

Accumulations

Most museum collections are built over time, often somewhat haphazardly. Along the way, a museum may accumulate a large number of similar works, responding to serendipitous opportunities as well as the need to preserve cultural and artistic heritage and to maintain important research functions. Despite their seeming redundancy, such groups of works reveal important information on artistic and social processes. Usually, just one object of a type is selected for display, while its duplicates languish in storage. This Scene takes the opposite approach: instead of emphasizing the preciousness of the unique artwork or artifact, it revels in the collective visual impact of multiples, a method of presentation that reveals new insights which might otherwise remain hidden.

Hanukkah Lamps

Hanukkah commemorates the liberation of the ancient Jewish Temple in Jerusalem from repressive Greek rule in 164 BCE. The holiday is observed for eight nights through the kindling of lights to recall the miracle by which a one-day supply of oil in the rededicated Temple lamp lasted for eight days. Over time a specialized Hanukkah lamp, or menorah, has evolved for this ritual.

Through the centuries the importance of Hanukkah has grown and with it the centrality of the lamp. Rabbinical authorities have specified that lamps be made of the finest materials possible to beautify the ritual, ranging from gold and silver to acorn shells. The eighty-one pieces displayed here are drawn from the Jewish Museum's collection of more than one thousand Hanukkah lamps—the largest in the world. Differences in their materials and styles reveal rich details of the lives of Jews over the course of seven hundred years.

Silver

Silver Hanukkah lamps fulfill the rabbinical mandate to use the most precious materials possible. Produced by skilled silversmiths, they were expensive and difficult for most Jews to afford. It was only in the late nineteenth century that industrial die-stamping and silver plating allowed for less costly but still beautiful production.

The majority of silver pieces in the Jewish Museum's collection come from Germany, Poland, and the former Russian Empire. In Germany a large part of the Jewish population lived in small towns under constrained economic conditions, but Jews were permitted to live in a few cities, where some became wealthy through trade, banking, and later industry; a few even held court positions. These residents had the means to purchase magnificent silver Hanukkah lamps. In the Frankfurt ghetto, for example, prosperous Jews were active patrons of the local silversmiths, some of whom seem to have catered almost exclusively to a Jewish clientele (see the lamp on the top shelf, second from left,

and on the second shelf, third from left). But Jews who wished to commission a lamp from the most accomplished silversmiths of Augsburg and Nuremberg (such as the lamp on the bottom shelf, left) had to purchase a special day pass to enter those cities since Jews were forbidden to live there.

In Poland and the Russian Empire a substantial number of Jews had entered the middle class by the nineteenth century and could afford to purchase silver lamps (such as those on the fourth shelf, third from left, and bottom shelf, middle).

The religion of the makers of silver lamps varied from country to country. In Germany silversmiths were members of official guilds that did not admit Jews, and most lamps were made by Christians. Some Jewish artisans, however, were able to operate outside the guild system, albeit with difficulty. In Poland and the Russian Empire, however, it is likely that many Hanukkah lamps were made by Jewish masters, since Polish Jews had been granted freedom of economic activity since the thirteenth century.

Copper

After silver, two types of copper were considered preferable for Hanukkah lamps: red copper and copper alloys—bronze (copper mixed with tin) or brass (copper mixed with tin and zinc). The museum's menorah collection is particularly rich in cast copper-alloy examples, drawn from Eastern Europe, Italy, the Netherlands, and North Africa.

Before large amounts of both gold and silver began flooding into Europe from the Americas in the sixteenth century, cast brass was a highly prized substitute for gold. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when many of the museum's lamps were produced, improvements in tin and brass production brought the cost down and made these metals more affordable. As the museum's collection attests, heavy cast Hanukkah lamps were popular in Poland and the Russian Pale of Settlement, home to five million mostly poor Jews (see the lamps on the third shelf, far right, and the fifth shelf, second from left). They were so valued that they were one of the items most commonly brought by Jews immigrating to the United States between the 1880s and the 1920s.

In Italy cast Hanukkah lamps date back to the Renaissance and were decorated with classical

scenes and motifs like those also found in secular and Christian metalwork. This reflects an era when Jews who had succeeded financially joined in the upper-class fascination with classical art. Renaissance lamps are rare, but a large number of copies were produced, beginning in the nineteenth century.

In North Africa, most Hanukkah lamps were made of cast brass, probably by Jewish artisans. Qu'ranic commentaries prohibiting the hoarding of precious metals sometimes discouraged Muslims from becoming metalsmiths; in consequence Jews became the primary crafters in silver and brass (see the Moroccan lamp on the fourth shelf, third from left).

A large number of copper alloy lamps in the collection are made from repoussé sheet brass, hammered from behind to create a raised decoration. Using less metal, this process was no doubt more affordable than cast brass. Sheet-brass lamps were most common in the Netherlands, probably adapted from wall sconces with reflective backplates. Similar techniques and motifs spread to Morocco and Algeria, perhaps carried by North African Jewish traders, government agents, and businessmen who spent time in Holland or by Dutch Jews who settled in Algeria.

Iron

Surprisingly, rabbinical writers preferred iron for Hanukkah lamps over pewter and tin. Today iron has a workaday, industrial association, but at times in the history of its use the material has been considered more precious. In the early nineteenth century, for example, a new type of furnace that enabled the casting of very fine ironwork prompted artisans to use the metal for decorative objects, including jewelry. A fashion for hand-forged menorot in the early twentieth century seems to have been inspired by the Arts-and-Crafts movement, which urged a return to handcrafting in reaction to the popularity of machine-stamped ware of the Industrial Revolution.

In the early 1980s Judaica artists, inspired by trends in the art world, began to explore atypical materials and to reimagine the traditional forms of ceremonial art. The sculptor Larry Kagan created eight variations on the Hanukkah lamp, playing on its structure, the space it creates, and the distinctive qualities of steel (a carburized form of iron). The artist salvaged steel scraps from his workshop, student projects, and the street to create these works. Meant to be inventive rather than functional, they express the playful and joyous nature of the holiday.

Tin and Lead

Tin and lead are low on the rabbinical ranking of metals; both are soft and easy to work with but not strong. Pewter, an alloy of tin, was less prestigious than silver or brass, but more durable than wood, ceramic, or glass.

Before the eighteenth century, the rarity of tin sources made pewter a relatively costly material, originally reserved for royalty. But with developments in tin processing, it became less expensive. Pewter lamps became especially popular between 1750 and 1850 in small Jewish communities in southern Germany, often comprising no more than a dozen families. At that time Hanukkah lamps appear to have been favorite Jewish wedding gifts, inscribed with a couple's names or heart imagery (see the second shelf, third and fourth lamps from left).

Tin-plated sheet lamps were common in southwest Germany and neighboring areas of France, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. Jews in these rural areas spoke western Yiddish (Judendeutsch) and called their lamps Chanukka-Eisen (Hanukkah iron), since tin plate is made out of industrially rolled iron sheets.

Pure lead lamps like the one in the form of chairs displayed here (third shelf, left) were characteristic of Germany and Eastern Europe. Because the melting point of lead is very low, they were easily made even by children. They were often melted down after the holiday to be recast the next year.

Other Materials

Although rabbinical tradition prefers metal for Hanukkah lamps, glass, wood, clay, and other materials are also permitted. For those too poor to own well-crafted lamps, the texts suggest using pomegranate peels, walnut shells, or acorns.

Before the twentieth century glass lamps were rare. Mirrored glass, difficult to make, was especially unusual until the nineteenth century, when innovations in production brought the cost down. The example in this case (second shelf, middle) was therefore an expensive purchase in 1757, when it was acquired by Jacob Judah Bing, a resident of the Frankfurt ghetto.

Wood is cheap, easy to work with, and readily available, but not ideal for a lamp with an open flame. Nevertheless, a few examples survive, such as the lamp made in the Theresienstadt ghetto camp (on the wall to your left), when better materials were unavailable.

Clay was probably the first material used to create Hanukkah lamps, going back to the first century CE, when the custom of kindling lights on the holiday was first recorded. Scholars suggest that these first implements were made of individual small oil lamps of unglazed clay, very common at the time. An echo of this custom can be seen in communities in Iran, Afghanistan, and Central Asia, where small cups of ceramic or other materials are used in the same way.

Contemporary artists use modern materials not found on early rabbinical lists, such as aluminum, concrete, and silicone, in an effort to rethink traditional ideas about ritual objects and bring humble materials, more common in the design world, into the realm of the sacred.

Tap a picture below for more information



← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp in
Art Deco style**

DATE

c. 1945

ARTIST

Bernhard Friedländer

Polish, born in 1881,
death date unknown

CREDIT LINE

Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 1986

PLACE MADE

**Tel Aviv, British Mandate
Palestine (now Israel)**

MEDIUM

**Cast, lathe-turned, and
silver-plated white metal**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp used in
the Frankfurt ghetto**

DATE

**Between 1706
and 1732**

ARTIST

Johann Adam Boller
German, born in 1679,
died in 1732

CREDIT LINE

Gift of the Estate of Alice B.
Goldschmidt, 1983-160

PLACE MADE

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

MEDIUM

**Cast, traced, engraved, and
parcel-gilt silver**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

Hanukkah lamp

ARTIST

**Gorham Manufacturing
Company**

Founded in 1865, closed in 1961

PLACE MADE

Providence, Rhode Island

MEDIUM

Cast and engraved silver

DATE

**1885 with
1918–19
inscription**

CREDIT LINE

Gift of Louis S. Brush, S 1366

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

Hanukkah lamp

DATE

1940

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

Gift of Sun Soffair, 1996-153

PLACE MADE

Baghdad

MEDIUM

**Repoussé, punched, and
cast silver**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp in
Rococo style**

DATE

1752

ARTIST

Reynier de Haan

Dutch, born in 1712,
died in 1783

CREDIT LINE

Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 3693

PLACE MADE

The Hague, Netherlands

MEDIUM

**Repoussé, engraved, traced,
punched, appliqué, and
cast silver**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

Hanukkah lamp with a scene of men lighting a menorah

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

Eastern Germany, Bohemia, Moravia, or the Austrian Empire

MEDIUM

Repoussé, traced, and punched silver

DATE

Mid-eighteenth century

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Sylvia Zenia Rosen
Wiener, 2012-29**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp used in
the Frankfurt ghetto**

DATE

**Between 1730
and 1762**

ARTIST

Georg Wilhelm Schedel
German, born in 1698,
died in 1762

CREDIT LINE

Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 2820

PLACE MADE

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

MEDIUM

**Repoussé, traced, punched,
pierced, and cast silver**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with lions**

DATE

1924

ARTIST

Barukh Shlomo Griegst
Lithuanian, born in 1889,
died in 1958

CREDIT LINE

Purchase: Judaica
Acquisitions Fund and Gift of
Bjorn Bamberger, 1994-6

PLACE MADE

Copenhagen

MEDIUM

Cast and hammered silver

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with fruit**

DATE

1826

ARTIST

**Unknown, marked with
the maker's initials J R
or T R**

CREDIT LINE

**The Rose and Benjamin Mintz
Collection, M 384**

PLACE MADE

**Brno, Moravia (now the
Czech Republic)**

MEDIUM

Die-stamped and pierced silver

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

Hanukkah lamp

DATE

1963

ARTIST

Kurt J. Matzdorf

American, born in Germany,
1922, died in 2008

CREDIT LINE

Purchase: Abram and
Frances Kanof Fund,
JM 118-65a-b

PLACE MADE

New Paltz, New York

MEDIUM

Handworked silver

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

Hanukkah lamp

DATE

c. 1800

ARTIST

**Unknown, marked with
the maker's initials
C L E**

CREDIT LINE

**The Rose and Benjamin Mintz
Collection, M 462**

PLACE MADE

Probably Germany

MEDIUM

**Pierced, engraved, and
cast silver**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

Hanukkah lamp

ARTIST

Herman Roth

American, born in 1901,
died in 1968

PLACE MADE

Larchmont, New York

MEDIUM

Ebony and pierced silver

DATE

**Between 1950
and 1955**

CREDIT LINE

Gift of the Abram and
Frances Kanof Collection
of Contemporary Judaica,
JM 42-60

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
stamped designs**

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

**Probably north of the Atlas
Mountains, Morocco**

MEDIUM

Traced and punched silver

DATE

**Nineteenth
or twentieth
century**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Miriam Schloessinger
through Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 5650**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with palmette**

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

Probably Ottoman Empire

MEDIUM

**Pierced, engraved, punched,
cast, and rolled appliqué silver**

DATE

**Probably
nineteenth
century**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 3019**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

Hanukkah lamp

DATE

**Early nineteenth
century**

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 2572**

PLACE MADE

Poland or Russian Empire

MEDIUM

**Filigree, traced, punched,
appliqué, and cast silver and
copper alloy**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with menorah**

DATE

**Between 1908
and 1929**

ARTIST

**Unknown, Bezalel
School of Arts and
Crafts**

Founded in Jerusalem in 1906

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 4904**

PLACE MADE

Jerusalem

MEDIUM

**Cast, filigree, and pierced silver,
turquoise, and carnelian**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
holiday liturgy**

DATE

**Between 1716
and 1735**

ARTIST

Matheus Staedlein
German, active between 1716
and 1735

CREDIT LINE

Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 197

PLACE MADE

Nuremberg, Germany

MEDIUM

**Repoussé, engraved, traced,
punched, and cast silver and ink
on parchment**

**Inscriptions on the parchment inset include blessings over the
kindling, a popular song, and a statement about the holy lights.**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with lions**

DATE

**Early nineteenth
century**

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, in memory of
Dr. Paul Romanoff, F 1965

PLACE MADE

Poland or Russian Empire

MEDIUM

**Repoussé, parcel-gilt, appliqué,
and cast silver**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
crowned lions**

DATE

**Between 1922
and 1935**

ARTIST

Emil Freund

**German, active between 1922
and 1935**

CREDIT LINE

**Collection of the Family of
Salomee Lindenbaum**

PLACE MADE

Hanau, Germany

MEDIUM

**Die-stamped, cast, traced, and
punched silver and silver-plated
copper alloy**

**Sally Lindenbaum was a long-time and beloved volunteer at the
museum, and this lamp belonged to her father.**

Tap a picture below for more information



← BACK

OBJECT NAME

Tree of Life

DATE

1987

ARTIST

**Erté (Romain
De Tiroff)**

French, born in Russia, 1892,
died in 1990

CREDIT LINE

Bequest of Dr. Louise
Jacobson, 2004-28

PLACE MADE

Farmingdale, New York

MEDIUM

Polished bronze

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp in
Art Nouveau style**

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

Germany

MEDIUM

**Cast, brass-plated, and
wax-coated white metal**

DATE

**Late nineteenth
or early
twentieth
century**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Benjamin and Barbara
Korngold, 2017-3**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Interlace Hanukkah
lamp**

DATE

1958

ARTIST

**Ludwig Yehuda
Wolpert**

American, born in Germany,
1900, died in 1981

CREDIT LINE

Gift of the Tobe Pascher
Foundation, JM 51-58

PLACE MADE

New York

MEDIUM

Handworked copper alloy

[← BACK](#)

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
heart and tulip**

DATE

**Eighteenth
century**

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 959**

PLACE MADE

Netherlands

MEDIUM

**Repoussé, traced, and punched
copper alloy**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with boss**

DATE

**Nineteenth
century**

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 3250**

PLACE MADE

Probably Morocco

MEDIUM

**Repoussé, traced, and punched
copper alloy**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with grapes**

DATE

**Nineteenth
century**

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 5176**

PLACE MADE

Netherlands

MEDIUM

**Repoussé, pierced, punched,
and cast copper alloy**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with a *hamsa***

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

Morocco

MEDIUM

**Repoussé, punched, and
cast copper alloy**

DATE

**Second half of
the nineteenth
century**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Elaine D. Elmaleh,
F 2750a**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with Judith**

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

Italy

MEDIUM

Cast and chased copper alloy

DATE

**Probably
nineteenth
century**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 3777**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

Hanukkah lamp

DATE

**Nineteenth
century**

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE
Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 3804

PLACE MADE

**Central Anti-Atlas Mountains,
Morocco**

MEDIUM

**Cast and enameled
copper alloy**

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
scrollwork**

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

Probably Italy

MEDIUM

**Cast and handworked
copper alloy**

DATE

**Probably
eighteenth or
nineteenth
century**

CREDIT LINE

**The H. Ephraim and
Mordecai Benguiat Family
Collection, S 113**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with birds**

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

**Probably Eastern Galicia or
western Ukraine**

MEDIUM

Cast copper alloy

DATE

**Mid-nineteenth
or early
twentieth
century**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 133**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
crenellated wall**

DATE

**Sixteenth
century**

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of the Mr. and
Mrs. Albert A. List Family,
JM 100-73**

PLACE MADE

Italy

MEDIUM

Lost-wax cast copper alloy

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with tower**

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

Coastal North Africa

MEDIUM

Cast copper alloy

DATE

**Nineteenth
or twentieth
century**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 152**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
horseshoe arches**

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

Fez or Meknes, Morocco

MEDIUM

Cast and appliqué copper alloy

DATE

**Second half of
the nineteenth
century**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 3274**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
rose window**

DATE

**Between 1913
and 1929**

ARTIST

**Unknown, probably
from the Sharar
Cooperative (part of
the Bezalel School of
Arts and Crafts)
Founded in Jerusalem in 1913**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 3393**

PLACE MADE

Jerusalem

MEDIUM

Die-stamped copper alloy

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
a scene of a menorah
lighting**

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

Netherlands

MEDIUM

**Repoussé, chased, and
punched copper alloy**

DATE

**Eighteenth
century**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 5773**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with lions**

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

**Eastern Galicia or western
Ukraine**

MEDIUM

Cast copper alloy

DATE

**First half of
the nineteenth
century**

CREDIT LINE

**The Rose and Benjamin Mintz
Collection, M 187**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
high priest**

DATE

Early 1920s

ARTISTS

Ze'ev Raban

Israeli, born in Poland, 1890,
died in 1970

CREDIT LINE

Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 5455

**Unknown, probably
from the Sharar
Cooperative (affiliated
with the Bezalel School
of Arts and Crafts)**

Founded in Jerusalem in 1913

PLACE MADE

Jerusalem

MEDIUM

Die-stamped copper alloy

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
the Vision of Zechariah**

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

Italy

MEDIUM

**Repoussé, traced, punched,
and cast copper alloy**

DATE

**Eighteenth
century with
later additions**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 2663**

Tap a picture below for more information



← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
floral decoration**

DATE

**Mid-nineteenth
century**

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

**Purchase: Eva and Morris
Feld Judaica Acquisitions
Fund, 1984-58a-c**

PLACE MADE

Probably Germany

MEDIUM

Die-stamped tin plate

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Candelabrum
Hanukkah lamp**

DATE

**Nineteenth
century**

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 2633**

PLACE MADE

Germany

MEDIUM

**Handworked and die-stamped
tin plate**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Candelabrum
Hanukkah lamp**

DATE

**Nineteenth
century**

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

U 7568

PLACE MADE

Germany or France

MEDIUM

**Handworked tin plate, copper
alloy, and cast iron**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
made from a Kent
cigarette sign**

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

United States

MEDIUM

Cut out tin plate and enamel

DATE

**Between 1967
and 1979**

CREDIT LINE

**Purchase: Gift in memory
of Joseph B. Hornik and
Elizabeth Cats, 2005-42**

[← BACK](#)

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with urn**

DATE

**Late eighteenth
century**

ARTIST

**Johann Friedrich
Stoeber**

German, active between 1770
and c. 1800

CREDIT LINE

Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 811

PLACE MADE

**Ansbach or Wassertrüdingen,
Germany**

MEDIUM

Appliqué and cast pewter

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with angels**

DATE

**Late eighteenth
century**

ARTIST

Carl Sichler

German, birth and death dates
unknown

CREDIT LINE

Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 2370

PLACE MADE

Horb am Neckar, Germany

MEDIUM

**Cast, engraved, and
punched pewter**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with heart**

DATE

**Between 1786
and 1819**

ARTIST

**Johann Georg
Balthaser Weilbach**
German, active between 1786
and 1819

CREDIT LINE

Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 1020

PLACE MADE

Nördlingen, Germany

MEDIUM

**Engraved, traced, pierced, and
cast pewter**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
wedding inscriptions
from two generations**

DATE

1750–51

CREDIT LINE

Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 184

ARTIST

**Unknown, marked
with the maker's
initials F C B**

PLACE MADE

Hanau, Germany

MEDIUM

**Engraved, pierced, appliqué,
and cast pewter**

OBJECT NAME

Chair Hanukkah lamp

DATE

Mid-nineteenth century

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE
S 1503

PLACE MADE

Probably Russian Empire

MEDIUM

Cast lead

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
lights for two family
members**

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

Southwestern Germany

MEDIUM

Tin plate

DATE

**Late nineteenth
century**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Ilse Baranowski in
memory of Emma Mayer,
Lustadt, Pfalz, Germany,
1996-1**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp for
a child**

DATE

After 1909

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

**Purchase: Judaica
Acquisitions Fund, 1986-78**

PLACE MADE

United States

MEDIUM

Stamped tin plate

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
star finial**

DATE

**Nineteenth
century**

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 3468**

PLACE MADE

Probably Upper Rhine

MEDIUM

Engraved and punched tin plate

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
beaded border**

DATE

**Nineteenth
century**

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 1974**

PLACE MADE

Probably Alsace, France

MEDIUM

**Die-stamped, chased, and
appliqué tin plate**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
the Decalogue**

DATE

**Probably early
twentieth
century**

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 5450**

PLACE MADE

Probably Germany

MEDIUM

**Die-stamped, pierced, and
appliqué tin plate and cast
copper alloy**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with arcade**

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

Probably Germany

MEDIUM

Pierced tin plate

DATE

**Second half of
the nineteenth
century**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 55**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
a scallop shell**

ARTIST

**Unknown, marked with
the maker's initials
I A R**

PLACE MADE

Franconia, Germany

MEDIUM

**Cast, traced, and engraved
pewter**

DATE

**Second half of
the eighteenth
century**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 2724**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with a crown**

DATE

**Nineteenth
century**

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 1499**

PLACE MADE

Germany

MEDIUM

**Engraved, pierced, and
cast pewter**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
Rococo border**

DATE

**Between 1730
and 1758**

ARTIST

Jan de Koning

**Dutch, active between c. 1725
and 1748 or 1758**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 1287**

PLACE MADE

Amsterdam

MEDIUM

**Handworked, appliqué, chased,
and cast pewter**

[← BACK](#)

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp with
tracery window**

DATE

1912

ARTIST

Eugen W. Wiedamann

German, born in 1873,
died in 1954

CREDIT LINE

Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 101

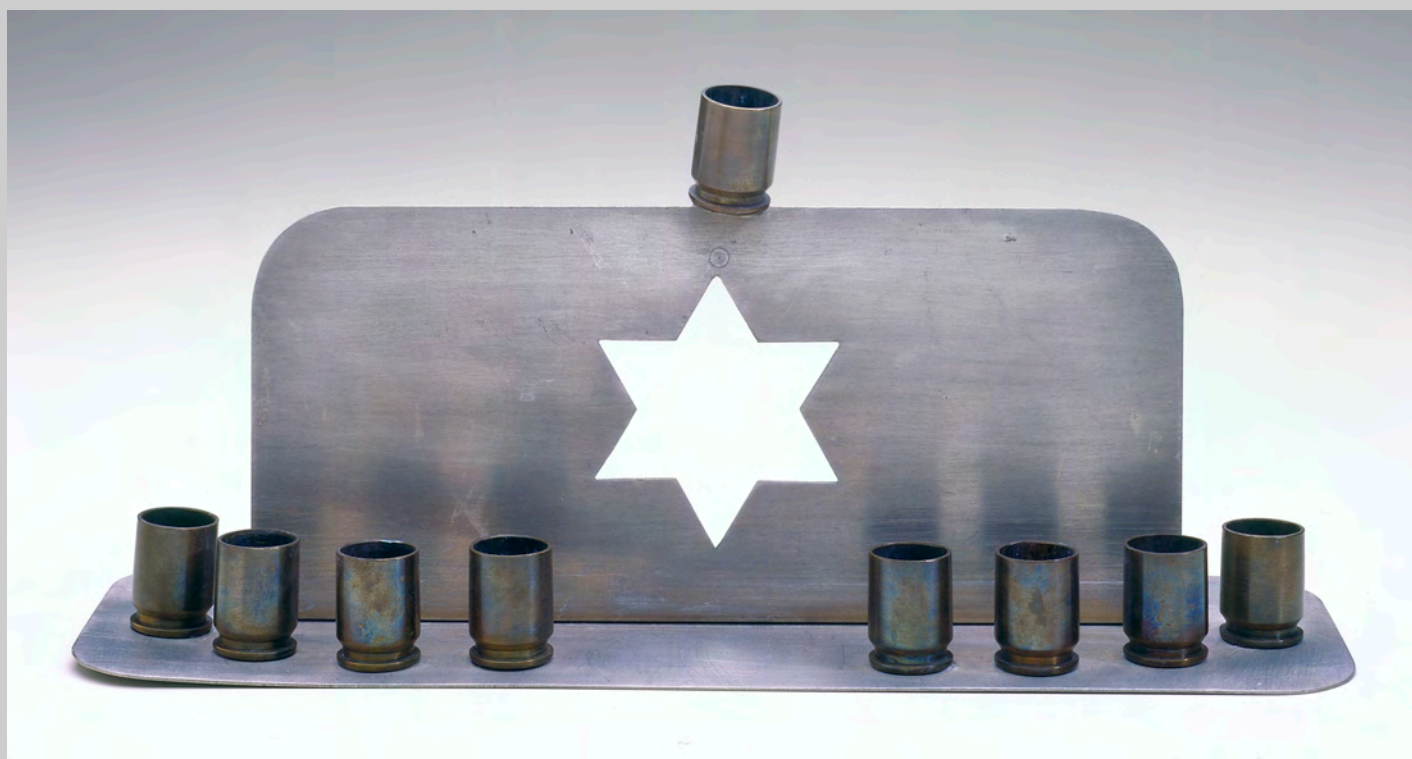
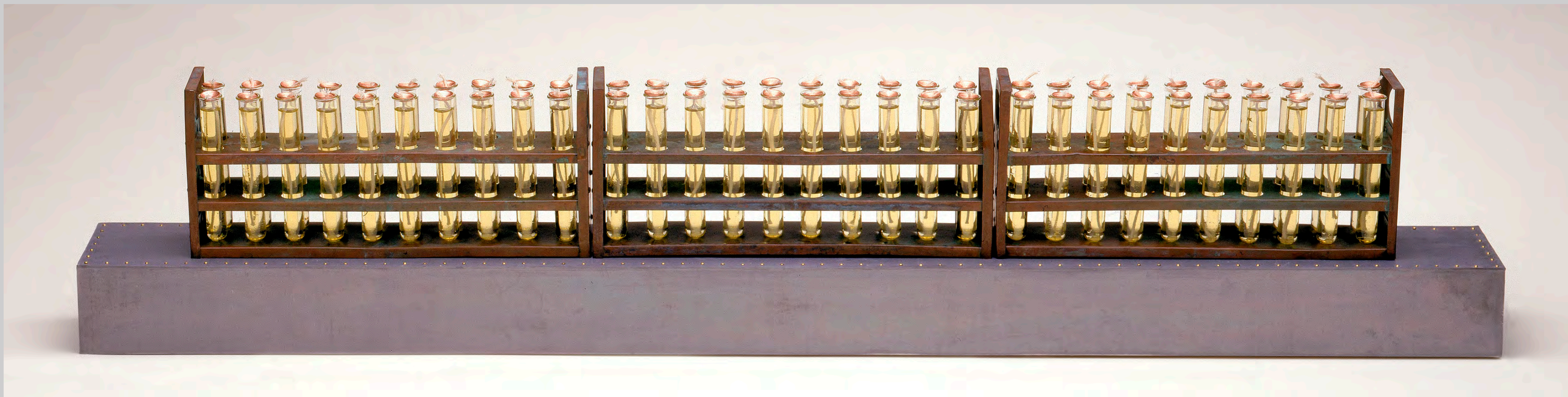
PLACE MADE

Regensburg, Germany

MEDIUM

Cast and engraved pewter

Tap a picture below for more information



← BACK

OBJECT NAME

In Search of Miracles

DATE

1995

ARTIST

Salo Rawet

Brazilian, born in 1955

CREDIT LINE

**Purchase: Gift of Peter Lane,
1999-7a-III**

PLACE MADE

Oakland, California

MEDIUM

**Lead, wood, copper, glass,
olive oil, and cotton wicking**

In his use of multiple test tubes as oil containers, Salo Rawet associates the miracle of Hanukkah with the search for cures to the diseases of our time. He advocates that this search extend far beyond the traditional eight days of the holiday.

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp
with deer**

DATE

**Between 1855
and 1911**

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

Purchase: Helen and Jack
Cytryn Fund, 2012-10

PLACE MADE

**Probably Lubycza Królewska
or Potylicz, Eastern Galicia**

MEDIUM

Painted faience

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp used in
the Frankfurt ghetto**

DATE

1757

CREDIT LINE

Gift of Vera List, JM 201-67

ARTIST

**Unknown, marked with
the maker's initials R L**

PLACE MADE

**Germany, possibly Frankfurt
am Main**

MEDIUM

**Engraved and acid-etched
mirrored glass, lead, tin,
and wood**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

Hanukkah lamp

DATE

1992 (design)

ARTIST

Joel A. Smith

American, born in 1960

CREDIT LINE

Gift of Steuben and the
artist, 1995-62

PLACE MADE

Corning, New York

MEDIUM

Glass and rhodium-plated brass

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Light in the Darkness
(Hanukkah Menorah)**

DATE

2009

ARTIST

Anika Smulovitz
American, born in 1974

CREDIT LINE

Purchase: Contemporary
Judaica Acquisitions
Committee Fund, 2011-25

PLACE MADE

Boise, Idaho

MEDIUM

**Carved wood, cast glass, and
handworked silver**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

Hanukkah lamp

DATE

1807

ARTIST

**Unknown, marked with
the maker's initials C K**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G.
Friedman, F 4939**

PLACE MADE

Probably Münster, Germany

MEDIUM

**Slipped, painted, and glazed
stoneware**

OBJECT NAME

Utopia Menorah

DATE

2006

ARTIST

Jonathan Adler
American, born in 1966

CREDIT LINE

Purchase: Contemporary
Judaica Acquisitions
Committee Fund, 2009-21

PLACE MADE

New York

MEDIUM

Fired and glazed stoneware

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

Menurkey

DATE

2013

ARTISTS

Asher Weintraub

American, born in 2003

CREDIT LINE

Gift of Ellen Salpeter,
2013–19

Connie Smith

American, born in 1964

PLACE MADE

Staten Island, New York

MEDIUM

Slip-cast and glazed ceramic

This lamp was created to celebrate the day when Hanukkah and Thanksgiving coincided: November 28, 2013.

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

CeMMent Menorah

DATE

2006

ARTIST

Marit Meisler

Israeli, born in 1974

CREDIT LINE

Purchase: Contemporary
Judaica Acquisitions
Committee Fund,
2008-144a-i

PLACE MADE

Israel

MEDIUM

**Concrete, stainless steel,
and rubber**

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

Frozen Movement

DATE

1982 (design)

ARTIST

Zelig Segal

Israeli, born in 1933,
died in 2015

CREDIT LINE

Purchase: Susan and Barry
Nathanson, Marilyn and Neil
Solomon, Jill and Mitchell
Friedman, Joan and Ken
Grossman, Carolyn and Fred
Klimpl, Cheryl and Lenny
Walder, and Marge and Bill
Gogol Gifts in honor of the
birthday of Judy Wertheim,
2002-49

PLACE MADE

Israel

MEDIUM

Polished aluminum

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

**Hanukkah lamp made
of cartridge shells**

DATE

**Between 1917
and 1918**

ARTIST

Unknown

CREDIT LINE

S 1396

PLACE MADE

Probably Europe

MEDIUM

**Pierced aluminum and
copper alloy**

OBJECT NAME

Menorahmorph

DATE

2004

ARTIST

Karim Rashid

American, born in Egypt, 1960

CREDIT LINE

Jewish Museum Centennial
Commission; Purchase:
Tobe Pascher Workshop
Commission Program Fund,
2004-48

PLACE MADE

New York

MEDIUM

Silicone and stainless steel

← BACK

OBJECT NAME

Derivation 36/8

DATE

1992

ARTIST

Harley Swedler

American, born in Canada, 1962

CREDIT LINE

Purchase: Judaica

Acquisitions Fund and Gift of
Floyd Lattin, 1994-75

PLACE MADE

New York

MEDIUM

**Cast aluminum and
stainless steel**

Derivation 36/8 is a menorah that is kindled in a linear manner, without reusing any of the candles. On day one of the holiday the first candleholder on the far right is used; on day two, two more candles are placed to the left of those lit the day before. The pattern continues, moving in time and space during the course of the holiday.

WORK

Menorah Memories

ARTIST

Larry Kagan
American, born in
Germany, 1946

PLACE MADE

Troy, New York

MEDIUM

Welded steel scraps

DATES

**Between 1981
and 1982**

CREDIT LINE

**Purchase: Contemporary
Judaica Acquisitions
Committee Fund, 2016-44-
2016-51**

WORK

Synagogue Hanukkah lamp

ARTIST

Unknown

DATE

Nineteenth century

PLACE MADE

Netherlands

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G. Friedman,
F 3099**

MEDIUM

**Spun and cast copper alloy
and copper**

WORK

Synagogue Hanukkah lamp

ARTIST

Unknown

PLACE MADE

**Eastern Galicia or western
Ukraine**

MEDIUM

**Cast and engraved copper
alloy**

DATE

**Second half of the
eighteenth century**

CREDIT LINE

**Gift of Dr. Harry G. Friedman,
F 3418**

WORK

Hanukkah lamp

ARTIST

Arnold Zadikow

German, born in 1884,
died in Theresienstadt,
1943

DATE

1942

CREDIT LINE

Purchase: The Abraham
and Mildred Goldstein
Memorial Fund

Leopold Hecht

Czech, born in 1912,
died in 1994

PLACE MADE

Theresienstadt (Terezín),
Czechoslovakia (now
the Czech Republic)

MEDIUM

Carved wood

This Hanukkah lamp with the Hebrew inscription “Who is like you, O Lord, among the celestials?” (Exodus 15:11) is a rare example of Jewish ceremonial art created during the Holocaust. The sculptor and architect Arnold Zadikow was deported to the camp-ghetto Theresienstadt in May 1942 and assigned to work in the Lautsch Workshop, which made decorative arts for the Nazis. Zadikow was aided by a young woodcarver interned in the camp, Leopold Hecht, who stole the wood for the lamp from the Germans. The lamp was made for the boys’ residence, to enable the children to celebrate Hanukkah and to teach them about Judaism, since Jewish instruction was forbidden. It was hidden all year and taken out only during the holiday. Zadikow died at Theresienstadt, but his daughter Marianne and wife, Hilda, also an artist, survived. The lamp was found in the camp after the war.