



Utrecht University



LETTERS IN THE DUST

The Epigraphy, Archaeology and Conservation of Medieval Jewish Cemeteries

Organizers:

Leonard V. Rutgers and Ortal-Paz Saar
Utrecht University

Medieval Jewish cemeteries are found at the crossroads of epigraphy, archaeology and conservation, three disciplines that should, but do not easily, intersect. Much of the epigraphic evidence has been decontextualized when Jewish medieval gravestones have been uprooted and reused as building material. Fortunately, many of them survive in non-original locations, their inscriptions still visible. Conversely, for understandable religious sensitivities, archaeological excavations are not conducted in burial grounds whose headstones are still in situ. Thus, data is analysed as two distinct sets: textual or material, though scholars could benefit from engaging with each other's records. This workshop aims to provide a forum for collaboration, ultimately reuniting – although figuratively – the medieval funerary inscriptions with the men, women and children they sought to commemorate.

This academic workshop is kindly sponsored by the [European Association of Jewish Studies](#), through its [Conference Grant Programme](#).

The workshop will take place at Utrecht University, on 7-8 November 2016, and will include fourteen participants from nine different countries, as listed below.

Additionally, the workshop will be exhibited to the public on <https://diaspora.sites.uu.nl/workshop/> including the abstracts of all papers, accompanied by slides of the PowerPoint presentations, and a discussion page open to visitors worldwide, where dialogue may continue.

The workshop organizers, Leonard V. Rutgers and Ortal-Paz Saar, will present a new digital humanities initiative titled **PEACE: a Portal of Epigraphy, Archaeology, Conservation and Education on Jewish Funerary Culture**. The PEACE portal is meant to combine several databases into one major academic hub. This will enable scholars from different disciplines to explore patterns and themes in Jewish funerary culture throughout the centuries.



LETTERS IN THE DUST

The Epigraphy, Archaeology and Conservation of Medieval Jewish Cemeteries

DAY 1, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2016

09:15 Welcome and introductory remarks

09:30 Ortal-Paz Saar (Utrecht University)

‘The PEACE Portal Initiative: Background and Foundations’

10:00 Leonard V. Rutgers (Utrecht University)

‘The PEACE Portal Initiative: The Future’

11:00 Jane McComish (York Archaeological Trust)

‘A Comparison of Medieval Christian and Jewish Burial Practices in York, England’

12:00 Arturo Ruiz Taboada (Complutense University, Madrid)

‘The Contemporary Interpretation of the Medieval Jewish Cemetery in Toledo: The Archaeology of a Forgotten Place’

13:00 **Lunch**

14:00 Michaela Selmi Wallisowà (The Czech Society of Archaeology)

‘The Jewish Settlement and Cemeteries in Mediaeval Prague’

15:00 Philippe Blanchard (Institut national de recherches archéologiques préventives–INRAP; UMR 5199 PACEA)

‘Places of Burial and Funeral Rituals from Medieval Jewish Communities in Europe: Comparison of Archaeological Data’

16:00 Max Polonovski (General Curator of Jewish Heritage for the French Ministry of Culture)

‘Archaeology and Jewish Cemeteries: Political and Religious Issues’

DAY 2, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016

- 09:00 Antonio Enrico Felle (Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, Università degli Studi di Bari 'Aldo Moro')
'Religious Identity in the Funerary Inscriptions by Jews (and Christians) between the 3rd and 7th centuries CE – Rome and Southern Italy'
- 10:00 Nicolo' Bucaria (Independent scholar, Luxemburg)
'Jewish Vestiges in Sicily'
- 11:00 Linda Safran (Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, Toronto)
'Remembering the Jewish Dead in Medieval Apulia (and Basilicata)'
- 12:00 **Lunch**
- 13:00 Michael Brocke (Salomon L. Steinheim-Institut für deutsch-jüdische Geschichte an der Universität Duisburg-Essen)
'Medieval Martyrdom Remembered and Reflected in Cemeteries and Spolia'
- 14:00 Sonia Fellous (Centre national de la recherche scientifique - CNRS; University of Paris 1 - Sorbonne)
'Jewish Names and French Medieval Jewish Cemeteries'
- 15:00 Erica Hunter (SOAS University of London)
'Men Only. The Medieval Cemetery at Jam, Afghanistan'
- 16:00 Workshop conclusion and avenues for future collaboration