



May 14, 2005
M. Ahmed Benseddik

Dear Mr. Benseddik:

I have read your plans to organize a series of cultural events around the 1200th anniversary of the founding of the City of Fez with much interest. Fez has been a center of great creativity and economic dynamism for many centuries. My own research on the Jews of Fez which I published in the book *Jewish Society in Fez: 1450-1700* (Brill: Leiden, 1981) provided a window into the long and fruitful life of the Jewish people in Fez. I direct an Institute for Sephardic Studies at the City University of New York Graduate Center which engages in research, academic programs and public lectures on the History of the Sephardic and Middle Eastern Jewish communities. We would be extremely interested in participating in your celebratory programs and co-sponsoring some activities with you on this important cultural occasion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane S. Gerber".

Jane S. Gerber

Director, Institute for Sephardic Studies