Jewish contribution to Europe’s cultural heritage

www.judaica-europeana.eu
Importance of Spain

• 10% of world Jewish population of Spanish descent
• Jewish artefacts from 1st Century AD
• Jewish Communities from 3rd Century AD
• Developed own language LADINO
• Two great Jewish thinkers Maimonides and Rabbi Moshe Ben Nachman
Europeana today

Creating a digital library
A single multilingual access point to European culture

Involving approximately:
- 13 million objects in 2010
- 20 million in 2013
- 2000 institutions
documents Jewish heritage in European cities
Why Cities?

The Jews have been an urban people par excellence, and their influence on the urban landscape is unmistakable.

Jewish contribution to European cities

Jews are the longest-established minority in Europe with Jewish inscriptions in Greece dating back to the 3rd Century BCE.

Marble plaque, bearing the images of a menorah, lulav and etrog. Found in 1977 by Prof. Homer Thompson near the ancient synagogue in the Agora of Athens. Probably part of the synagogue’s frieze, 3rd – 4th C.E. Jewish Museum of Greece
Jewish contribution to European cities

Jewish cultural expressions in European cities can be documented through objects dispersed in many collections: documents, books, manuscripts, periodicals, photographs, works of art, religious artefacts, postcards, posters, audio-recordings and films, as well as buildings and cemeteries.

*History of the Jews* by Heinrich Graetz, Leipzig 1864. Copper engraving of Moses Mendelssohn by A. and TH. Weger. Judaica Collection, Goethe University Library
Urbanisation and occupational specialisation has led to the identification of Jews with specific streets, neighbourhoods and other urban phenomena.

Jewish contribution to Spanish cities

- Juderia in Cordoba
- Call in Girona
- 2 Synagogues in Toledo

Copyright:
http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/Cordoba.html
The project

The project will include:

- **Digitisation and aggregation** of Jewish content for Europeana.

- **Coordination of standards** across institutions in order to synchronise the metadata with the requirements of Europeana.

- **Deployment of knowledge management tools** to enable communities of practice to adapt and apply controlled vocabularies, thesauri and ontologies for the indexing, retrieval and re-use of the aggregated content.

- **Dissemination activities to stimulate the use of digitised content** in academic research; university-based teaching; schools; online teaching and learning; museums and virtual exhibitions; events of cultural institutions; cultural tourism; visual arts, music and multimedia.
A unique opportunity for heritage institutions

- To promote their collections and Jewish culture worldwide.
- To engage a new generation of users and meet their changing expectations.

*Chatzer: Inside Jewish Venice* (2004), a film by Carlo Hintermann, Citrullo International with the support of the European Association for Jewish Culture.
Jewish heritage at your fingertips....

Copyright Castilla-La Mancha / Museo Sefardí

El Transito Synagogue
Access to Jewish heritage

on computers or mobile phones:

• to objects, images, virtual exhibitions, books and documents on Jewish life in European cities from the collections of leading museums, libraries and archives

• to be used, re-used, shared and mixed in your own projects: exhibitions, videos, educational and research projects, websites — whatever you wish to do....
The challenge

JUDAICA Europeana’s challenge is to facilitate access to a critical quantity of Jewish cultural heritage. Opening up access to these collections will take place in their proper context of creation and use - that of the wider European civilization provided by Europeana.

El Transito Synagogue
The network

Judaica Europeana is a network of leading European institutions which joined forces to promote Jewish cultural heritage:

- European Association of Jewish Culture, London
- Judaica Sammlung der Universitätsbibliothek der Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main
- Alliance Israélite Universelle, Paris
- Amitié, Centre for Research and Innovation, Bologna
- British Library, London
- Hungarian Jewish Archives, Budapest
- Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw
- Jewish Museum of Greece, Athens
- Jewish Museum London
- Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activity (MiBAC), Rome

Associate Partners

- Ben Uri Gallery – The London Jewish Museum of Art
- Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam
- Jewish Museum Berlin
- Jewish Museum, Frankfurt/Main
- National Library of Israel, Jerusalem
- Paris Yiddish Center—Medem Library
- Sephardi Museum, Toledo
- Central Zionist Archives, Jerusalem
- Ministerio de Cultura, Madrid
- Salomon Ludwig Steinheim Institute, Duisberg
Extending the network

The following expressed interest in joining Judaica Europeana:

- Center for Jewish History, New York
- Jewish Museum of Belgium, Brussels
- Galicia Jewish Museum, Krakow
- National Museum, Krakow
- London Metropolitan Archive
- Aberdeen University Library
- Jewish Museum, Florence
- Jewish Community Library and Archives, Venice

Travelling trunk brought by a German refugee family to England in May 1939, Mädler Koffer, c.1930, Germany. The Jewish Museum London
We invite you to

• aggregate your digitized Jewish content with Judaica Europeana

• use this vast Jewish heritage resource when it comes online in 2011

• collaborate in dissemination activities with our partner museums and other institutions
Thank you

Betty Klein singing A Sinyora Novia, Sephardi folk tune sung in Ladino

click to link
http://www.savethemusic.com/bin/archives.cgi?q=songs&search=title&id=A+Sinyora+Novia#about