

## **Ets Haim Library, Livraria Montezinos, Amsterdam** ***Heide Warncke***

**Description:** Ets Haim was founded in 1616 and is the oldest active Jewish library in the world. The core of the collection are the books of the school that was part of the Portuguese congregation. It was established when the conversos who came from the Iberian Peninsula to Amsterdam were in need of Jewish education. In 1889, the private collection of the librarian of Ets Haim, David Montezinos was added. Today Ets Haim holds about 600 manuscripts and 23,000 printed books mainly in Hebrew, Spanish and Portuguese. The presentation will tell more about the history of Ets Haim and the unique nature of the collection.

**Heide Warncke** was born in Hamburg and studied Semitic languages at the University of Amsterdam. As a library specialist, she became project leader at the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana in Amsterdam for cataloguing the Hebraica and Judaica printed before 1850. In 2012, she started working at the library Ets Haim – Livraria Montezinos in Amsterdam and was appointed Curator of Ets Haim in 2016. Heide is currently writing a dissertation on the subject of the Amsterdam Hebrew printing industry and the impact of intellectual, economic and religious developments on Hebrew printing.