



SHOWCASES INSIDE OUT COST D42
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24th, 25th, 26th MAY 09 | 27th MAY 09

WORKSHOP | **POST-WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES**

Post-workshop Activities_Lecture

27.05.09

LECTURE | **THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS: FROM THE CAVES TO THE MUSEUM**

Responsible	Ira Rabin Analysis of Cultural Assets, Berlin, Germany & Jerusalem, Israel rabin@fhi-berlin.mpg.de
Venue	Anfiteatro Nobre, FLUP
Number of participants	80
Fee	Free entrance. Registration required.

Scope	<p>The collection generally known as Qumran scrolls or Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS) comprises some 900 highly fragmented manuscripts from the Second Temple period. They are written on parchment, papyrus and leather. A number of scrolls stored in clay vessels retained perfect condition through over two thousand years. Others found on the cave floors reached us in highly fragmented state. In the first years after their discovery, text analysis and attribution of the fragments were the main concern of the scholars dealing with DSS and no special attention was paid to their preservation: castor oil was lavishly spread on the fragments to enhance the contrast; pieces were held together by scotch tape and/or squeezed between glass plates. Moreover, they were kept under conditions of pollution, light and constantly changing climatic environment. As a result the fragments started to degrade speedily. In the 70's DSS restoration has become the main issue. Unfortunately, these were the heydays for synthetic glues and consolidants and they found wide application to the scrolls. So today we are left to deal with the following issues: (i) identification of the previous treatment, (ii) proper assessment of the degradation state, (iii) removal of the effects due to previous "restoration", (iv) proper preservation and conservation techniques.</p> <p>The lecture reviews the post discovery history of the Dead Sea Scrolls collections in Jerusalem. The data on unrolling, cleaning and treatments to enhance inscriptions as well as the first storage and display practices is presented in the first part. The second part arranged in the chronological order is dedicated to the conservational handling during the last 60 years. The third part summarizes material studies conducted on the scrolls as well as the ongoing research.</p>
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Programme	
11:30 12:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discovery, unrolling, treatment to enhance and to preserve the text. First expositions. 2. Effects of the treatment and environment on the state of the preservation of the Dead Sea Scrolls. 3. The Dead Sea Scrolls today: material study, preservation and display.

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