

New Book Traces the History of Danish Jews

The rescue of the Danish Jews in October 1943 is well known both in Denmark and all over the world. What is less known is the history of Jewish immigration to Denmark, which goes back more than 400 years. This is the chronicle that unfolds in the new book, *A Story of Immigration. Four hundred Years of Jews in Denmark*. In less than 200 pages, the book gives the reader an account of the successful, but at times challenging integration of Danish Jews into Danish society. The book, produced by The Danish Jewish Museum, is due for publication on March 7, 2018.

Integration is a highly charged and highly relevant topic today, but Denmark has experience in this sphere that goes back 400 years. That was when the first Jews came to Denmark, which was the beginning of stories of integration that encompass both successful business adventures and the formation of ghettos.

This is the historical material that you can read about in The Danish Jewish Museum's new publication, *A Story of Immigration. Four Hundred Years of Jews in Denmark*. The authors of the book are Cecilie Felicia Stokholm Banke, Signe Bergman Larsen, Janne Laursen, Martin Schwarz Lausten and Hanne Trautner-Kromann. The publication date is March 7, 2018. The main ambition of the museum has been to produce a book that is both highly accessible and rich in illustrations.

Janne Laursen, Director of The Danish Jewish Museum, has said,

"The rescue of the Danish Jews in October 1943 is well known all over the world, but there is much more to the history of Danish Jews than this one set of events. The book contains accounts of immigration, cultural encounters and religious positions, as well as prejudices and persecution, but also of commercial prosperity and successful integration. The museum hopes with this publication to make the knowledge of Danish Jewish history accessible both to Danes and to foreigners from all over the world."

Frank Birkebæk, Chairman of the Board, The Danish Jewish Museum, says,

"This publication is an excellent presentation of the research and educational work carried out by The Danish Jewish Museum. It contributes to illustrating the participation of Danish Jews in the development of society, and in so doing, it bears witness to a successful story of integration."

The book deals with internal differences within the Jewish minority and its encounters with Danish society. Furthermore, it shows how Jews in different ways have contributed successfully to the development of Danish society in the sciences, commercial enterprise, the arts and culture.

At the same time, the book focuses on the challenges and scepticism that Danish Jews have encountered in the course of time, in particular in the early 19th century when Jewish people were victims of physical attacks and incidents of harassment.

This book is simply a guided tour through Danish-Jewish history, full of a variety of experiences of cultural encounters and integration.

The book can be purchased in the museum shop at The Danish Jewish Museum, and can be ordered at info@jewmus.dk.

Respectfully,
The Danish Jewish Museum

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