



American Sephardi Federation
Sephardic House
The Cultural Division
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For Immediate Release

New York, September 5, 2003....The American Sephardi Federation/Sephardic House is pleased to announce a new exhibit, *Images of the Jews of Greece, 1880-1930, Integrated and Distinct*. The exhibition will open at the Center for Jewish History on September 9th and will continue through the end of December. It will celebrate the Jews of Greece from 1880-1930 tracing their customs and traditions through life cycles - birth and education, daily life practices, marriage, religious life, and finally departure for the New World. Clothing, photographs, textiles, synagogue items, transit visas and other documents will be featured. The exhibit will highlight four important cities where Jewish culture thrived: Ioannina (Janina), Salonika, Volos and the Island of Rhodes.

The history of the Jews in Greece goes back 2000 years. The Romaniote Jews lived there from ancient times and were Greek speaking while the Sephardic Jews arrived there after their expulsion from Spain and spoke Judeo-Spanish. Both groups adopted certain Greek customs while retaining their own identity, culture and religious beliefs.

Several historians well versed in this subject have contributed their expertise and members of the Sephardic community of Jews from Greece have provided precious family documents, photographs and textiles for the exhibition. Congregation Kehila Kedosha Janina in New York made valuable contributions to the exhibit and Yeshiva University Museum was kind enough to contribute items from its collection.

This exhibit is made possible in part by a grant from the New York Council of the Humanities, the Dina and Raphael Recanati Family Foundation and other private donors.

The Center for Jewish History is located at 15 West 16th Street (between 5th & 6th Avenues), New York. Hours: Mon. through Thursday 9am - 5pm; Friday 9am - 1pm; Sunday 11am - 5pm

For additional information, please contact Esme Berg at 212-294-8350 ext. 2 or by e-mail to eberg@asf.cjh.org