Framing the Sacred Shrines in European Architecture

International Workshop of 
*The Torah Ark in German Lands* Research Project

June 19-20, 2018

Bar-Ilan University, Building 410, room 311

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**June 19**

9:00-9:30 **Registration**

9:30-10:00 **Greetings and Opening Remarks:**

Eliahu Assis, Dean, Faculty of Jewish Studies, Bar-Ilan University

Ilia Rodov, Workshop Organizer, Bar-Ilan University

10:00-11:30 **Session 1. Keynote Lecture**

Chairperson: Elisheva Revel-Neher, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Jelena Bogdanović, Iowa State University

Nesting of the Altar Canopy and the Church in the Byzantine-rite Tradition

11:30-12:00 **Coffee break**

12:00-14:00 **Session 2. Sanctity on Display**

Chairperson: Katrin Kogman-Appel, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität

Elisheva Revel-Neher, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Unseen Presence, Ever-present Absence: From the Biblical Ark of the Covenant to the Torah Ark

Steven Fine, Yeshiva University

From Torah Chest to Ark of the Master of Heaven: The Earliest History of the Synagogue Torah Shrine

Yeshu Dray, Restoration of Ancient Technology Center, Kinneret Institute for Galilean Archaeology

The Hechalit (Torah Shrine) of Umm el-Qanatir: Orientation Correction?

Maria Stürzebecher, Culture Directorate, City of Erfurt

Disappearance on Display: Torah Arks in German Museums

14:00-15:00 **Lunch**

15:00-16:30 **Session 3. Sanctity and Ritual**

Chairperson: Steven Fine, Yeshiva University

Leor Jacobi, Bar-Ilan University

An Art Historian on the Talmud, Calling the Holy Ark "Arna" and Dangerous Things

Yechiel Goldhaber, Jerusalem

Opposition Override: The Decalogue Tablets on the Torah Ark

Jeffrey Woolf, Bar-Ilan University

Between Aron and Kapporet: The Torah Ark in Halakhah

16:30-17:00 **Coffee Break**

17:00-17:30 **Closing Remarks**

**June 20**

9:30-11:30 **Session 4. German Torah Shrines in the Middle Ages and Beyond**

Chairperson: Jelena Bogdanović, Iowa State University

Simon Paulus, University of Stuttgart and Braunschweig University of Technology

The Torah Ark in the Medieval Synagogue: Structural and Tectonic Characteristics

Annette Weber, University of Heidelberg

The Torah Ark as the Gate of Mercy in the Middle Ages and Beyond

Ilia Rodov, Bar-Ilan University

Mystery Encircled and Enclosed: Pediments of Medieval Ashkenazi Torah Arks

Zvi Orgad, Bar-Ilan University

Paint me... the Ark

11:30-12:00 **Coffee Break**

12:00-14:00 **Session 5. Modern Torah Shrines: Structure and Message**

Chairperson: Annette Weber, University of Heidelberg

Sergey Kravtsov, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Domed Torah Arks in Eastern Europe: Breaking Baroque Schemes

Bracha Yaniv, Bar-Ilan University

The Warka Torah Ark: A Test Case of Jewish Iconography

Miriam Grobman, The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, Jerusalem

Triumph of the Torah: Gate-Shaped Synagogue Arks in Belarus

Mirko Przystawik, Braunschweig University of Technology

Aedicula, Ciborium, and Baldachin: Architectural Patterns in Nineteenth-Century Torah Arks

14:00-15:30 **Lunch**

15:30-17:00 **Session 3. Sanctity in Contexts**

Chairperson: Bracha Yaniv, Bar-Ilan University

Yoram Meital, Ben-Gurion University

Cairo Synagogues, Past and Present

Vladimir Levin, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Sephardi Religious Reform? Synagogues of Izmir and their Prayer Leader’s Pulpits

Susan Nashman Fraiman, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Influence and Innovation: Arthur Szyk’s Torah Ark

17:00-17:30 **Closing Remarks**

**Organizers:** Ilia Rodov, Leor Jacobi, Zvi Orgad