

Support our Activities

UNESCO's claim to connect past and present is the objective of our association. ShUM is a visible, tangible, living heritage. ShUM set architectural and religious standards. ShUM is a historical and a present-day setting waiting to be discovered.

The Jewish heritage of ShUM requires research, tradition and education and shall increase public awareness by events and exhibits. To ensure that, your commitment is essential.

Support us with a donation

Sparkasse Mainz
IBAN: DE 17 5505 0120 0200 0972 28
BIC: MALADE51MNZ
Password: World Heritage ShUM

"Many German speaking Jews found a new home in Australia – on the border of diaspora: as immigrants, refugees and survivors of the Holocaust. Some of them came from the ShUM-Cities. They passed on experience and memory from a destroyed living environment which might continue to exist and be preserved as world cultural heritage of the ShUM-Cities."

Prof. Konrad Kwiet
Professor Emeritus Jewish and Holocaust Studies,
University of Sydney

ShUM-Cities on the Rhine

– Jewish heritage for the world

The ShUM-Cities connect Jewish history with European and even world history. A ShUM world cultural heritage would be commensurate with the significance of this unique Jewish tradition.

"The ShUM-communities once had been a whole Jewish world: Ashkenaz. And like Sefarad this diaspora heritage has an effect still today."

Dr. Hanno Loewy
Director of the Jewish Museum at Hohenems

"In addition to the important physical remains of Jewish life in the medieval period that are uniquely extant in the Shu"m communities, these communities constitute a kind of 'cradle of civilization' with respect to the study of canonical Jewish texts including the Bible and the Talmud. Figures such as Rabbenu Gershom and Rashi pioneered modes of interpretation in the eleventh century which set the stage for the development of Tosafist analysis during the twelfth century. Taken all together, these figures and their works revolutionized the study of Jewish law and texts in ways that are still taken into account today."

Prof. Ephraim Kanarfogel
Yeshiva University New York

General information
and how to engage with a supporting membership

ShUM-Cities Speyer, Worms, Mainz e.V.
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Picture title: Worms, Jewish Cemetery © Dietrich Krieger

ShUM-Cities on the Rhine

Jewish heritage for the world

ShUM-Cities Speyer, Worms, Mainz e.V.



ש"ם

The abbreviation ShUM was formed from the initial letters of the medieval cities' Hebrew names derived from Latin.

ש → **Shin (Sh)** → **Shpira** → **Speyer**
ן → **Waw (U)** → **Warmaisa** → **Worms**
מ → **Mem (M)** → **Magenza** → **Mainz**

The radiance of the former ShUM-Cities is unbroken, on the Rhine and throughout the world. Stone monuments from the Middle Ages – synagogues, tombstones, cemeteries, ritual baths – have been preserved, reconstructed and archeologically protected.



Speyer, Remnant of the Synagogue wall © Klaus Venus

The spiritual heritage of the ShUM-Cities is inseparably connected with these unique spaces of Jewish tradition and innovation. Scholars like Rashi and Maharil wrote comments on the Torah, created liturgical poetry and drafted religious legal decisions. The everyday traditions and myths of the ShUM-Cities bear witness of a living tradition.

Becoming UNESCO World heritage

In 2005 the German state of Rheinland-Pfalz has been taking a first step towards registering the ShUM-Cities as UNESCO-acknowledged cultural world heritage. In 2020 the German state of Rheinland-Pfalz will send the nomination dossier and management plan through the foreign office to UNESCO in Paris. In 2021 the decision will be taken.

ShUM-Cities Speyer, Worms, Mainz e.V.

Coordination and communication.

Increase public awareness of the ShUM heritage.

Interlink players, develop projects.

Plan strategies and develop ideas for the years after 2021.

Involve committed citizens and organizations from Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany and all other countries in the activities.

The ShUM-Cities Speyer, Worms, Mainz e. V. association is supported by the German State of Rheinland-Pfalz, the cities of Worms, Speyer, and Mainz, the Jewish Communities of Mainz and Rheinpfalz, the State Association of the Jewish Communities Rheinland-Pfalz.



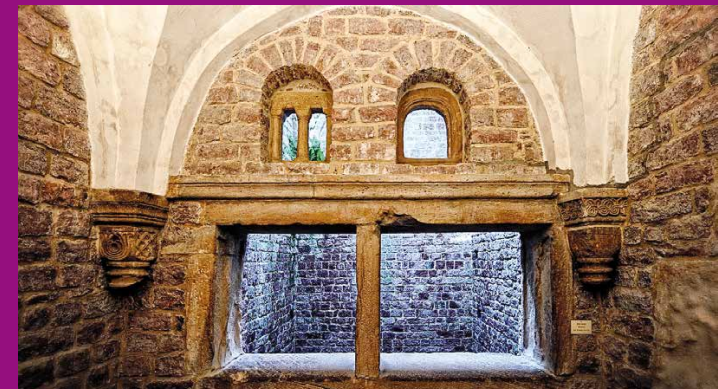
Mainz, Jewish Cemetery

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Worms, Synagogue

© City Archives Worms, Rudolf Uhrig



Speyer, Mikvah

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