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PRESS RELEASE

“The Arch of Titus – from Jerusalem to Rome, and Back” & the Rome Lab Open in New York

Unique transatlantic collaboration of Jewish institutions creates unparalleled exhibition and learning space focused on the history of the Jews of Rome

A multi-media exploration of Rome's 2,000-year-old Jewish community will host scholars of history, music, art, poetry, language, sacred texts and architecture.

September 14, 2017 – January 14, 2018

August 17, 2017 – New York, NY – A cooperative effort of Yeshiva University Museum, Centro Primo Levi, the Jewish Museum of Rome, the Historical Archive of the Jewish Community of Rome, NYU Casa Italiana Zerilli Marimò, American Sephardi Federation and the Center for Jewish History, the “Arch of Titus” exhibition and the Rome Lab will take New Yorkers on a journey to Ancient Rome during the formative centuries of Judaism. In complement to each other, the two projects explore the relocation of the Temple’s spoils from Jerusalem to Rome, the forms of Judaism that flourished from this rupture and the ways in which the Jewish community that remained in Rome for the twenty-one centuries that followed has retained traces of this diverse past.

Among the Italian partners of the project are ENIT Italian Tourism Board, the Italian Cultural Institute and the Fondazione per i Beni Culturali Ebraici in Italia.

“This exciting new program embodies two key qualities of Jewish history,” said David Myers, the new President and CEO of the Center for Jewish History. “The Arch of Titus is perhaps one of the clearest symbols of the ruptures of Jewish history, marking the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the advent of a new dispersion. By contrast, the Rome Lab reminds us of the continuities of Jewish history, as represented by Rome, the longest-standing, uninterrupted Jewish community in Europe. The Center for Jewish History seeks to capture the many dimensions of the Jewish historical experience over time and place. So it is fitting that we serve

as host for ‘The Arch of Titus’ exhibition and the Rome Lab, which capture the defining ruptures and animating continuities of Jewish history.

“The Arch of Titus – from Jerusalem to Rome, and Back” will allow visitors to experience the richness and long influence of one of Rome’s most significant monuments, as well as the ways its meaning was dramatically transformed over 2,000 years. Built to commemorate the Roman defeat of Judea in 66-74 CE, the Arch has today become an iconic representation of antiquity and the legendary menorah on the Spoils of Jerusalem panel has been adapted as a key motif in the emblem of the State of Israel.

Featured in the exhibition will be a life-size carved replica of the relief panel re-imagined with its original colors. This digital reconstruction is the culmination of a project initiated in 2012 by the Yeshiva University Center for Israel Studies. Rare artifacts from collections in Italy, Israel and the United States will illuminate the Arch’s vibrant history, as it went from memorializing victory to falling into ruin and, eventually, to being restored in the modern era.

“Though we tend to see the Arch of Titus and other such ancient monuments in immutable terms, this exhibition reveals and reflects on the dynamic ways the Arch has been physically and symbolically transformed over the ages” said Dr. Jacob Wisse, director of Yeshiva University Museum. “We are delighted to be partnering with Centro Primo Levi and the Jewish Museum of Rome on the Rome Lab, which brings one of the world’s most vibrant Jewish communities to life. Like ‘the Arch of Titus’ exhibition that it complements, the Rome Lab isn’t just about history, but about making connections to Jewish culture and tradition today.”

The Rome Lab, spearheaded by Alessandra Di Castro, director of the Jewish Museum of Rome and Natalia Indrimi, director of Centro Primo Levi, will be a dreamlike space that collapses spatial and temporal coordinates around three symbolic physical places: the Jewish quarter, the Jewish Museum and the Synagogue. The audiovisual installation is curated by Alessandro Cassin with Valerio Ciriaci and Isaak Liptzin, with photographs by Araldo De Luca.

The Rome Lab will be home to regular roundtables and an audio-visual installation aimed at imagining how the association with the Roman Empire and the presence of fundamental Jewish symbols in its capital shaped and changed the Jews who lived in Rome, in the Mediterranean diaspora, as well as those who remained in Judea.

Natalia Indrimi, Director of Centro Primo Levi, said, “It is the first time that an Italian museum is invited to inhabit a space in New York City and it is especially meaningful that it comes directly after the conclusion of the exhibit on the Menorah held jointly at the Jewish Museum of Rome and the Vatican Museum. The Lab explores aspects of the encounter between Romans and Jews at a transformative time when Judaism became part of Western culture as we know it.”

The Rome Lab is made possible through generous support from the Viterbi Family, the Cahnman Foundation, Claude Ghez, Peter H. Kalikow, the Slovin Family Foundation, the David Berg Foundation, and Lice Ghilardi.

For more information, please go to yumuseum.org and primolevicenter.org

“The Arch of Titus – from Jerusalem to Rome, and Back” exhibition hours:

Monday (free): 5:00 p. m. – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday (free 5 – 8): 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday: 11:00 a.m. – 5: 00 p.m.
Friday (free): 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sunday: 11:00 a. m. – 5:00 p.m.

“The Arch of Titus – from Jerusalem to Rome, and Back” exhibition admission fees:

Adults: \$8
Seniors: \$6
Students: \$6
CJH & YUM Members, Yeshiva University faculty, administration & students (ID required), and children under 5: Free

The Rome Lab hours:

Monday & Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday: 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Sunday: 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Rome Lab will also be open before and after every Rome Lab program hosted at the Center for Jewish History

The Rome Lab Program Calendar

Reservations (free): romelab@primolevicenter.org and www.primolevicenter.org

September 14 - 6:30 pm

Singing Sacred Text. Rav Alberto Funaro. Yes, these are the High Holidays’ melodies of the oldest Jewish community in the Western world. Would you like to sing them too?

October 18 - 6:30 pm

A Tale of Two Cities: Rome and Jerusalem. Paula Fredriksen, Hebrew University
Everyone knows that Rome destroyed Jerusalem in the year 70. But did you know how much Rome contributed to building it?

October 19 - 6:30 pm

Minority, Religion and Roman Law. Alessandro Saggiaro, University of Rome La Sapienza, Seth Schwarz, Columbia University.
Did the Jews become a minority when the Romans became Christian?

October 22 - 6:30 pm

Frivolous, Ironic and Erotic Like the Bible: The Poetry of Immanuel da Roma. Ann Brener, Library of Congress, Isabelle Levy, Columbia University.
Did Yosef Caro really ban from Jewish life Immanuel Romano’s poetry?

October 25 - 6:30 pm

"To so' jodio romano": Notes on the Jewish-Roman Dialect. Daniel Leisawitz, Muhlenberg College.
What language did the Jews of Rome speak before Judeo-Roman?

October 26 - 6:30 pm

The Temple in Renaissance Imagination. Giuseppe Veltri, University of Hamburg.
Which Temple did they long for and why?

November 2 - 6:30 pm

Another Tale of Two Cities: Jerusalem and Yavneh, Amram Tropper, Ben Gurion University.
The Symbolic Power of Rome: From Palestine to Babylonia, Ron Naiweld, French, National Centre for Scientific Research - Moderator: Shai Secunda, Bard College.

November 5 - 6:30 pm

Rome and the Jews at the Times of the Ghetto, Serena Di Nepi, University of Rome La Sapienza

November 6 - 6:00 pm

Diaspora. Every End is a Beginning. Film screening and conversation with the authors Luigi Faccini and Marina Piperno. This session will take place at NYU Casa Italiana Zerilli Marimò, 24 W 12 St.

November 8-9 - 6:30 pm

To be a scribe in Italy: A Century Old Legacy and Traditions of Roman Jews: Life and Religion. Rav Amedeo Spagnoletto, Italian Rabbinical College
A two-session workshop on the art of the scribe and the Roman rabbinical tradition

November 12 - 6:30 pm

Dressing the Sacred Text: Mappòt, Me'ilim and Parochyot in the Synagogues of Rome. Alessandra Di Castro, Jewish Museum of Rome, Serena Di Nepi, University of Rome La Sapienza, Rav Amedeo Spagnoletto, Collegio Rabbinico Italiano

November 15 - 6:30 pm

The City of Rome as Storehouse of Jewish Artifacts. Ra'anán Boustan, Princeton University

November 16 - 6:30 pm

Roman Travelers in Eretz Israel. Asher Salah, Bezalel Academy

November 20 - 6:30 pm

The Knight and His Jewish Readers: Orlando Furioso. Michela Andreatta, University of Rochester, Serena Di Nepi, University of Rome La Sapienza, Jane Tylus, New York University.

November 19 - 6:30 pm

Giuseppe Valadier's Restoration of the Arch of Titus. Marina Caffiero, University of Rome La Sapienza

November 21 - 6:00 pm

The Ceremony of the Papal Adventus, the Jews and other Roman Scolae. Marina Caffiero, University of Rome La Sapienza. This session will take place at The Italian Cultural Institute, 686 Park Avenue.

December and January programs will be announced at a later date.

About the Center for Jewish History

The Center for Jewish History in New York City illuminates history, culture, and heritage. The Center provides a collaborative home for five partner organizations; the partners' archives comprise the world's largest and most comprehensive archive of the modern Jewish experience outside of Israel. The collections span a thousand years, with archival documents and books, as well as thousands of artworks, textiles, ritual objects, recordings, films, and photographs. The Center's experts are leaders in unlocking archival material for a wide audience through the latest practices in digitization, library science, and public education. www.cjh.org

About Yeshiva University Museum

Yeshiva University Museum is the Jewish art and cultural history museum of Yeshiva University. It exhibits, interprets, researches, collects and preserves artifacts that represent the cultural, intellectual, and artistic achievements of more than 3,000 years of Jewish experience. The Museum is a creative and vital force in the intellectual and educational life of Yeshiva University through the scholarly and cultural opportunities it affords its students and faculty. The Museum also teaches schoolchildren and adults through interdisciplinary exhibitions and programs aimed at the University community and diverse public audiences. Additional information at www.yumuseum.org

About the Museo Ebraico di Roma

The Museo Ebraico di Roma (Jewish Museum of Rome) is housed in a beautiful vaulted ceiling space under the Tempio Maggiore and is a rare example of museum whose holdings are used by the community and represent its history and traditions. Featuring a collection of judaica and textiles unparalleled for historical breath—from antiquity to the 20th century—and artistic value, as well as an important library of printed books, manuscripts and incunabula from the Community's Historical Archive, the Museo Ebraico di Roma receives thousands of visitors every month and is home to a vibrant intellectual forum. During summer 2017, the Museo Ebraico di Roma presented "The Menorah: History, Myth and Worship" with the Vatican Museum; it was the first collaboration ever of a Jewish Museum with the Vatican.

www.museoebraico.roma.it

About Centro Primo Levi

Centro Primo Levi is a New York based organization inspired by the humanistic legacy of writer, chemist and Auschwitz survivor Primo Levi. The Center offers public and academic programs as well as publications on the history of Italian Jews and Judaism. Its main focus on 20th century totalitarianism expands to a history of over two thousand years in an ongoing effort to present the experience and perspective of a minority and its relation with mainstream culture in ancient and modern societies. www.primolevicenter.org

About the American Sephardi Federation

The American Sephardi Federation, based at the landmark Center for Jewish History, preserves and promotes the history, traditions, and rich mosaic culture of Greater Sephardic communities as an integral part of the Jewish experience. ASF hosts high-profile cultural events and exhibitions, produces widely-read online (Sephardi World Weekly, Sephardi Ideas Monthly) and print (The Sephardi Report) publications, supports research, scholarship, and the National Sephardic Library, and represents the Sephardi voice in diplomatic and Jewish communal affairs as a member of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and World Jewish Congress. Please visit us at www.facebook.com/americansephardifederation

High resolution press images available by request. Images used by permission of Jewish Museum of Rome and Historical Archive of the Jewish Museum of Rome. Photos by Araldo De Luca.



Mappà Pagliani, 1652, Donated by Olimpia Pagliani to the Scola Tempio on September 17, 1652, red silk.

“In honour of the Lord and his Torah, the lady / abovementioned, has honoured the Lord with her patrimony on the occasion of the feast of Sukkot. Consecrated to the Lord. Gift / of Mrs. Olimpia / b.w.t. daughter of mister / Shemuel Pagliani / to the Scola Tempio r.k.g.l. - For the peace of the soul of / His father – above mentioned – and his mother / Mrs Benzivenuta / In the year 5413.

Giacomo Lenghi, Piazza delle Cinque Scole, watercolor, 1832

Teatro Marcello, fish market, 1900 ca.

Bakery in the Jewish quarter, 1900 ca.

Scola Tempio, Jewish Historical Archive of Rome, 1900 ca.