



Call for volunteers

to join the research project:
Astrolabes and Diaspora

www.hsm.ox.ac.uk/astrolabes-and-diaspora

SSH IDREC Reference: 3398680

What is it?

The *Astrolabes and Diaspora* project aims to develop new ways of researching and interpreting the provenance of museum collections.

Provenance research often focuses on beginnings (the first owner of an object) and ends (the final owner) - but what about all the people in between? How can we explore the layers of meaning that people have placed in objects as they pass from one generation to another?

The project will explore these questions by investigating the provenance of 5 astrolabes in HSM's collection which all have a common moment in their long histories: they were in the collections of two families living in Paris in the early 1900s. These two families were members of the Ottoman-Jewish diaspora – what did the astrolabes mean to them? What part did the astrolabes play in the wider history of this diaspora community?



What will you be doing?

We are looking for adult volunteers to join the project as community researchers.

As a group, you will work with Dr Sumner Braund (Curator of Founding Collections) to research the provenance of these astrolabes. We will do this through:

- 4 online meetings
- 2 (half-day) workshops, online or hybrid

Interested?

If you're interested, please contact sumner.braund@hsm.ox.ac.uk for further information by **31 October 2026**

