



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Preserving American Jewish History*

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series D: International Relations Activities. 1961-1992

Box 57, Folder 4, Comision Quinto Centenario, 1987, 1992.



*Bertram R. Schader*

12th March 1987

CALLE TURIA, 5  
28002 MADRIDMr. Jacobo Kovadloff,  
165 East 56 St.,  
New York, N.Y. 10022

MAR 25 1987

Dear Jacobo,

I send you the English translation of the materials sent yesterday. We are advised that the Spanish Delegation traveling to New York in 10 days will meet with you on the 25th together with Sam. Please keep in mind the overall strategy that a) all planning and activity should be coordinated with and through our Federation Committee, b) the American Jewish Organizations will offer full and complete cooperation with Spain in return for serious efforts on their part to deal with the subjects of enormous interest to us, c) most of the financing for the projects we have suggested should come from the Spanish Government.

In our opinion, the projects concerned with education at all levels of Spain regarding the Jewish subject matter is of enormous lasting importance to us. History must be rewritten in an objective fashion.

With warmest personal regards,

  
Bertram R. Schader.

Excmo. Sr. D. Luis Yañez  
President of the National  
Quincentennial Commission  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
MADRID

Federation of Jewish  
Communities of Spain

10 Mar. 1987

Dear friend:

Following up the conversations we had have regarding the Jewish participation in the Commemoration of the Quincentennial of the Discovery of America, I should like to deliver to you the proposals of our Federation:

1. The Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain has established a committee composed of the following members:

Samuel Toledano Benzaquen	- Madrid
Morris Curiel	- Madrid
Isaac Querub Caro	- Madrid
David Melul	- Barcelona
Bertram Schader	- Madrid
Moises Bendahan Israel	- Madrid
Simon Hassan Benasaya	- Sevilla

Miss Rika Amran Cohen will act as adviser and coordinator to this committee. She is obtaining her P.H.D. in Jewish Medieval History at the Autonomous University of Madrid.

The function of the above Committee will be:

- a) To act as spokesman for and coordinator for all projects to be carried out by the Jewish Organizations and Committees throughout the world, such as the World Jewish Congress to which this Federation is affiliated, the American Jewish Committee, interested bodies in Israel and Committees to be formed by the various Jewish Communities in Europe and in Latin America.
- b) To remain in constant contact with the Spanish National Committee of the Quincentennial in the programming of all events regarding the Jewish dimension in the Commemoration of 1492, the Expulsion of the Jews and the Discovery of America.
- c) To cooperate with the Spanish Authorities and specifically with the Foreign Ministry in presenting to the World a positive image of the new democratic Spain, which, while accepting its past, both the glorious part and the negative part, has chosen clearly the path of opening, of tolerance, of pluralism, and of living in harmony.

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2. In order to accomplish these goals, the Committee of our Federation presents to you the following suggestions:

- a) In order to guarantee the closest possible cooperation with the National Committee, the Executive Secretary of our Federation and President of our Committee should be appointed to the National Committee.
- b) Submit to the National Committee the list of projected activities attached herewith.

We would also like to inform you that we are in contact with Minister Isaac Navon and the pertinent Committees in Israel, with the World Jewish Congress at its headquarters in New York as well as the branches in Latin America, Europe and Israel, and with the Jewish Communities in France, England, Italy, Holland, Greece and Turkey, as well as South America, USA and Canada.

In view of the urgency to begin planning these projects, we suggest that you convoke a working meeting jointly with the National Committee and our Federation Committee.

With my kindest personal regards,

Samuel Toledano,  
Executive Secretary.

Projected Activities for the Commemoration of the Quincentennial.

In order to include the Jewish dimension in the Commemoration activities, the Federation Committee makes the following initial proposals:

1987

Taking advantage of the fact that in Toledo on 9th and 10th of April the Council of Europe will hold a Symposium on the subject "The Jewish Contribution to European Civilization", our proposals will be made public through an announcement to the Press.

Cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science in the preparation of a national competition for Secondary Level students in all of Spain on the subject: "The Expulsion of the Jews from Spain and the Jewish contribution to the Discovery and colonization of the Americas."

Establishment of a close link with Spanish Television so as to include this subject matter in the programming which is being prepared regarding 1492-1992.

1988

Publication of a book which collects the works of historians specialized in this period of history from various countries of the world.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Education, the preparation of material on the Jewish Contribution to be included in the curriculum of all History Courses taught at all levels of the Spanish Educational System.

Convene an International Congress on the subject matter which will bring together scholars from all the countries involved, and whose works and papers which are later produced will be presented at a follow-up International Congress in 1992.

1989

Awarding of an International prize of one million pesetas for the best thesis produced regarding the Jewish Contribution.

n.b.: There already exists a donor for this prize.

1990

Establishment of close collaboration between Bet ha-Tefusot

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in Israel and appropriate Spanish institutions in the preparation of a major exhibition regarding Jewish Contributions, to travel to and be exhibited in various countries over two years, returning to Spain in 1992 to be displayed in Expo 92 in Seville.

### 1991

Holding of a Symposium at National level in which will participate historians of this period under the sponsorship of the National Government and the governments of the Autonomous Regions of Spain. This Symposium will be held in Madrid, and will be preceded in 1990 by various preparatory Symposia in the Autonomous Regions, with the papers produced to be presented at the National Symposium. Maximum publicity will be given to this Symposium.

### 1992

The traveling exhibit will be housed in a permanent stand in Expo 92.

Holding of an International Congress of Historians, both Spanish and from all over the World, under the auspices of the Spanish Ministry of Culture and Academic Institutions in all the countries concerned.

Audiovisual programs to be transmitted simultaneously by satellite to the participating countries.

IDEAS TO DEVELOP BETWEEN 1987 - 1992

1. Encourage the cooperation between the Quincentennial Committees of the various countries involved with the purpose of developing and realizing similar projects.
2. Cooperation with UNESCO in giving International publicity to the subject matter.
3. Publication periodically of an Information Newsletter informing of the various projects and developments regarding the subject, as well as publishing the articles and papers presented by various political and scholarly individuals. This Newsletter will be distributed internationally through the Spanish Embassies abroad and through International Jewish Organizations to the various Jewish Committees in the World.
4. Establishment of various scholarships for research in Spain toward obtaining a P.H.D. or publication of scholarly papers on the Expulsion of the Jews and the Jewish Contribution to the Discovery of the Americas.
5. Publication by the Spanish Ministry of Education of a treatise dealing with the causes for the Expulsion Edict and the Jewish participation in the Discovery and Colonization of the Americas, which will become a required reference work for all scholars on the subject.
6. Creation of a broad working group which will advise and assist the work of foreign bodies and individuals who wish to conduct research and investigation in Spain on the various subjects above mentioned.







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ESPAÑA



## SEPHARED 92 JEWISH SPAIN REDISCOVERED WORKING GROUP

### ORIGIN

***SEPHARED-92 is a body forming part of the Quincentennial of the Discovery of America which in turn is part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was created by Royal decrees of April 10, 1981 and April 11, 1985. It is composed of a Plenum, a Permanent Committee, the President, Vice-president, Secretary General and Co-ordinators of the Divisions of Communications, Science and Technology, Economy, Budget and Finance, History, Education and Culture.***

***In addition to the Presidente, Vice-president and Secretary General of the Commission, the Plenum comprises the General Commissioner of Spain for the Seville World Fair, members of the House and Senate, the President of the Episcopal Council for the Quincentennial, and representatives from all the Ministries, as well as of the most important business and labour organisations.***

### GOALS

***«SEPHARED-92: Jewish Spain Rediscovered» has been set up under the aegis of the National Commission for the Commemoration of the Quincentennial of the Discovery of America with the basic purpose of disseminating information on a national and international level about Jewish Spain during the century of the Discovery, as well as the Sephardite culture, placing special emphasis on the areas most closely connected with the great feat that we are about to celebrate.***

***On October 12, 1992, we shall be celebrating the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus on the coast of America. 500 years will also have elapsed since the expulsion of the Jews from Spain and the conquest of the Moslem Kingdom of Granada. Thus, during the same year three events will coincide which will mark, on the one hand, the expansion into America of the Spanish Crown, and on the other, the end of an era in which a very rich and fruitful encounter had taken place between the three brilliant Christian, Jewish and Moslam cultures.***

***SEPHARED means «Spain» in Hebrew, but in the context of 1992, this word will also mean «Re-encounter». The rediscovery of Jewish Spain precisely during the year that we shall be celebrating the discovery of America, is a task that the National Commission wishes to undertake in close collaboration with other National Commissions mainly those of Israel, Latinamerican and the United***



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***States, but also with the participation of the Jewish communities all over the world, some of which have kept alive the traditions of their ancestors in Toledo, Gerona, Córdoba, Mallorca or Seville.***

***SEPHARED-92 does not merely aim to rediscover the immense wealth of our Jewish roots that are well known on account of universal figures such as Maimónides or Ibn Gabirol, but also expects the living culture of the Jewish communities to play a role.***

***A Jewish culture developed in Spain over the course of many centuries, reaching supreme heights of creativity and constituting the most important in the world at that time. The expulsion of the Jews from Spain did not mean the end of Spain's connections with Jewry, because on the one hand the germ of Judaism remained alive in Spain itself through crypto-Jewish converts in illustrious families and distinguished men of politics and letters. On the other hand, outside the Peninsula, in the same way that Spain took its language and culture to America, the Sephardite dispersion spread first of all to the Mediterranean and Europe, and eventually to the farthest corners of the world.***

***Thus, with the celebration of the great event of the Discovery of America, we shall close the breach opened in 1492 with a historic encounter that will make known the Jewish contribution to the century of the Discovery and the expansion of the Sephardite culture after their expulsion from Spain.***

## **SERVICES AND PROGRAMES**

***The Spanish National Commission offers a great variety of services for projects commemorating the Quincentennial.***

***In the fields of restoration and preservation, the Commission offers technical assistance, grants, educational opportunities and technical training.***

***In connection with exhibitions, its staff administers insurance, supervises packing and crating, manages transportation and oversees catalogue production.***

***In the areas of science and technology, the Commission has created important programmes. It also offers logistical assistance and a means to enhance the exchange of scientific, technological and economic information.***



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*The Commissions' conference policy enables organisations to develop symposia and conferences in all academic fields by awarding subsidies and travel grants.*

*There are other services for the direct benefit of publishers, communications media and scholarly research.*

*The programmes that can be developed by the National Commission of Spain in collaboration with national and international organisations are aimed at organising intermediate and university-level courses, academic and art programmes, literature courses on a national and international scale, exhibitions, conferences, symposia, book prizes and the publication of books, leaflets and periodic or serialised publications, the promotion of tourist routes in Jewish Spain, and the restoration of buildings and monuments of artistic interest.*

*At the same time, it will encourage, support and co-ordinate projects that public and private organisations may develop for the same purposes.*

