



## Historic congregations become contributors to the CJHN

**Montreal, September 5th, 2012** - The archival collections of Montreal's two oldest synagogues are now available for browsing at the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network (<http://www.cjhn.ca>).

The newest contributor to the CJHN platform is the oldest Jewish institution in Canada, tracing its history back to the first Jewish settlers who began to arrive in 1760. The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue follows the Sephardic tradition of Jewish practice, and numbers among its members Jews from a multitude of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern backgrounds. The CJHN now provides information about over 14 linear meters of documents, hundreds of photographs, and a unique collection of historical artifacts and ceremonial art reflecting the membership's diverse cultural traditions.

The Shaar Hashomayim Congregation traces its founding back to the mid 19th century and was known initially as the Congregation of German and Polish Jews. Its services follow the Ashkenazi ritual of Jewish practice. The congregation is proud of its extensive Museum and Archives collection of historical and ceremonial objects from Canada and Europe.

Visitors can zero in on the two synagogues' digitized materials and their descriptions by going to the [Advanced Search page](#) and choosing the "Spanish and Portuguese" and/ or the "Shaar Hashomayim" in the "Repository" set of check boxes.

There are over 1050 records online from the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue Archives, more than 10% of them illustrated with one or two scanned photographs or digitized documents. Several multi-paged documents are available in PDF format.

The Shaar Hashomayim offers 455 items online at present, all of them illustrated with either a photograph, a multi-page PDF document, or a video clip.

For more information about the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, visit the website at: <http://www.thespanish.org/>. For more information on the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, visit their website at: <http://www.shaarhashomayim.org/>.

To learn more about the CJHN and its upcoming projects, contact Janice Rosen, Director of Archives, Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives at 514-937-7531, ext.2 / [jrosen@cjccc.ca](mailto:jrosen@cjccc.ca) or Shannon Hodge, Director of Archives of the Jewish Public Library at 514-345-2627 ext. 3015 / [shannon.hodge@jplmontreal.org](mailto:shannon.hodge@jplmontreal.org).