consecration of Parchment for Ritual Use in the Medieval Jewish Diaspora
- Speaker: Annett Martini, Institut für Judaistik, Freie Universität Berlin
- Paper –b Makers, Movement, and Meaning: The Carpet Pages of Iberian Hebrew Bibles
- Speaker: Julie Harris, Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning & Leadership, Chicago
- Paper –c Confirmation of Identity: Uncovering the Working Methods of an Artist-Scribe in a 15th-Century Hebrew Prayer Book Using Spectral Imaging Techniques
- Speaker: Suzanne Wijsman, Conservatorium of Music, University of Western Australia, Crawley
- Respondent: Haida Liang, Department of Physics, Nottingham Trent University

Session 1221

Wednesday 03 July - 14.15-15.45

Jewish Craftspeople and Their Material Evidence, III: Objects of Sacred Use and Objects of Secular Use

- Organiser Andreas Lehnertz, Department of Jewish History, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Moderator/Chair Ephraim Shoham-Steiner, Department of Jewish History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva
- Paper –a The Pleating of Jewish Women's Festival Garments in 12th-Century Troyes
- Speaker: Nahum Ben-Yehuda, Department of Land of Israel Studies & Archaeology, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan
- Paper –b Shofarot Making and a Scandal in Erfurt in the 15th Century
- Speaker: Andreas Lehnertz, Department of Jewish History, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Paper –c Jewish and Christian Goldsmiths: Laws, Workshops, and Products
- Speaker: Maria Stürzebecher, Kulturdirektion, Erfurt



Session 1321

Wednesday 03 July - 16.30-18.00

Jewish Craftspeople and Their Material Evidence, IV: Archaeological and Documental Evidence for Jewish Craftspeople

- Organiser Maria Stürzebecher, Kulturdirektion, Erfurt
Moderator/Chair Nahum Ben-Yehuda, Department of Land of Israel Studies & Archaeology, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan
- Paper –a Immaterialized Materiality?: In Search for Jewish Craftsmen and Their Crafts in Medieval Navarre
Speaker: Anna Katarzyna Dulcka, Instituto Cultura y Sociedad, Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona
- Paper –b Archaeological Evidence for a Jewish Bakery in Erfurt?
Speaker: Karin Sczech, Thüringisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege und Archäologie, Weimar
- Paper –c Evidence of Jewish(?) Craftsmen from the Pogrom Rubble of 1349 in Cologne
Speaker: Michael Wiehen, Dezernat für Kunst und Kultur, Stadt Köln
Respondent: Tanja Potthoff, MiQua, Landschaftsverband Rheinland (LVR) - Jüdisches Museum im Archäologischen Quartier, Köln

Workshop

Wednesday 03 July - 19.00-21.00

Clothworkers Building South: Room G.11A

Art of the Sofer: Traditional Jewish Scribal Practices

Directed by Mark Farnadi-Jerusálmí

Price: £17.50

This workshop gives participants a hands-on experience of the ancient craft of the Jewish scribe, or sofer. The workshop will begin with an interactive demonstration of the preparation of iron gall ink. Afterwards, participants will learn to create the shapes of the Hebrew letters in the way it has been done by scribes for centuries, on parchment with a handmade feather quill. The scribe will guide them in writing their names in Hebrew.

All materials will be provided, and participants will be able to keep their quills and parchment with their own scribal art.

View a short video of a similar workshop at the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford: <http://sofer.hu/video>.

