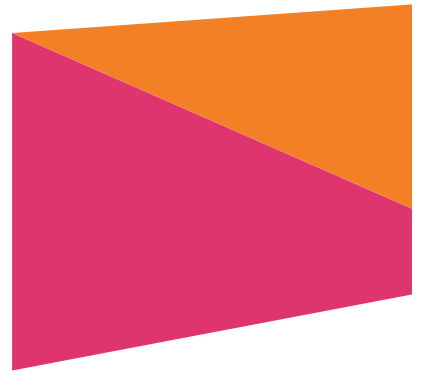




# Jewish Museum in Prague 2014 Annual Report



# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Legal framework of the JMP's activities and bodies   2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>General information about the JMP   3</b> a) Properties and sites overseen by the JMP   3 b) Services provided by the JMP   3
<b>3</b>	<b>Visitor numbers   5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Organizational structure and staffing   7</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Exhibitions   8</b> a) Exhibitions at the Robert Guttmann Gallery   8 b) Exhibitions at the Department for Education and Culture   10 c) Exhibitions held in co-operation with other institutions   11
<b>6</b>	<b>Care and documentation of the collections   12</b> a) Care of the collections   12 b) Documentation   13 c) Archives   15 d) Library   16 e) Shoah History Department   17
<b>7</b>	<b>Academic and research work   18</b> a) Collections Department   19 b) Shoah History Department   21 c) Department of Jewish History and Jewish Studies   23 d) Archives   25 e) Library   26 f) Representation in other organizations in the Czech Republic and abroad a institutions   27
<b>8</b>	<b>Preparation of new exhibitions and changes to the JMP   28</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Acquisitions   29</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Educational activities   30</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Cultural activities   33</b> a) Evening programmes at the Department for Education and Culture   33 b) Concerts and other cultural events at the Spanish Synagogue   35
<b>12</b>	<b>Publications   37</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Co-operation with institutions   39</b> a) Loans   39 b) Not-for-profit sector, information, consultation and media   40 c) Involvement in other projects   40
<b>14</b>	<b>Maintenance and reconstruction   43</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Investments   46</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Grants and donations   47</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Finances   48</b> Appendix 1 – 2014 budget implementation   49 Appendix 2 – Profit and loss statement ('000 CZK)   50 Appendix 3 – Balance sheet ('000 CZK)   51 Appendix 4 – Staff structure   52 Appendix 5 – Building repairs and reconstruction ('000 CZK)   53



# 1

## Legal framework of the JMP's activities and bodies

The Jewish Museum in Prague (JMP), an association of legal entities with common interests, was registered by the Prague 1 District Authority on the 30th of September 1994. In accordance with Act No. 122/2000 on the Protection of Museum Collections as subsequently amended, the JMP's activities as a cultural institution primarily include the following areas: creation, supplementation, management, collection and presentation of its collections; creation, supplementation and management of its library and archive holdings; activities relating to research, cultural, publishing and education; sales of souvenirs, publicity and other materials, publications, audio and audiovisual recordings and other things related to its purpose and activities; cultural and other activities related to Judaism, the Jews and Jewish history in Bohemia and Moravia. The JMP's chief activities also include research (basic, applied and experimental) and the dissemination of research results through education, publication and technology transfer. Also of importance are the making of necessary repairs and technical assessments of the rented properties where the JMP is based and where its collections are displayed in order to generate revenue for the payment of part of its lease. The JMP also rents out unused areas within its premises with the approval of the property owner, the Jewish Community in Prague. An additional area of activity for the JMP is the professional care of the Jewish cultural heritage in the Czech Republic through the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic.

The JMP's supreme body is the Board of Trustees, which comprised the following members in 2014:

**Jiří Daniček**, Chairman (Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic)

**Eva Lorencová** (Jewish Community in Prague)

**Jan Munk** (Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic) – until 30th September 2014

**Jiří Löwy** – from 1st October 2014

**Eva Sedláková** (Jewish Community in Prague)

**Petr Svojanovský** (Czech Ministry of Culture)

The JMP's control body is the Supervisory Board, which comprised the following members in 2014:

**Jan Neubauer**, Chairman (Jewish Community in Prague)

**Vladimír Látal** (Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic)

**Marta Rubínová** (Czech Ministry of Culture)

Four meetings of the Board of Trustees and two meetings of the Supervisory Board were held in 2014. Minutes were taken at each meeting in the presence of a lawyer.

The JMP director in 2014 was Leo Pavlát.



# 2

## General information about the JMP

### a) Properties and sites overseen by the JMP

- Administrative building, U Staré školy 1 and 3, Prague 1: JMP administration, specialist workplaces, depositories, Multimedia Centre, café, Robert Guttmann Gallery (venue for temporary exhibitions).
- Maisel Synagogue: (in the main nave) permanent exhibition The History of the Jews in Bohemia and Moravia – I. From the First Settlements until Emancipation, with 146 originals, facsimiles and copies on display. Until the 29th of March 2014, temporarily closed for repairs and installation of a new exhibition.
- Spanish Synagogue: (in the main nave and gallery) permanent exhibition The History of the Jews in Bohemia and Moravia – II. From Emancipation to the Present, with 546 originals, facsimiles and copies on display; (in the Winter Prayer Hall) permanent exhibition Synagogue Silver from Bohemia and Moravia, with 224 items on display.
- Pinkas Synagogue: (in the main nave) Memorial to the Bohemian and Moravian Jewish Victims of the Shoah; (in the gallery) permanent exhibition The Children's Story – Children's Drawings from Terezín, with 238 originals, facsimiles and copies on display.
- Klausen Synagogue: (in the main nave) permanent exhibition Jewish Customs and Traditions – I. The Synagogue and Festivals; (in the gallery) permanent exhibition Jewish Customs and Traditions – II. The Course of Life, with 481 originals, facsimiles and copies on display.
- Ceremonial Hall: continuation of the permanent exhibition Jewish Customs and Traditions – II. The Course of Life, with 140 originals, facsimiles and copies on display.

### b) Services provided by the JMP

- Tours of five permanent exhibitions in historic properties; tours of the 15th–18th-century Old Jewish Cemetery, Prague.
- Tours of temporary exhibitions in the Robert Guttmann Gallery.
- Educational programmes and tours organized by the JMP's Department for Education and Culture in Prague and Brno.
- Cultural programmes on Jewish topics in the JMP's Department for Education and Culture in Prague and Brno.
- Seminars on Jewish topics.
- Multimedia Centre – internet access, basic literature on Jewish topics, specialist database, video and audio recordings for reference, sale of books published by the JMP.
- Archive services for researchers – provision of archival materials for study purposes, specialist consultations, literature searches and reprographic services).
- Specialized library services for specialists and the general public.
- Reference access to the JMP's video and audio collection.
- Further training of educational staff via the JMP's Department for Education and Culture.
- Consultation for specialists and the general public on issues related to the history of Bohemian and Moravian Jews.
- Consultation for specialists and the general public on issues related to the persecution of Bohemian and Moravian Jews during the Second World War.
- Consultation for specialists and the general public on issues related to the JMP's holdings, specialist presentations and literature searches.

- Seminars on Jewish history and culture (with certification from the Czech Ministry of Education).
- Assessment and processing of requests for the permanent or temporary export of cultural objects.
- Access to historical pictorial materials for reproduction.
- JMP publications, CDs and publicity material, including the online sale of JMP publications via the JMP's website.
- Online sale of entries from the JMP's electronic encyclopaedia of Jewish communities in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia via the JMP's website.
- Advance booking for museum visits via the JMP's Reservation Centre.
- Exhibition tours with qualified guides.
- Tours with audio-guides (contractually provided by Promotion & Education, s.r.o.).

Spanish synagogue, interior





# 3

## Visitor numbers

Visitor numbers in 2014:

Total number of visitors			
		Adults	Children
January	20 116	14 909	5 207
February	22 255	14 008	8 247
March	47 107	23 456	23 651
April	61 933	38 087	23 846
May	60 067	48 162	11 905
June	53 764	41 101	12 663
July	60 636	43 141	17 495
August	72 122	54 181	17 941
September	52 294	40 013	12 281
October	52 980	39 625	13 355
November	33 804	25 400	8 404
December	42 882	31 800	11 082
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>579 960</b>	<b>413 883</b>	<b>166 007</b>

In February 2014 the JMP opened its new Information and Reservation Centre in the heart of Prague's former Jewish Town at Maiselova 15 in Prague 1. In addition to offering the complete range of tickets for the museum's tours and sites, the new centre is an interactive information gateway with basic information about the monuments and permanent exhibitions in the Jewish Town, as well as specific Jewish monuments in Prague and the rest of the Czech Republic. It also contains information about current educational and cultural programmes held by the museum and related organizations and institutions. Visitors will also be given useful tips on where to find kosher meals and on services provided by travel agencies specializing in Jewish heritage tours. Audioguides are also available for loan here. As well as providing services for individual tourists, the new centre will also accept bookings from guides, school representatives and travel agencies. It also includes a rest area with refreshments and toilet facilities, as well as disabled access and a baby changing table. The centre was designed by the architect Jakub Tejkl, building work was carried out by Kališ and Krátkoruký, and the graphic design was done by Colmo.

In connection with the opening of the centre, the current souvenir shop in the Klausen Synagogue was also expanded by incorporating the area previously used for making bookings. Tickets for the museum's tours can also be bought here.

Drawing on its tried-and-tested methods, the JMP developed its activities for improving visitor services. There was increased visitor interest in the the joint ticket for the JMP and the Old-New Synagogue, an option that appeals mainly to local visitors on family tours. After redesigning the sign showing the photography fee charges by the ticket counters at the Old Jewish Cemetery, there was also a marked increase in the proceeds raised from the photography fee.



The JMP continued to provide discounted tickets as part of Pražská plynárenská's loyalty card programme, as well as for Prague City Pass and Opencard holders. Česká spořitelna's Bonus programme was cancelled in 2014. The JMP's inclusion in the Prague Card programme proved beneficial, attracting more than 30,000 visitors. The Prague Card encourages tourists to visit Prague's major cultural sites by purchasing an all-inclusive ticket. As of 2014, it is also available at the JMP's Information and Reservation Centre. As in previous years, considerable discounts were provided to all school groups visiting the JMP via its Department for Education and Culture. The activities of the Society of Friends of the Jewish Museum in Prague also significantly helped to promote the JMP with the active contribution of volunteers.

In 2014, the JMP saw a 7.2% increase in visitor numbers – 38,959 more than the previous year. This was despite the fact that one of the sites it oversees – the Maisel Synagogue – was closed for reconstruction from the 29th of March onwards. The newly opened Information and Reservation Centre significantly contributed to the increase in visitor numbers.

Information and Reservation Centre





# 4

## Organizational structure and staffing

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The JMP comprised eight departments in 2014, in accordance with its organisational structure. As of the end of 2014, it had 135 employees, including eleven on maternity leave and nine whose salaries are fully covered by grants. The average number of employees in 2014 was 136 and the number of full time equivalent employees was 123.

The staff structure in 2014 was as follows: director, security staff and custodians – 46, research and specialist staff (including restorers) – 52, economic staff (including exhibition ticket sellers) – 13, educational and cultural staff – 9, staff responsible for the maintenance, repair, reconstruction and management of the JMP's buildings and cemeteries – 4, administrative staff – 4, publicity and exhibition staff – 4, Information and Reservation Centre – 3.

In the course of the year, 156 persons rendered their services to the JMP on a contractual basis (work agreements, agreements for the performance of work assignments, licence agreements)

The average monthly salary for JMP staff in 2014 was CZK 24,796. The average monthly gross wage in the Czech Republic was CZK 25,686; the average monthly gross wage in Prague was CZK 33,347.





# 5

## Exhibitions

### a) Exhibitions at the Robert Guttmann Gallery

Three exhibitions were held at the JMP's Robert Guttmann Gallery (at U Staré školy 3, Prague 1) in 2014.



Truth and Lies: Filming in the Terezín Ghetto, 1942–1945

The exhibition Truth and Lies: Filming in the Terezín Ghetto, 1942–1945 was on view until the 30th of March. It was prepared in collaboration with the National Film Archive in Prague. This show charted the history behind the making of propaganda films about the Terezín ghetto on the basis of the latest findings. Visitors to the exhibition had an opportunity to see, for the first time, a montage of fragments from the 1942 film that were concealed in the ghetto by prisoners and were later identified at the National Film Archive in 2004. Previously unpublished photographs that were taken in secret during the filming in 1944 and 1945 were also on view, as well as documentary material on the filming in 1942. The exhibition also showed both of the preserved fragments of the second film made at Terezín. The exhibition was curated by Eva Strusková (National Film Archive) and Jana Šplíchalová (Jewish Museum in Prague). Seen by more than 13,000 visitors, it was one of the JMP's most successful exhibition projects. It also attracted a great deal of media attention in the Czech Republic and abroad, with reports by Czech Television, Czech Radio, Lidové noviny, Týden, Prager Zeitung, the Prague Post and the Daily Telegraph. Jana Šplíchalová provided information about the exhibition in the JMP's journal Judaica Bohemiae under the title Truth and Lies: Filming in the Terezín Ghetto, 1942 – 1945. A DVD of the same name (in Czech, English and German) was released for the exhibition. In addition to expert commentaries, this contains selected film clips, an edition of the most important documents and pictures, as well as a chronology of events which also details the fate of the films and their fragments after 1945. The exhibition project was made possible with the kind support of the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund, the City of Prague, the Czech-German Future Fund, the Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH) and the Jewish Museum in Prague Foundation.

The exhibition The Story Continues: Acquisitions in the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 1994–2014 was held on the 20th anniversary of the JMP's regaining its independence and ran from the 24th of April until the 3rd of August 2014. This exhibition featured more than 100 unique items that have become part of the museum's collections over the last twenty years. Focusing on artworks, manuscripts, books, archival documents, ritual objects and everyday items, it highlighted the JMP's acquisition activity and told the stories not only of the objects themselves but also of the people who

The Story Continues: Acquisitions in the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 1994–2014



originally owned them. Of the several thousand acquisitions made between 1994 and 2014, the curators selected items that reflect the full range of the JMP's collection-building activities. Visitors to the exhibition had an opportunity to see, for the first time, a Torah curtain from Mladá Vožice, dating from the mid-19th century, which is the first ever missing piece of Judaica from Bohemia that the JMP has successfully reclaimed from the USA (in March 2014). Thanks to modern technology, visitors were also able to see items that cannot be put on direct display due to their size or technical condition. Other items of great interest could be seen in great detail or browsed through – such as an album of 33 post-cards hand-painted by Eugen von Kahler in 1897–1901 and Robert Guttman's hand-made journal of a journey to the grave of Charlotte Garrigue Masaryk, dating from 1928. Among the particularly noteworthy exhibits in the audio-visual section were unique coloured slides showing sites in Palestine from the early 20th century, and Max Bruch's performance of Kol Nidrei, Op. 47 as recorded on a piano roll by the Leipzig company F. L. Hupfeld, AG in 1922. The exhibition was conceived and curated by Dana Veselská and Michaela Sidenberg. It was held with the kind support of Prague City Hall and the Jewish Museum in Prague Foundation. It was seen by 6,665 visitors.

### The Orient in Bohemia? Jewish Refugees during the First World War



The exhibition *The Orient in Bohemia? Jewish Refugees during the First World War* opened on the 27th of August 2014. It was held on the centenary of the outbreak of this conflict. During the First World War, hundreds of thousands of people fled from destroyed villages and occupied towns to the inner regions of the Habsburg monarchy out of fear of violence in the Front areas. This exhibition followed the fate of Jewish refugees in Bohemia and Moravia in the broader context of refugees and refugee policy throughout the Habsburg Monarchy. In addition to highlighting the immediate fate of the refugees, however, it also explored the response of society. It examined the extent to which the then widespread division of people along ethnic lines influenced the attitude towards refugees, the extent to which the response to Jewish refugees was affected by prejudices, and the reason why Jewish refugees were targeted in unscrupulous anti-Semitic campaigns in the post-war period after the founding of an independent Czechoslovakia.

On display were photographs that had never before been shown in the Czech Republic. These images not only document the life of the refugees and refugee camps, but also point to a fascination with the difference of "Eastern Jews" whose clothing, piety and unusual language attracted great attention at the time. Narrated excerpts from period chronicles and newspapers illustrated how the local population dealt with this difference and revealed the prejudices against Jewish refugees. The exhibition featured the unique audiovisual testimonies of Jewish refugees and drew attention to their opinions and everyday life as reconstructed from newspapers and from fragmentary materials relating to aid organizations.

For the most part, the only physical traces of the refugees' stay in Bohemia during the First World War are their graves in Jewish cemeteries. One of these, a unique wooden tombstone on loan from Horaždovice, was on view at the exhibition. The exhibition was conceived and put together by Michal Frankl, Jan Wittenberg and Wolfgang Schellenbacher. It was created with the support of the Czech-German Future Fund and the Jewish Museum in Prague Foundation. It ran until the 1st of February 2015 and was seen by 9,664 visitors.

### **b) Exhibitions at the Department for Education and Culture**

The JMP held other exhibitions at its Department for Education and Culture in Prague and Brno. Six exhibitions were held in Prague. Five exhibitions were held at the Prague office (Maiselova 15): Old Trees in Jewish Cemeteries – an exhibition of photographs by Václav Chvátal; In the Flow of Dialogue – an exhibition of black and white photographs by Norbert Švarc depicting traces of the Jewish presence in the city of Chernivtsi (in what is now Ukraine); The Family Camp – an exhibition prepared by the Terezín Memorial; Testimony of the Terezín Walls – an exhibition of photographs by Richard Homola; Synagogues in Flames: Kristallnacht 1938 in the Czech Border Region – an exhibition prepared in collaboration with the Museum of North Bohemia, Liberec.

The Brno office of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture (at the Brno Jewish Community Building) hosted ten exhibitions: It Can't Happen Here – an exhibition of winning artworks from the Terezín Memorial's annual art competition; In the Flow of Dialogue – an exhibition of black and white photographs by Norbert Švarc depicting traces of the Jewish presence in the city of Chernivtsi (in what is now Ukraine); Forgotten Neighbourhoods – a touring exhibition on the Holocaust of Jews from the Tišnov district; I Like the Old Houses – an exhibition of paintings by the Třebíč-based artist Josef Hrubeš; Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times – a touring exhibition organized by the Respect and Tolerance civic association; Orach Chayim or Way of Life (Not Only) at the Rabbi's Place – an exhibition of paintings and utility articles made by Ruth Kučerová, the wife of the Rabbi of Brno; an exhibition of paintings by Judita Kopotová, a member of the Jewish community in Brno; an exhibition of oil paintings and collages by Sylva Chludilová, a Mikulov-based artist and gallery owner; Paintings Inspired by the Kabbalah – an exhibition of work by the painter Zuzana Kadlecová; an exhibition of hot wax paintings on a Jewish theme by Edita Reinoldová.

Testimony of the Terezín Walls



### c) Exhibitions held in co-operation with other institutions

The Brno office of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture provided 13 touring exhibitions in 2014, seven of which dealt with the topic of the Shoah: Don't Lose Faith in Mankind – The Protectorate Through the Eyes of Jewish Children; Anne Frank – A Story for Today; A Ghetto Called Baluty/Report on Lodz; Neighbours Who Disappeared – Tribute to the Child Holocaust Victims; Jewish Testimony on the Czech Century; The Girls from Room 28, L 410, Terezín; The Children's Story – Children's Drawings from the Terezín Ghetto. Other touring exhibitions included the following: Baroque Synagogues in the Czech Lands; The Second Life of Czech Torah Scrolls; History of the Jews in Bohemia and Moravia; Jewish Customs and Traditions, Jewish Education; Silver Tide, an exhibition of photographs by Karel Cudlín showing the life of senior citizens at the Prague Jewish community's social care facility Hagibor.

In 2014, these exhibitions were installed at 60 schools and museums in the Czech Republic and at three venues abroad (Germany, Slovakia, Belgium).

The Brno office of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture loaned two touring exhibitions on the topic of the Shoah, namely The Children's Story – Children's Drawings from the Terezín Ghetto and The Girls from Room 28, L 410, Terezín. The former exhibition was provided on long-term loan to the Municipal Cultural Centre in Holešov, where it was installed in the local synagogue. The latter exhibition was loaned to four schools and museums.





# 6 Care and documentation of the collections

## a) Care of the collections

The JMP fully ensured the preservation of its collection objects, books and archival holdings by fully controlling the environment (temperature, light and humidity) in which they are stored, used and displayed. The JMP's restoration staff regularly checked the state of the objects in its depositories and permanent exhibitions, where they also took light intensity measurements. Preventative insect control was carried out twice within selected areas of the JMP's administrative building and depositories.

The JMP commissioned external restorers to treat only objects that were in immediate risk of deterioration due to their poor state of repair, and only where this work could not be done in the JMP's own workshops for capacity reasons. In 2014, external specialists were commissioned to conserve or restore six objects from the JMP's textile collection.

The textile restoration workshop carried out checks on the inventories of 2,500 small textiles in the Maisel Synagogue depository prior to its closure. In addition, it amended the inventory numbers of Masonic symbols and cushions in its collections (151 items). It also sewed fabric on six collection objects for exhibition purposes. In total, 98 items from the JMP's textile collection were either conserved or restored.

The JMP's paper restorers contributed to the preparation of two exhibitions (The Story Continues, The Orient in Bohemia?), for which they worked on the minor restoration and matting of 70 paper artefacts. In addition, the restorers also contributed to the de-installation of the permanent exhibition in the Maisel Synagogue. For the new permanent exhibition in the Maisel Synagogue, they prepared nine facsimiles and repaired all the original facsimiles that are to be used in the new show. Together with the curator of the collection of manuscripts and genizah papers, they carried out research into the objects kept in the temporary genizah depository. Work for the JMP's individual departments included restoration treatment of 107 items on paper for the visual art collection, 28 items on paper for the Shoah History Department and 458 photographs and two photo albums for the Photo Archive. Eleven books were restored and 32 books were treated for the JMP Library. Seven bound archival sources were restored for the JMP Archives. One manuscript and 44 genizah items were restored for the collection of manuscripts and genizah papers. At the end of the year, the paper restoration workshop collaborated

Old Jewish Cemetery



with the Collections Management Department and in the Smíchov depository, where preparations were made for the installation of a fixed fire extinguishing system and the entire collection of paintings (ca. 1,300) was packed for relocation.

The metal restoration workshop conserved or restored 77 silver, brass, wooden and iron artefacts. In addition, collection objects were conserved or restored for exhibitions, for loans and for the systematic digitization of the silver collection.

A JMP archivist (Vlastimila Hamáčková) oversaw the restoration of 24 tombstones in the Old Jewish Cemetery wall at the Klausen Synagogue and of another nine tombstones in the cemetery.

## **b) Documentation**

The JMP's Collections Management Department continued to focus on stabilizing and optimizing the climate-control conditions in the depositories.

Two depositories were gradually closed during 2014. The JMP's depository of metal and three-dimensional objects was closed as a result of the building's ongoing reconstruction and the preparation of a new permanent exhibition in the Maisel Synagogue. Prior to its closure, the sculpture collection was relocated to another building for storage. A number of mechanical and electronic barriers, as well as security and protective elements, were installed in the depository before work began on the actual reconstruction. Regular checks were made in the depository area during the reconstruction work. In the second half of the year – when preparations began at the Smíchov depository for the installation of a fixed fire extinguishing system – the painting collection was temporarily relocated and, in connection with this, a group of protective frames for paintings were sorted and catalogued. Before relocating the depository, the painting collection was photo-documented and intensive work continued on the digitizing of the collection of drawings and prints. In total, 3,233 collection objects were digitized in 2014.

In the JMP's textile depository outside Prague the climate control was maintained and security conditions improved as a result of the building alterations that have been made in recent years. On the basis of an assessment of the overall situation, including the building's structure, it was decided to relocate the textiles to a new depository in Prague.

The Collections Management Department made out 172 issue slips for 5,092 collection objects (to be taken out of the depository and subsequently placed back in storage) in 2014. The items were taken out of storage to be digitized, restored, conserved or cleaned. In total, 2,043 items remained out of storage as of 26th January 2015 (mainly in exhibitions and on loan for exhibition purposes).

The department also focused on an ongoing inventory of the JMP's holdings in 2014. Tasks related to the previous year's inventory were completed (tracing incorrect registration numbers, marking catalogue cards with a stamp to show that they have been reviewed and drawing up a final inventory report); this was more time-consuming than usual because it involved more than 14,700 objects – more than a third of the objects in the department's care. Unlike the usual procedure, basic information in the JMP's database system was added to the inventoried portion of the holdings and the records were compared with the available pictorial data. In addition, a further portion of the JMP's holdings was inventoried in accordance with the Central Registration of Collections Act. An inventory was also made of the collection of manuscripts and genizah papers, comprising about 2,000 items (i.e. the legally required 5% of the JMP's holdings).

Two reports concerning changes to the Central Registration of Collections were submitted to the Czech Ministry of Culture in 2014. In accordance with the relevant legal regulations, documents were prepared for the cataloguing of acquisitions for the year 2011, and 549 new registration numbers in the Judaica sub-collection were reported.

Information on collection objects was added to the JMP database on an ongoing basis. Intensive work continued on the preparations for the transfer of this database to a new CollectiveAccess database system. This involved making multiple checks on data for more than 45,000 catalogue cards, preparing a new taxonomy for the JMP's collection objects, verifying and uniformizing data entries and adding tens of thousands of pieces of information. The resulting new taxonomy reflects the actual structure of the JMP's holdings.

Work was completed on the transcribing of information from the original accession books into an Excel database. This was an extensive project that departmental staff had been working on for several years. The JMP's internal database contains all the transcribed information from the original accession books – including more than 84,000 records dating from between 1950 (when the accession books were established, with accessions from 1945 recorded retrospectively) and 2009 (when work began on the digitizing of the accession books). The main use of this database is to enable fast searches of information, for example in connection with the cataloguing or inventory of collections and to verify the accuracy of accession numbers. The database and the accuracy of the transcribed data is subject to ongoing checks with the addition of information from other sources (e.g. new accession numbers, search records for original accession numbers, discarding records, links to acquisitions documents, etc.). After completing the transcription work, the department set about checking and supplementing the former partial translation of the entries in the wartime "German Catalogue" and putting together a secondary table (arranged by purpose of donation and by the names of the donors). As this project involves a large amount of records, it will also take several years to complete.

As part of preparations for the exhibition *The Story Continues*, the Collections Management Department undertook a detailed analysis of the JMP's acquisitions over the last 20 years and examined the overall acquisition statistics for the textile, metal, manuscript and visual art collections. It also assessed the effectiveness of the investments made in the JMP's holdings in the form of purchases and research. The results were presented at a seminar ("Acquisition and De-acquisition Activities of Museums and Galleries") and published in the seminar's proceedings. In 2015, the acquisition activity will be assessed by the curators of the JMP's individual collections in the journal *Judaica Bohemiae*.

Opening ceremony of the exhibition  
*Shattered Hopes*





More than 3,200 collection objects were handed over to the Photo Department for digitization: including 76 three-dimensional objects, 113 textiles, 2,823 prints and drawings, and more than 200 photographs. The painting collection was comprehensively digitized in the depository.

The Photo Department continued to digitize archival and library materials (more than 6,000 images, of which more than 2,300 for the Shoah History Department and more than 2,900 for the JMP Library and Archives). The Photo Department made about 400 photographic images, as well as one video sequence, for the exhibitions *The Story Continues* and *The Orient in Bohemia?*

Photos were taken for opening shows, prominent visits and other important events hosted by the JMP (approx. 800 images), and photographic documentation was taken of building exteriors, interiors and exhibitions (approx. 400 images). Ongoing construction work at the Maisel Synagogue was also documented. In collaboration with the Development and PR Department, photographic images were also made for the JMP's new website and for the Information and Reservation Centre (approx. 200 images). All of these photographs were subsequently added to the JMP's digital archive system and to the CollectiveAccess database

A substantial portion of the Photo Archive's work involved dealing with requests (more than 220) submitted by researchers from the Czech Republic and abroad, and providing the necessary materials (mostly in electronic form).

### c) Archives

In 2014, the overall scope of the JMP's archival services for the research community was impacted by the installation of a fixed fire extinguishing system in the archives building (in the Smíchov district of Prague). As a result of this installation, it was necessary to remove all of the archival materials from the depository and to put them into temporary storage – in other sections of the archives building and in the archives building of the Czech Academy of Sciences, which kindly provided the use of its depositories. The JMP Archives was closed to the public from the 1st of October 2014 onwards.

JMP Archive



The physical condition of archival records was checked on an ongoing basis by archival staff. Work continued on the mechanical removal of dust from records and on minor repairs with the help of external staff. Selected records were restored in the JMP's restoration workshop. A total of 92 archival books were cleaned and seven of them were restored in 2014. In addition, newly acquired documents were mechanically cleaned before being processed in the archives.

Filing work focused on reviewing and re-cataloguing materials in the archives and on cataloguing five newly acquired personal papers (Monika Hanková). The ongoing review of the Prague Jewish Community fonds continued – 102 books reviewed in 2014 (Lucie Petrusová). In addition, the JMP's business archive was processed with focus on material dating from 1960–1969 (Miroslava Kurečková). Material from the fonds of the Teplice and Karlovy Vary Jewish communities, dating from 1945–1990, was catalogued (Vlastimila Hamáčková). Preparatory work was done for the disposition of certain records as determined by their appraisal (Miroslava Kurečková).

Seven new finding aids – five inventories and two descriptive lists – were created in 2014. An additional four inventories were created, replacing older finding aids after the collections had been reviewed and re-organized. In total, 11 new finding aids were created in electronic format in 2014. The finding aids for the individual fonds are gradually being made available on the JMP's new website.

In collaboration with the JMP's photography workshop, work continued on the digitizing of selected archival records with the aim of providing study and back-up copies of historically valuable material that is of use to researchers. Selected archival records that are mainly of use for genealogical research were digitized on an ongoing basis. Five archival books (1,142 images) were digitized in 2014. In collaboration with the National Archives, work was completed on the digitization of Familiant Books in the JMP Archives (13 books – 1,660 images) and this material was made available online as part of a joint project. An digitized index of Mikulov birth and death registers dating from 1762–1912 was made available on the JMP's website. This is a major source for genealogical researchers.

#### **d) Library**

Library staff continued to focus on the cataloguing of books, magazines, articles and essays. The library added 2,433 records to its electronic catalogue, which contained more than 55,800 records by the end of the year. Magazines were processed in the periodical depository at Pinkas Synagogue and 30 titles with information on the individual issues were added to the library catalogue. In addition, 71 entries on events held at the Department for Education and Culture were processed and included in the catalogue.

A complete series of B'nai B'rith periodicals from 1922–1937 was digitized and the documents were made available online. This project received financial support from the VISK 7 grant programme of the Czech Ministry of Culture.

In the historical part of the library's collection, ongoing checks were carried out on 252 books in the Central Register of Collections. An additional 326 volumes were registered over the course of the year. The 'Books' sub-collection contained 2,555 titles by the end of 2014. Photographs of title pages were gradually added to the book records in the electronic catalogue. More than 290 rare printed books have been documented so far in collaboration with the Photography Department.

Five rare printed books were restored – two by paper restorers at the JMP, three by external restorers (with the help of funding from the Prague Jewish Community Foundation. The condition of printed books from Bohemia and Moravia was checked for the need for subsequent restoration. Old and rare printed books in the library collection were catalogued on an ongoing basis and other titles were searched for inclusion in the Central Register of Collections. The library also helped to assess donations and purchases of old and rare books for its collection. In addition, it dealt with questions from researchers with regard to identifying books and with transcribing hand-written notes in connection with tracing the original owners of books.

The library established co-operation with the Higher Technical School of Graphic Art in 2014. The library staff and the JMP's paper restorers selected a group of old books of less rarity that could not be made available to researchers as a result of their physical condition. These were then restored by students at the school under the supervision of their teachers. Eight volumes were repaired in this way during the year.

In November 2014, about 7,000 volumes were moved from the JMP's administrative building into the library depository in Prague 4. Prior to their relocation, checks were made for erroneous or duplicate call numbers and accession numbers.

#### **e) Shoah History Department**

Seven archival boxes of documents and six photographic albums were newly digitized at the Shoah History Department. Additional collection groups were gradually added to the online catalogue at <http://collections.jewishmuseum.cz/>. Documents were sorted, reviewed and imported from the prepared collection of personal papers (32 archival boxes). English-language descriptions were added to the archival collection of persecution documents and to the "Neighbours Who Disappeared" collection, which is under preparation. Work continued on the description of images from the photography collection.



# 7

## Academic and research work

The JMP's academic and research work aims to explore the history and culture of the Jews in the Bohemian lands in the broader context of the development of Central and Eastern Europe. Seeing the Jewish communities of Bohemia and Moravia as part of a trans-national Jewish culture, these investigations focus on the mutual influences that these groups exerted on each other, as well as on migration. The JMP's research projects involve a plurality of approaches, including historical research, art history, ethnology and many other subjects. They range from projects that improve our understanding of the museum's extensive collections through to documentation (for example, of Jewish cemeteries) and active research in archives and other museums. The JMP's research results are featured in its permanent and temporary exhibitions and are incorporated into educational programmes. The JMP's academic and research work at the is co-ordinated by Michal Frankl, PhD., the Head of the Department of Jewish Studies and of the History of Antisemitism.

Research work in 2014 involved interpreting and studying various collections, focusing on individual objects, archival fonds, the photo archive and library collections, among others. Provenance research is key not only to understanding the history and importance of collections, but also to ensuring that objects are returned to their rightful owners, including the JMP (research done mainly by the Collections Department and the Library, as well as the Archives and the Shoah History Department). Another important part of the JMP's research work is the documentation of biographical, topographical and other information relating to the history and culture of Jewish communities in the Bohemian lands (see the JMP's Department of Jewish History and Jewish Studies and the JMP Archives Archives). This research provides a basis both for the JMP's publication activities and for its scholarly work.

Collaboration with other research organizations and research projects in the Czech Republic and abroad is of key importance to the JMP's academic work. Of particular interest is the JMP's involvement in the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (Shoah History Department), which is part of the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme. By participating in this project, the JMP is included in a new network of major research institutions and archives. In 2014, the JMP placed great emphasis on developing activities that contribute to disseminating information and methods from the most recent research on Jewish history and to creating scope for an academic discussion on these topics. In co-operation with the Institute for Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the JMP organized seminars on Jewish history, which for the most part were held at its Department for Education and Culture. The aim of these specialist meetings, which were open to the public, is to create a platform for academic discussion on the latest research projects on the history of the Jews and on the history of antisemitism. Both of the organizing institutions seek to contribute to an exchange of information and methodological approaches between Czech and foreign researchers. The seminars are held monthly for the duration of a term at Charles University, Prague. A list of e-mail addresses of about 200 experts has been compiled for the purpose of keeping them regularly informed about the seminars and other academic activities.

A key role in communicating with the academic community is played by the JMP's peer-reviewed journal with impact factor *Judaica bohemiae* (Department of Jewish History and Jewish Studies). In 2014, intensive preparatory work was done for the book series *Židé – dějiny – paměť* [Jews – History – Memory] which will be put together by the JMP and the Institute for Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Sciences and published by *Lidové noviny*. A Czech translation of Michael L. Miller's

### JUDAICA BOHEMIAE XLIX-2



JEWISH MUSEUM IN PRAGUE 2014

book *The Jews of Moravia in the Age of Emancipation* has been prepared and is due for publication in 2015. Among the other volumes under preparations are Ines Koeltzsch's study *Prague Shared and Divided* and Michal Frankl and Miloslav Szabó's *Building a State without Antisemitism? Czech and Slovak Antisemitism, 1917–1923*. In collaboration with the Institute for Contemporary History and Ines Koeltzsch (Masaryk Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences), a new website ([www.jewishhistory.cz](http://www.jewishhistory.cz)) was created for the purpose of disseminating information about academic projects, conferences, workshops, book series and seminars on Jewish history.

The JMP is focused on presenting and systematically expanding the infrastructure for academic research and on providing access to digital sources online and in its study rooms. It also seeks active co-operation with research communities and does what it can to meet their research needs. This is why, in collaboration with other institutions, it devotes considerable attention to the creation, linking and organizing of digital sources ("digital curation"). With central software for the management and development of digital data (in addition to library data), it is gradually adding to its collections catalogue based on the open-source platform CollectiveAccess. The JMP's individual departments are adding new data to the public interface (<http://collections.jewishmuseum.cz/>) on an ongoing basis. In 2014, the largest project in this area involved preparations for importing the collections database, as well as improving the structure of the data and cleaning up the authority dictionaries. This project also involved providing access to the card index of collection objects from the period of the Second World War (the "German Catalogue") and to about 25,000 mostly high-resolution photographs/scans.

The JMP also publishes its digital sources in connection with other projects, for example providing information on its archival fonds via EHRI and Yerusha (Archives) and presenting selected objects and documents via the Google Cultural Institute. In 2014, preparatory work was also carried out for providing access to specific collections via the internet portal Europeana.

### a) Collections Department

The JMP's curators focused on the following academic and research activities in 2014:

The metalwork curator Jaroslav Kuntoš carried out checks on the catalogue documentation of metal collection objects. By the end of 2014, 235 Torah shields and 67 Levite pitchers and basins were documented in this way. In connection with previous research exploring the possibility of identifying precious metals on collection objects, which was carried out in collaboration with Prof. Jan Jehlička (Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague), Jaroslav Kuntoš co-authored an article – "In situ study of stones adorning a silver Torah shield using portable Raman spectrometers – for the peer-reviewed *Journal of Raman Spectroscopy* in 2014. Jaroslav Kuntoš also contributed to the preparation of background material for the exhibition *The Story Continues: Acquisitions in the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 1994–2014*, as well as collaborating to the implementation of the exhibition and to preparing an overview of the exhibition for the magazine *Judaica Bohemiae* (due for publication in 2015). Jaroslav Kuntoš also carried out a special analysis of the JMP's collection of period furniture (103 items).

The visual arts curator Michaela Sidenberg undertook research relating to the collections in her care (some of the results of which were presented in the exhibition *The Story Continues: Acquisitions in the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 1994–2014*, which she co-curated) and on preparations for a new permanent exhibition *Friedl's Cabinet*. Depending on the availability of sufficient funds, the latter exhibition will be installed in the current Robert Guttman Gallery and will be based on the JMP's collection of children's drawings that were made in the Terezín ghetto between early 1943 and the autumn of 1944 under the supervision of the prominent avant-garde designer and educationalist Friedl Dicker-Brandeis (1898–1944).



Synagogal curtain from Mladé Vožice

Michaela Sidenberg also dealt with issues concerning the search for and restitution of objects that were stolen from the property of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic and illegally taken out of the country. This mainly involves ritual objects that were registered and cared for by the JMP and were previously in the property of Jewish communities in Bohemia and Moravia, which in the postwar period were either disbanded or ceased to exist as a result of waves of Jewish emigration from the regions. An example of pars pro toto is a Torah Ark curtain from Mladá Vožice (Inv. No. 31.669), which was identified in a Judaica auction at Sotheby's in April 2013. This case was successfully settled in 2014, when the curtain was returned to the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic and presented at a special press conference held by the JMP on the 26th of March.

With regard to the necessity of clarifying the content and reliability of certain information sources relating to the provenance of objects in the JMP's collections (particularly in the visual art collection), Michaela Sidenberg carried out extensive critical research in relation to a list of 874 alleged original owners of objects now in the JMP's collections that was published in 1948 by the National Administration of the Assets of the Jewish Council of Elders. The result of this work is a group of 874 digitized records with additional information, which is fully available on the JMP's website. The list is also provided with a critical commentary.

The curator of collection of manuscripts and genizah papers, Lenka Uličná prepared background material for processing the auxiliary registration of genizot, which included providing a theoretical basis and exploring the genizah collections. In addition, she successfully defended a dissertation ("Genizah Papers: Processing of an Auxiliary Register") before a committee for graduation from the School of Museum Propedeutics. In addition, she contributed to the preparation of background material for the exhibition *The Story Continues: Acquisitions in the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 1994–2014*, as well as collaborating to the implementation of the exhibition and to preparing an overview of the exhibition for the magazine *Judaica Bohemiae* (due for publication in 2015).

In the first half of 2014, the textile curator Dana Veselská focused mainly on the major grant projects of the Collections Department that were carried out in 2012-2013 (OPPA and Rothschild Foundation Europe). The results of these projects were published in the journal *Museologica Brunensia* ("Examples from Practice: Support of Educational and Training Programmes for Museum Employees from European Union Funding."). Dana Veselská later significantly contributed to a project commemorating the 20th anniversary of the JMP's regaining of its independence (following the privatization of its collections, which occurred in 1994). The most important results of this project was the exhibition *The Story Continues: Acquisitions in the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 1994–2014*. In collaboration with the Czech Association of Museums and Galleries and the Czech Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), Dana Veselská also prepared a seminar as part of this project ("Accession and Deaccession of Museum Collections and Questions Relating to this Activity"). In addition, she edited the proceedings of this seminar, which were published at the end of 2014. Dana Veselská contributed to a paper in the proceedings and to the preparation of an overview study on this topic for the journal *Judaica Bohemiae* (due for publication in 2015).

The head of the Photo Archive, Martin Jelínek, started to make preparations for a comprehensive presentation of the *Auschwitz Album*. Together with an accompanying programme, this exhibition will be organized by the JMP and the Prague City Gallery and will be held in the spring of 2015.

The head of the Collections Management Department, Magda Veselská, prepared a biographical text on the last leader of the Prague Jewish community in the Second World War, František Friedmann, for the *Biographical Lexicon of the Czech Lands*. The text will be published in 2015.



Acquisition and De-acquisition Activities of Museums and Galleries



The restoration workshop co-ordinator, Pavel Veselý, wrote a paper – entitled “Decorative Techniques on Silver Torah Adornments in the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague” – for the proceedings *Výzdobné techniky kovů* (Metalwork Decoration Techniques), which was published by the Brno Technical Museum in 2014.

The annual lecture on the JMP’s exhibitions was held for students at the Institute for Art History in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts at Charles University in Prague. Expert staff from the Collections Department also attended a number of conferences, symposiums and discussions. Lenka Uličná gave a paper (“Polizei Ordnung für die Marishen Judenschaft, Ms JMP 11.659”) at the international conference of the 5th International Students’ Workshop Central European Jewish Studies. She also took part in the 2nd International Conference of Judaica-Collection Curators on Curated Collections: Toward A Jewish Digital Culture, which was held for invited participants by the Israeli National Library, Jerusalem. In addition, Lenka Uličná took part in a debate on the inter-religious co-existence of Jews and Christians in medieval Bohemia and Moravia, which was broadcast on TV Noe on the 28th of March 2014. Several of the department’s staff (Michaela Sidenberg, Dana Veselská, J. Korbelová) gave presentations at a seminar (“Accession and Deaccession of Museum Collections”) that was held by the JMP, the Czech Association of Museums and Galleries and the Czech Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) at the JMP’s Department for Education and Culture. The head of the Photo Archive, Martin Jelínek, gave a paper (“The Early Copy of the Auschwitz Album in the Collection of the Jewish Museum in Prague”) at a conference of the EHRI in Prague and a paper (“Collective Access and Online Exhibition – The unknown”) at a conference on “The Presentation of the Online Cultural Heritage at the National Museum, Prague.” Eduard Feuereis took part in the “Museums and Digitalization” seminar in Brno, which was organized by the Methodological Centre for Information Technologies in Museology. Dana Veselská and Magda Veselská gave a paper (“Identifying Donors of Objects in the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 2012-2014”) at an international conference on “Approaches to Authenticity: the Virtual vs. the Material vs. the Recreated”, which was held in Warsaw. Michaela Sidenberg took part in the “Provenance Research Training Program”, which was organized by the European Shoah Legacy Institute and in the Rome Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

The JMP’s textile restorers attended textile seminars at the Municipal House, organized by the Textile Group at the Commission of Conservators and Restorers of the Czech Association of Museums and Galleries (AMG). A representatives of the textile restoration workshop took part in a nation-wide conference of the AMG’s Commission of Conservators and Restorers in Ústí nad Labem. The co-ordinator of the metal restoration workshop, Pavel Veselý, gave a paper at a seminar (“Metalwork Decoration Techniques”) that organized by the AMG in collaboration with the Methodological Centre for Information Technologies in Museology at the Brno Technical Museum. A student from the Prague Institute of Chemical Technology (VŠCHT) completed work experience in the textile restoration workshop under the supervision of the workshop co-ordinator. A student from the Higher School of Graphic Art (VOŠG) completed work experience in the paper restoration workshop under the supervision of the workshop co-ordinator.

## **b) Shoah History Department**

In 2014, the Robert Guttman Gallery hosted two exhibitions that had been prepared by the Shoah History Department (see part 5a). For the exhibition *The Orient in Bohemia? Jewish Refugees during the First World War*, the department arranged guided tours for the public and special tours for school and university students, as well as for teachers, museum staff and specialists from the Czech Republic and abroad.





Within the framework of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI, see <http://ehri-project.eu/>), the JMP – in collaboration with other partners – prepared an archival guide for selected fonds of Jewish communities (“Jewish councils”) from the period of the Second World War. The aim of this guide is to place emphasis on the sources that were created by Jewish organizations during the Nazi occupation and to facilitate research into this complex topic, which has led to a number of public and historiographical controversies. Combining narrative components with a database of archival descriptions and examples of typical documents, this guide will initially focus on archival materials relating to Vienna, Prague and Budapest. It is expected that the guide will be supplemented in the future.

An international workshop on Early Attempts at the Historical Documentation of the Holocaust was held by the JMP on 21st–23rd October 2014 within the framework of the EHRI. This event took place at the Czech Literature Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences. The forms, methods and means of the early documentation of the Holocaust were the main focus for this workshop. Participants provided new insights on the projects to collect testimony and evidence about the Holocaust from the war period up to the 1960s. The workshop also aimed to promote a comparative perspective and to broaden the scope of research into the documentation initiatives, with special focus on those in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The workshop was thematically divided into several discussion panels.

In addition, a team of specialist employees actively worked together on the preparation of application materials for the next EHRI project in which the JMP will be leading a sub-project – New Views on Digital Archives.

The JMP considers the history of the Jews in Czech border regions that were annexed after the Munich Agreement of 1938 to be a topic that for many years has not been sufficiently researched. The JMP managed to obtain a grant from the Claims Conference for the documentation of the names of Shoah victims from this area. The data will be collected on the basis of an analysis of the state of research in the individual regions from many different sources (census records, birth and death registers, Yad Vashem database, documents of the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen, digitized sources from the National Theatre in Prague, regional archives, etc.). The acquired data will be made available to the professional and lay public in accordance with personal data protection regulations. Preparatory work was done in 2014 and the actual collection of data will commence at the beginning of 2015.

During the exhibition *Truth and Lies: Filming in the Terezín Ghetto, 1942–1945* at the Robert Guttmann Gallery, the JMP provided a diverse accompanying programme in collaboration with the National Film Archive. The subsequent opening of the exhibition at the Terezín Memorial coincided with an international Conference on “Films from Ghettos and Camps: Propaganda–Clandestine Messages–Historical Sources”, which was organized by the German historian Dr. Natascha Drubek-Meyer. This conference was held in September 2014 and was attended by film specialists, literary critics and Holocaust historians. It marked the 70th anniversary of the making of a propaganda film in 1944–1945, which for many years was known under the title *The Führer Gives the Jews a City*. An in-depth discussion was also held on a previously little-known propaganda film that was made in the Terezín ghetto in 1942. Former prisoners of the Terezín ghetto also took part in the discussion forum.

In March 2014, the department head Jana Šplíchalová gave a paper on behalf of the JMP and the Terezín Initiative Institute at an international conference (*Auf dem Weg zu einer Gedenkstätte Trostenez/On the Way to the Maly Trostinets Memorial*) on the state of research and projects relating to the topic of the Maly Trostinets extermination camp. In June 2014, the non-profit organization Internationales Bildungs- und Begegnungswerk / International Education and Exchange (IBB Dortmund

and IBB Johannes Rau Minsk) held an international conference (“Lernen aus der Geschichte für eine gemeinsame Zukunft / Learning from History for a Common Future”) to coincide with the laying of the foundation stone of the Maly Trostinets Memorial. Jana Šplíchalová gave a paper on behalf of the JMP and also took part in a press conference with survivors of the Minsk ghetto and the Maly Trostinets extermination camp.

In September and October 2014, staff of the Shoah History Department too part in an accompanying programme for the exhibition Forced Labour: Germans, Forced Labourers and the War, which was held by the non-profit foundation Živá paměť (Living Memory). In the Royal Summer Palace at Prague Castle, Jana Šplíchalová gave a lecture with a film screening about filming in the Terezín ghetto and Julie Jenšovská gave a lecture on the fate of Bohemian and Moravian Jews in the Lodz ghetto.

In October 2014, staff of the department also gave lectures at a conference on “Forced Labour, 1939–1945: New Findings and Current Research Trends”, which was organized by the non-profit foundation Živá paměť (Living Memory) in collaboration with the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Jana Šplíchalová gave a lecture with a film screening about filming in the Terezín ghetto and Julie Jenšovská gave a lecture on Czech transports to the Lodz ghetto. In October 2014 Michal Frankl gave a paper (“Negotiating Loyalty: ‘Jewish Question’ in the Discursive Construction of the Czechoslovak National State” at two conferences in Prague, Climax or Beginning? Modernity, Culture, Central Europe and the Great War, and Czech-Jewish and Polish-Jewish Studies: (Dis)Similarities. Michal Frankl also gave a paper (“Refugees, Loyalty and a Nation State under Construction: Jewish Refugees in the Bohemian Lands during and after WWI”) at a conference on “Czech-Jewish and Polish-Jewish Studies: (Dis)Similarities.” In late May and early June, Michal Frankl was actively involved in a Prague workshop on Jews and Gentiles in East Central Europe in the 20th Century.

The department staff member Pavla Hermína Neuner continued work on the systematic recording of interviews with Shoah survivors and eyewitnesses. 47 new interview recordings were made and more than 450 personal and official documents/photographs from the family archives of interviewees were acquired. After being catalogued and digitized, this diverse wealth of material was then included in the JMP’s collections (including material from the family archives of Jiří Fraňek, Mike Frankl, Tomáš Rezek and Shoshana Dub from Israel). The process of adding video recordings to the oral history collection (Interviews with Shoah Survivors and Witnesses) began thanks to the donation of a camera from a private sponsor. Attention is paid mainly to recording multi-generational testimonies within individual families. An information leaflet was published in 2014 to meet the continuing great interest in this area from Holocaust survivors and witnesses but also from members of the second or third generations. Written in Czech and in English and available in print and digital form, this leaflet (Charting the History of the Jews in the 20th Century) helps to disseminate information about the work of the Shoah History Department, both in the Czech Republic and abroad.

The department provided information and services to researchers in the form of consultations, both in writing and in person, responding to more than 1,200 queries. A large number of background documents were prepared for research into the Czech Red Cross and for issuing certificates at the request of the Czech Defence Ministry’s Department for Veterans.

### **c) Department of Jewish History and Jewish Studies**

The department head, Iveta Cermanová, with the assistance of Alexandr Putík, edited two issues of the JMP’s peer-reviewed journal *Judaica Bohemiae* (Volume XLIX / 2014) and began editorial work on the first issue of next year’s volume. Two meetings of the journal’s editorial board took place in 2014. The journal again drew on funding from a three-year grant that was granted by the Rothschild Foundation Europe in 2012.

The preparation of content for the new exhibition in the Maisel Synagogue (Jews in the Bohemian Lands, 10th–18th Centuries) remained a priority for the department. Alexandr Putík completed the background material for a Jewish settlement map, the main texts for the exhibition panels and supplementary texts. Alexandr Putík, Iveta Cermanová and Daniel Polakovič continued to work in collaboration with Arno Pařík on the preparation of content for the exhibition's multimedia elements: a virtual tour of Prague's Jewish Town based on Langweil's famous model of Prague, a display of images of old synagogues in Bohemia and Moravia, a touch-screen with a database of major Jewish figures in the Bohemian lands between the 10th and 18th centuries, and a touch-screen for looking through old manuscripts and printed books. Daniel Polakovič prepared additional material for a touch-screen with a database of major Jewish communities in the Bohemian lands. In collaboration with the architect H. Fetterl, the final arrangements were made for the installation of exhibits in display cabinets and a definitive list of facsimiles and copies to be shown was drawn up. The process of gaining the necessary reproduction rights for all the exhibits began in 2014.

The department staff continued work on long-term research tasks, including research in archives and specialist libraries. The results were presented in scholarly work and added to the JMP's internal databases. Alexandr Putík submitted a manuscript 1729 Census List of Prague Jews for an online edition of the National Archives, Prague (in collaboration with Ivana Ebelová). Daniel Polakovič completed the following studies: a study on the collapse of the Břeclav Synagogue in the light of rabbinic literature for the proceedings *Židé a Morava* [The Jews and Moravia]; a study on findings of fragments of medieval Jewish tombstones in National Avenue, Prague for the proceedings *Juden in der mittelalterlichen Stadt* (Institute of History at the Czech Academy of Sciences); together with Tomasz Czymbalak (National Heritage Institute), a study on the book culture of Bohemian and Moravian Jews in the Middle Ages (*Bohemica Olomucensia*, 2014, No. 2); a study on *Hebraica* in the manuscript lexicons of scholars from the Bohemian lands at the end of the 18th century (*Listy filologické / Folia Philologica*, 137, 2014, No. 1-2). Polakovič also contributed to the *Akademický atlas českých dějin* [Academic Atlas of Czech History] (Prague: Academia, 2014), which includes two map appendices on the history of Jewish settlement in the Middle Ages and the early modern period. In addition, Polakovič wrote an introductory biographical study and provided illustrations for Zuzana Peterová's book *Rabín Gustav Sicher, Život, dokumenty, vzpomínky* [Rabbi Gustav Sicher, Life, Documents, Memoirs] (Prague: Sefer, 2014). Polakovič also prepared an edition of dated Hebrew tombstones up to the year 1347 for a book edited by Eva Doležalová – Martin Musílek, *Prameny k dějinám Židů v Čechách a na Moravě do r. 1347* [Sources relating to the History of the Jews in Bohemia and Moravia until 1347] (Prague: Centre for Medieval Studies, 2014). Polakovič completed a study and catalogue of medieval Hebrew tombstones and fragments from Znojmo (Yearbook of the State District Archives in Znojmo). He also submitted a study on Jewish authors in the lexicons of scholars from Bohemia and Moravia at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries for the proceedings *Jan Petr Cerroni a historia litteraria* [Jan Petr Cerroni and Literary Histories] (Institute of Philosophy Czech Academy of Sciences) and completed a study on the rabbi and historian Heinrich Flesch (1864–1939) for the proceedings *Židé a Morava* [The Jews and Moravia]. Daniel Polakovič and Alexandr Putík prepared an introductory study, illustrations and other background material for the book *Židovský hřbitov v Brandýse nad Labem* [The Jewish Cemetery in Brandýs nad Labem] (together with Lucie Petrusová). Pavel Kocman wrote a chapter of the history of the Jews in Dambořice for the book *Dambořice. Zpět ke kořenům* [Dambořice: Back to the Roots] (Brno: Museum and Local History Society for the Dambořice Community, 2014). In addition, he wrote an overview study on census lists of Jews in Bohemia and Moravia in the early modern period and their editions as a historical source (*Český časopis historický / Czech Historical Journal*, No. 2, 2015) and an article on town chronicles as a source for the history of Moravian Jews for the proceedings *Židé a Morava XX* [The Jews and Moravia] (Museum of the Kroměříž Region, 2014). Pavel Kocman co-authored two specialist reports, a conference reports and a review for the journal *Judaica Bohemiae* XLIX (2014).

Alexandr Putík carried out genealogical research into Prague Jewish families and added about a thousand names to a genealogical database. This database currently contains entries on 14,100 names (out of a total planned number of about 20,000). Daniel Polakovič contributed to a project aimed at cataloguing fragments of medieval Hebrew manuscripts in libraries, museums and archives in the Czech Republic, in the context of which he identified newly found fragments in the Jílové chateau library, in the Prague City Archives, in the Prague National Library, in the Prague Strahov Library and in the State District Archives, České Budějovice. In addition, Daniel Polakovič continued to document Jewish cemeteries in Prague and in five rural communities. Daniel Polakovič and Pavel Kocman collaborated with the Břeclav Museum and Gallery on the preparation of background material for an exhibition in the ceremonial hall (translations of selected Hebrew tombstones and archival research). Pavel Kocman collaborated on a project of the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe – Yerusha: Archival Traces of Jewish History in the Czech Republic.

Due to the death of Jiří Fiedler, the author of *The Encyclopaedia of Jewish Communities in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia*, the distribution of as yet incomplete encyclopaedic entries was suspended; only complete entries are currently being made available.

In addition to routine communication with the professional and lay public and to responding to queries from researchers, Daniel Polakovič and Pavel Kocman prepared four reviews of specialist studies and publications, and gave six lectures. Daniel Polakovič, Alexandr Putík and Leo Pavlát collaborated on the making of an episode of the Czech Television genealogy documentary series *Tajemství rodu* (The Secrets of Lineage).

#### d) Archives

The specialist activity of the JMP's archival staff continued to focus mainly on research into the history of the Jews in the occupied border regions and on the history of the Jewish community in Czechoslovakia after 1945. Under a project supported by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic (Grant Project P410/102399) Vlastimila Hamáčková, in collaboration with Markéta Lhotová from the Museum of North Bohemia in Liberec, published in the journal *Judaica Bohemiae* the first part of a study on the liquidation of Jewish organizations in the annexed border region in the light of the materials of the Stiko Reichenberg fonds. Focusing mainly on the period between 1945 and 1956, Monika Hanková continued to study and compile a detailed overview of material relating to Jewish issues in the individual fonds of the Security Services Archive; she also studied related material in the Prague National Archives and in the Yeshiva University Archives, New York. In collaboration with the Shoah History Department, Monika Hanková also contributed to the recording of interviews with Holocaust survivors and witnesses; on a work trip to the USA in November 2014, she recorded four interviews and arranged for the handover of archival materials that will be added to the H. Feigl Papers, which are kept at the JMP Archives.

On the 1st of May 2014, with a Yerusha grant from the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe, the JMP began work on a two-year project for creating a comprehensive database of archival sources relating to Jewish history in Europe. The aim of the JMP's current project is to collect basic information about archival fonds and collections relating to Jewish history in Czech archives. The focus of the project is on the border regions of the Bohemian lands and on Jewish political communities in Moravia in the period between 1848 and 1938. Under this project, access will also be provided to English-language information about all the fonds in the JMP Archives that are thematically related to the project. In the course of the first few months, in connection with the EHRI project, the team began extensive research in the relevant archives. The Yerusha grant project involves co-operation with archivists at the state regional and state district archives of Bohemia and Moravia. Based on their thematic focus, the acquired archival descriptions will be published on the Yerusha, EHRI and JMP websites.

Two members of the department staff took part in an international conference on “The Jews in Teplice”, which was held at the Regional Museum in Teplice on 25th–26th April 2014. The JMP Archives continued to work with museums and archives in the border areas on the organization of seminars relating to the modern history of the Jews in Bohemia. The fifth annual seminar was held in Teplice on 1st–2nd October 2014.

The JMP’s archival staff, in collaboration with the Shoah History Department, provided necessary information for the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI). The archives also work on the Yerusha grant project (Vlastimila Hamáčková, Lucie Petrusová).

In collaboration with the Department of Jewish History and Jewish Studies, the JMP Archives contributed to the documentation of Jewish cemeteries and to work on the newly found epigraphic material. Documentation of the Jewish cemetery in Habry continued in 2014 (Lucie Petrusová). Work was completed on the preparation of an e-book on the Jewish Cemetery in Brandýs nad Labem (Lucie Petrusová, Daniel Polakovič). Lucie Petrusová gave a lecture on the Jewish cemetery in Pardubice on the occasion of the official presentation of the book *Pod hvězdou Davidovou* [Under the Star of David], which was published by the State District Archives in Pardubice. reconstruction and restoration work at Prague’s Old Jewish Cemetery was carried out under the supervision of Vlastimila Hamáčková.

Staff members took part in two conferences on current trends in archival work, particularly with regard to questions relating to digitization, which were organized by the National Archives in Prague (A Comprehensive View of the Issues of Digital Image Reproduction; Archives, Libraries and Museums in the Digital World). They also received training on the basic rules governing the processing of archival records.

The JMP Archives received 162 visits from researchers in 2014; 76 researchers came to study here and access was provided to 1,044 archival items). As in previous years, the main focus of researchers’ interest was on genealogy, the history of individual Jewish communities and the documentation of monuments (cemeteries, synagogues, ghettos). The JMP’s archival staff undertook 18 literature searches and provided about 110 consultations and replies to written queries. In total, 195 images were scanned for exhibitions, publications and research purposes.

## e) Library

The JMP Library had a total of 592 registered members in 2014. The Library and the Multimedia Centre received 1,062 research visits; other technical queries were dealt with in writing. In total, 3,007 documents were loaned from the Library. As in previous years, the Library also provided inter-library loans.

Biographical and topographical information continued to be added to the database in connection with a retrospective inspection of the collection with the aim of determining the original owners. In total, 2,002 volumes were checked and 1,428 records were entered in the database in 2014; there are now 48,149 entries. In preparation for restitution proceedings, the Library staff completed the process of verifying the list of books in the “German Catalogue” that had previously belonged to S. H. Lieben.

Ten important books were prepared for presentation in connection with the JMP’s inclusion in the Google Art Project. These include the oldest books printed in Prague, as well as books that are of interest on account of their decoration, because of who wrote them, or for what happened to them during the war.

The main topic of the annual Library Week was the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. The Library’s contribution was a lecture by Michal Bušek (“War – Jews – Books”), which focused on

the resonance of the war in the period press and in the Prague Jewish community's archival records, on the important books that were provided to Jewish soldiers, and on the work of the community library in 1914–1918.

The Multimedia Centre continued to provide access not only to the JMP's databases (database of Shoah victims, database of collection objects, library catalogue, collections catalogue) but also to the USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive, which contains recorded interviews with Shoah survivors and witnesses. The Reference Library is open to researchers and also has JMP publications on sale.

#### **f) Representation in other organizations in the Czech Republic and abroad a institutions**

The JMP was represented at the annual conference of the Association of European Jewish Museums, which was held in Warsaw (Magda Veselská, Dana Veselská) and at the meetings of the Association of Museums and Galleries in the Czech Republic (Dana Veselská). Michaela Sidenberg represented the JMP on the board of the European Shoah Legacy Institute. Magda Veselská is also a member of a Judaica working group at the European Shoah Legacy Institute. Zuzana Pavlovská and Jana Šplíchalová represented the JMP in the Czech delegation of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance – IHRA (formerly the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research – ITF). Michal Frankl represented the JMP in the Prague Centre for Jewish Studies at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague, and in the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI). The JMP director Leo Pavlát continued to serve on the board of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague and on the editorial board of the Academia Publishing House.



# 8

## Preparation of new exhibitions and changes to the JMP

In connection with the plan for the JMP's new exhibitions, work continued on the preparation of the new exhibition Jews in the Bohemian Lands, 10th–18th Centuries in the Maisel Synagogue. At the end of 2013 and start of 2014, tenders were held for the supply of display cases (winning bid by Lotech Design spol. s.r.o.), for the supply of equipment for monitoring and regulating the micro-climate in display cases (winning bid by ITS a.s.) and for the supply of audiovisual elements (winning bid by VT Project).

The previous exhibition in the Maisel Synagogue was on display until the 28th of March 2014, after which time the exhibits were de-installed, the synagogue was cleared out, the depository was secured and work began on the complete reconstruction of the building.

In the course of 2014, numerous negotiations were held between the JMP, the exhibition architect and the Lotech Design Company with regard to the display cases and their final form. A sample display case was installed in the Klausen Synagogue. At the end of 2014, a tender was held for the provision of software for the exhibition's more complex audiovisual elements (touch-screen with expansive content relating to the topics of Jewish settlement in the Bohemian lands and the status of Jews in medieval and early modern societies, touch-screen with expansive content relating to the topic of the livelihood and social life of Jews). At the same time, audiovisual elements were provided for the screening of images of old synagogues in Bohemia and Moravia, as well as for a touch-screen with a database of major Jewish figures in the Bohemian lands between the 10th and 18th centuries, and for a touch-screen with expansive content relating to the topic of book culture – for browsing old Hebrew manuscripts and printed books and for virtual tour of Prague's Jewish Town based on Langweil's famous model of Prague. The Czech Technical University in Prague (ČVUT) was commissioned to prepare the virtual tour on the basis of an agreement with the Prague City Museum (the owner of the licence and of the 3D data for the Langweil model). In addition, a substantial portion of the collection objects to be displayed at the new exhibition were restored and new facsimiles were produced.

The JMP opened its new Information and Reservation Centre in 2014, which was a major achievement in connection with its transformation goals. In addition, the souvenir shop in the Klausen Synagogue was expanded.

At the end of the year, the JMP launched its new website ([www.jewishmuseum.cz](http://www.jewishmuseum.cz)) in Czech and English, which meets all the current technical and user requirements. It has a new layout, full-text search options, events arranged by date and type (exhibition, concert, lecture) and a new e-shop, all of which have been designed to improve the user experience. The website can now be edited directly and without delay by staff at the JMP. The JMP also created a mobile presentation for its new website. The site also has video, audio and RSS sections to enable users to sign up for news feeds.

Another of the aims of the JMP's transformation is to involve the public more actively in its activities. An important role in this is played by the JMP's Society of Friends, within which the JMP's volunteer programme (launched in 2011) was further developed. Twenty volunteers – mostly students – got involved mainly by helping out at cultural events but also, to a lesser extent, provided technical assistance (e.g., transcribing interviews with Shoah survivors and witnesses, archiving documents, processing video recordings, etc.).



New JMP website





# 9

## Acquisitions

Two ordinary and five extraordinary meetings of the JMP's Acquisitions Committee were held with external associates in attendance in 2014. As in the previous year, most of the acquisitions for the JMP's collections in 2014 were donations – 34 accession numbers including 150 items given by individuals and institutions from the Czech Republic and abroad. The second major group of acquisitions was from the JMP's depository, as a result of the increased attention paid to detailed inventories over the last few years – 70 new accession numbers were divided among 109 items in 2014. Twelve items were purchased and registered under seven inventory numbers. Among the acquisitions of particular importance was a group of 100 large-format, mostly colour photographs by Lotar Neumann (b. 1918, Chlumec nad Cidlinou – d. 1992, Gingins), which were donated to the JMP by the photographer's daughter Madeleine Strobel. Two separate groups of items from the USA were also important acquisitions.

In total, 1,216 volumes were added to the JMP Library in 2014. A substantial portion of these volumes were acquired by donation or replacement. A major acquisition was the donation of group of materials relating to the opera Golem 13 from the estate of the late British dramatist and composer George Whyte.

JMP director Leo Pavlát receives Evžen Lieberman's suitcase from its donor





# 10

## Educational activities

As in previous years, the JMP organized a large number of events, programmes and projects via the Prague and Brno offices of its Department for Education and Culture.

The Prague office prepared ten types of thematic lectures with 16 interactive art and drama workshops. Its programmes dealt with various aspects of Jewish life, including traditions, customs, biblical history and the history of Jews in Bohemia and Moravia. As usual, much attention was paid to teaching about anti-Semitism and the Shoah.

The department's staff further developed the project "Ours or Foreign? Jews in the Czech Twentieth Century", which is being prepared together with the Shoah History Department and in co-operation with Terezín Initiative Institute. Focusing on Jewish refugees in Czechoslovakia and the refugee crisis of 1938, the "Unwelcome Foreigners" workshop found broad application in 2014, as did the new workshop "Us and Them – Antisemitism and Modern Society". The latter project focuses mainly on the phenomenon of modern anti-Semitism from the latter half of the 19th century to the present, and involves students studying period articles, anti-Semitic literary texts and caricatures.

In total, 8,500 pupils and students took part in the department's programmes in Prague. Programmes and seminars were also held for foreign students, as well as for Czech visitors. In 2014, there were 923 participants from Germany, the USA, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Canada and Israel.

At the beginning of the 2014/15 school year, the Department for Education and Culture – for the fifth time – joined the "Crocus" project, which has been organized for several years by the Holocaust Education Trust of Ireland and involves the participation of schools around the world each year. Via the JMP, the organizers provided the students and pupils taking part with yellow crocus bulbs which they will plant in the autumn as a reminder of the million and a half Jewish children who were murdered during the Shoah. Via the JMP, more than 80 schools and several kindergartens were involved in the project in the Czech Republic in 2014.

The "Crocus" project



The department also collaborated on various projects with a number of other institutions, including the National Institute of Children and Youth for the literary and historical competition "Daniel" and the Freiwillige Terezín organization, which regularly organizes meetings with Shoah survivors.

Great importance was attached to programmes for teachers in 2014. The department organized four two-day seminars for teachers on the topic "Jews, History and Culture", which were attended by 65 teachers. An important, by now regular, partner in the further training of teaching staff was the Terezín Memorial, with which the JMP held two three-day seminars for 100 teachers on the topic "How to Teach about the Holocaust". Another one-day seminar was prepared for students co-operating with the Regional Museum in Kolín (attended by 20 students). In January 2014 a third off-site seminar for teachers in Havířov and Ostrova was held in co-operation with Yad Vashem, the USC Shoah Foundation and the Terezín Memorial (attended by 50 teachers).

The educational activities of the Brno office of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture were also the result of collaborations with other institutions. The long-term collaboration with the Museum of Roma Culture was particularly successful with focus on the interactive educational programme "Shoah, Porajmos, Holocaust", which was held at the JMP's Brno office and at the Museum of Roma Culture; 11 programmes were held here for 332 pupils and students. The Brno office re-established its co-operation with the Jiří Mahen Library in Brno. In association with the Jiří Mahen Library, the Brno office hosted a two-day seminar for librarians from the South Moravian region with focus on educational programmes on the Holocaust and Jewish topics (attended by 64 librarians). Q&A sessions with Shoah survivors and witnesses continued in schools across Moravia. In addition, the Brno office hosted the spring and autumn series of "Jews, History and Culture" seminars for teachers (eight blocks attended by 159 teachers).

The Brno office also organized ten guided tours of the Jewish cemetery in Brno for 222 pupils and students. The previous guided tours of the Brno Synagogue and mikveh that had been provided on the basis of an agreement of the Brno Jewish Community were not held in 2014 as the building was being reconstructed.

The educational programmes in Brno were again complemented by Divadlo Kufř's theatre production, *A Jewess or Juggling with Life*, which was launched under the auspices of the JMP's Brno office in 2007. The show was followed by a Q&A with a Shoah survivor. Six of these performances were held for 153 pupils and students in 2014. By way of expanding its offering, the Brno office re-established its co-operation with the Brno-based Líšeň Theatre, which included the play *Hygiena krve* into its repertoire; this work is inspired by the testimonies and recollections of Shoah survivors and by period documents. The show was preceded by a Shoah-related lecture by an instructor from the Brno office and was followed by a Q&A with a Shoah survivor. In 2014, fifteen such events were held for 1,289 pupils and students from throughout the Czech Republic. This new programme could be seen not only in Brno, but also in Ořechov, Kyjov, Veselí nad Moravou, Ostrava and Prague.

The Brno office expanded its day-long educational programme, "On the Trail of the Brno Jewish Community" by adding another version. The original programme – which was still provided – involves a guided tour of the city centre, a kosher lunch, a lecture about kosher food and a visit to the synagogue or cemetery with an accompanying commentary provided by an instructor. The second version places emphasis on Jewish customs and traditions and replaces the city centre tour with the "Researcher" workshop, which deals with the following topics – Jewish life, the Jewish home, Shabbat, the Jewish wedding and Pesach. This programme offering is appropriate as a teaching supplement and as a school trip for schools outside Brno; it was provided to 333 pupils from 14 schools in the spring and autumn of 2014.

Work on the JMP's educational project "Neighbours Who Disappeared" continued in 2014 for the fourteenth year running. Intended for elementary and high school pupils, this project charts the fate of Shoah survivors and eyewitnesses in the neighbourhoods of those taking part. The Prague office of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture once again collaborated with the civic association Zapomenuti/The Forgotten Ones. Apart from making direct use of already existing materials in schools (instruction of pupils and students as guides to the exhibition), this involved monitoring and supporting individual goals. The outcome is a comprehensive educational project, which includes three copies of the "Neighbours Who Disappeared" exhibition, printed methodological materials and archive resources presented on the website: <http://www.zmizeli-sousedede.cz/>.

The "Neighbours Who Disappeared" project is presented to schools in two ways. In 2014, worksheets were added to the original Powerpoint presentation. Together with cross-sectional questions, these contain questions and answers relating to the exhibition panels. The worksheets make it easier to understand the content of the individual stories on the panels for children who would otherwise struggle with the text. Moreover, selected pupils who have been trained in advance can present the exhibition to their fellow pupils as guides. So far, the project has involved the active participation of 304 schools and more than 3,000 young researchers.

In 2014, the project continued to tour Czech schools (three exhibition copies and methodological materials, instructor's seminar on the use of the individual texts for cross-sectional topics as part of civics, history, Czech and English language lessons). In January a project by the Pedagogical High School in Evropská Street, Prague, resulted in the permanent installation of a panel there. Throughout the year, a copy of the exhibition was included in a project of the English-Czech High School in České Budějovice. Another copy was on view in the Pilsen Masaryk Elementary School (from April onwards), in the Holice High School (in the autumn), in the Chocerady Elementary School (from November to December). In April the exhibition was presented at a trade fair held by not-for-profit organizations in the Technical Library, Prague. In November it was shown to at the teachers' seminar "How to Teach about the Holocaust" in Terezín. An exhibition project entitled "Neighbours Who Disappeared from Slaný" gradually came into being in the autumn of 2014; comprising four panels, this exhibition was officially launched in December and was subsequently presented at regional schools and cultural institutions (Slaný Museum, Lidice Memorial, Terezín Memorial).

At elementary schools, the "Neighbours Who Disappeared" project involves all the pupils contributing to work on the exhibition and texts, with those who have been trained acting as guides for their fellow pupils. At high schools, students act as exhibition guides both for their fellow pupils and for pupils of local elementary schools. A group of pupils from the Slaný Elementary School presented the results of their work to other schools in the surrounding area. The Jablonec nad Nisou Elementary School ("Neighbours Who Disappeared from Rýmařov") and the Trmice Elementary School developed their own related projects in collaboration with the JMP. These schools are documenting the fate of disappeared Jewish neighbours as part of a long-term project. Many other schools (e.g. Strakonice High School, Strážnice High School and Třešť Elementary School) and museums (e.g. Svitavy Museum) have been inspired by these initiatives and are creating their own projects.

The JMP's "Neighbours Who Disappeared" project was also featured abroad. Throughout the year, several panels were included in a larger exhibition in the European House in Prague. On the 27th of January, to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the English-language version of the exhibition was presented in the European Commission building in Brussels. The German-language version of the exhibition was on view at a high school in Mannheim, where several guided tours also took place. In Slovakia, the exhibition was shown at the Kremnice-based civic association CityNet Kremnica.



# 11

## Cultural activities

### a) Evening programmes at the Department for Education and Culture

Cultural programmes were prepared for the public at both the Prague and Brno offices of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture in 2014.

The Prague office hosted 66 evening programmes for 2,000 visitors. These included debates on topical issues moderated by the journalist Petr Brod (e.g. a discussion on "Scholars in Times of Terror" with Antonín Kostlán and Michal V. Šimůnek, and "Between Prague and Jerusalem: Václav Havel, the Diaspora and Israel" with Eva Lorencová and Karol E. Sidon), and two concerts (including Hana Frejková – "Yiddish in Three"; Alexandr Shonert – "The Jewish Violin"). Among the stand-out film screenings was *Enjoy the Music*, a documentary on the recently deceased pianist Edith Kraus, and *The Five Brides*, an early silent Russian film that features a Ukrainian shtetl. Also shown was *Return to the Burning House*, a documentary film about the Israeli national hero Haviva Reik. There were also fourteen book presentations with topics on Judaism, antisemitism and the Shoah, together with discussions with authors and experts on the given issues. Among the featured books were *Vlak do Výmaru* [The Train to Weimar], which was presented by the author Ladislav Chateau with Petr Brod, and *Praha pod hákovým křížem* [Prague Under the Hakenkreuz], which was presented by the author Jiří Padevět. Other books that were presented include *Přepsali se – tak jsem tady: Příběh Dagmar Lieblová* [They Rewrote It – So Here I Am: The Dagmar Lieblová Story], a book by Marek Lauer mann based on interviews with a Holocaust survivor; *Landscapes of the Metropolis of Death*, personal reflections of the Auschwitz death camp by the Czech-born Israeli historian Prof. Otto Dov Kulka; and *Trochu moc předků* [Too Many Ancestors] by Jindřich Mann, the grandson of the German novelist Heinrich Mann and son of the Czech author Ludvík Aškenazy. The travel lectures of Jan Neubauer ("Lost Yemen", "The Jerusalem Quarter Mea Shearim's Birthday" and "The Veiling of Women in Religious, Cultural and Historical Contexts") attracted great attention, as did the lecture series on Jewish and Israeli architecture by the architect and teacher Daniel Ziss. September saw the launch of a new series of programmes – "Our Twentieth Century" – in which pairs of Holocaust survivors share their recollections of the pre-war, wartime and post-war years; it is moderated by the teacher and lecturer Petr Sokol.

Our Twentieth Century





In 2014, the Prague office of the Department for Education and Culture also had lecturers from other countries. Louise Hecht gave a lecture on the role of Jews in the European tobacco trade; Marcin Wodzinski's lecture was entitled "History of Hasidism: New Trends"; and Helena Kanyar Becker gave a lecture on the charismatic Swiss humanitarian Gertrud Lutz-Fankhauser, who helped to save 62,000 Jews in Budapest during the Second World War .

Five opening shows were held: Old Trees in Jewish Cemeteries, an exhibition of photographs by Václav Chvátal; In the Flow of Dialogue, an exhibition of black and white photographs by Norbert Švarc; The Family Camp, an exhibition held by the Terezín Memorial, Testimony of the Terezín Walls, an exhibition of photographs by Richard Homola; and – at the end of the year – Synagogues in Flames: Kristallnacht 1938 in the Czech Border Region, an exhibition held in collaboration with the Museum of North Bohemia, Liberec.

The Sunday afternoon workshops for children with their parents continued to enjoy great popularity in 2014. They were held once a month and were attended by 120 people.

The Prague office of the Department for Education and Culture also hosted four conferences that were supported by the JMP. These included a conference for rabbis' wives – organized by the Rabbinerseminar (Rabbinical Seminary) in Berlin – and a seminar for social workers – organized by the Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH).

The Brno office of the Department for Education and Culture hosted 63 programmes in the early evening hours, which were attended by 1,615 visitors. These includes lecture series such as "The Development of Jewish Settlement in Moravia" (Pavel Kocman) and "Selected Topics from Jewish Private Law" (Rabbi Shlomo Kučera). "Women in Judaism" is a new series of lectures by Terezie Dubinová, which covers the period from ancient times through to the modern era. "Famous Jewish Musicians and Composers" is a new series of lectures by Jana Špačka (Institute of Musicology, Faculty of the Arts, Masaryk University, Brno).

The "Reading Suits Everyone" series, in which actors from Brno theatres read from popular books by Jewish authors, attracted a large number of people. The series of Q&A sessions with the deputy chairman of the Brno Jewish Community Pavel Fried continued; among the invited guests in 2014 were the Czech Minister of Culture Daniel Herman, the priest, journalist and documentary filmmaker Jan Hanák, and the recently appointed Rabbi of brno Štěpán Menaše Kliment. There were also book presentations, including Marcela Zoufalá's *Judaismus a ženy v Izraeli* [Judaism and Women in Israel] Věra Tydlitátová's *Projevy antisemitismu na českém internetu* [Manifestations of Antisemitism on the Czech Internet], Barbora Antonová and Michal Konečný's *Zpráva o zapomenutých sousedstvích* [Report on Forgotten Neighbourhoods], Pavel Kocman's "Židé v Mikulově" [Jews in Mikulov], a chapter in the book *Mikulov. Historie – Kultura – Lidé* [Mikulov: History – Culture – People], Marie Krappmannová's *Úvod do jazyka jidiš a jeho historie* [An Introduction to the Yiddish Language and its History] and Stanislav Motl's *Děti Antonína Kaliny* [Children of Antonín Kalin]. There was a screening of unique clips from a 1942 film about Terezín, which was presented by Jana Šplíchalová as part of a lecture on the exhibition *Truth and Lies: Filming in the Terezín Ghetto, 1942–1945*. Czech Television script editor Jiří Florian presented his documentary *Jak jsem potkal Izrael* [How I Encountered Israel], which he made with the current Minister of Culture Daniel Herman. The director Anna Grusková presented her film *Návrat do hořícího domu* [Return to the Burning House]. There was also great interest in the Q&A sessions, including with the writer Irena Dousková and the dramatist and translator Antonín Přidal. Also popular with visitors was a musical commemoration of the victims of the Terezín Family Camp as performed by Šárka Králová and Jakub Výborný from the Brno Philharmonic, as was the music-drama programme "Hundred-spined Blues from Maiselova Street". There was also interest in the "Dances with Miriam"

programme, in which viewers can not only see a performance of traditional and modern Israeli dances, but can also join in.

The “Days of Jewish Culture in Brno” event was held in September 2014 in collaboration with the Brno Jewish Community. This event was launched with the opening of Jewish Visions, an exhibition of work by the American artist Mark Podwal at the New Town Hall Cloister in Brno. It also featured a Q&A session with the Minister of Culture Daniel Herman, a workshop for parents with their children that focused on the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah, a lecture by Věra Roubalová (“Trauma and Family”), a show by the dance group Miriam, guided tours of the Brno Jewish cemetery and an opening of an exhibition of paintings by Judita Kopotová at the Brno office of the JMP’s Department for Education and Culture. These programmes attracted 283 visitors.

In its programmes for parents with their children, the Brno office continued its series of Sunday afternoon workshops focusing on major Jewish holidays. It also included a workshop on the Jewish cemetery, in which children and their parents can find out about the symbols and signs that appear on tombstones, as well as a workshop focusing on the Jewish wedding.

### **b) Concerts and other cultural events at the Spanish Synagogue**

As in previous years, the JMP organized and contributed to the organization of a number of concerts and other cultural events at the Spanish Synagogue in Prague.

On the 27th of January, the JMP – in collaboration with the Jewish Community in Prague and the Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH) – hosted the traditional gala concert at the Spanish Synagogue to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Barbora Perná (soprano), Ladislav Horák (accordion) and Petr Nouzovský (cello) performed works by Ernest Bloch, Holmer Becker and the contemporary composer Jeff Hamburg, who attended the concert in person.

On the 8th of March 2014, a gala concert was held at the Spanish Synagogue for the 70th anniversary of the liquidation of the Terezín Family Camp. It was broadcast live by Czech Radio Vltava. Works by Zikmund Schul, Stanislav Jelínek, Noam Sheriff, Ervin (Erwin) Schulhoff and Felix Mendelssohn will be performed by Dominik Weiss Hošková, the Prague Wind Trio and the Nostitz Quartet.

Traditional gala concert at the Spanish Synagogue (January 27)





On the 24th of April it was 100 years since the birth of Jan Koziielewski, who is better known under his nom de guerre Jan Karski – the legendary courier of the Polish government-in-exile during the period of German occupation. A project in tribute to Jan Karski was launched on the eve of this anniversary. This included a gala concert in the Spanish Synagogue, which was held under the auspices of the Czech Minister of Culture Daniel Herman. The concert featured the Polish singer and multi-instrumentalist Ola Bilińska and the SzaZaZe Trio – performing modern arrangements of traditional pieces, and was prepared by the Polish Institute in co-operation with the JMP.

On the 11th of September, the JMP – in association with the Austrian Culture Forum in Prague, the Austrian Embassy and the Embassy of the of the United States in Prague – held a concert to mark the 70th anniversary of the death of the composer Viktor Ullmann (1898–1944). Ullmann was deported to the Terezín ghetto in 1942 where despite the unfavourable conditions, he and the composer Hans Krása (1899–1944) managed to organize a fairly broad range of musical activities. In July 1944 he composed one of his best works in the ghetto: The Lay of Love and Death of Cornet Christoph Rilke for recitation and piano. On the 16th of October 1944 he was deported to Auschwitz, where he was murdered soon later.

The 6th annual “Cinegogue” programme took place on the 13th and 14th of October. This series is a unique synthesis of silent film with contemporary live music. Its aim is to present little known silent classics of world cinema and to encourage new ways of looking at Jewish culture and at the filmmakers of the ‘post-emancipation’ period. The film shown this year was The City Without Jews (Die Stadt ohne Juden) by the Austrian film director and producer Hans Karl Breslauer (1888–1965), based on the bestseller of the same name by the Austrian writer, journalist and adventurer Maximilian Hugo Bettauer (1872–1925). For the film premiere, a new score was produced by the composer Petr Wajsar and was performed by the Berg Orchestra. The Partner of this year’s “Cinegogue” was the Austrian Cultural Forum in Prague. The project was also held with the support of Prague City Hall.

On the 8th of December, there was an evening of Sephardic music in the Spanish Synagogue as performed by the Spanish singer Mara Aranda with accompaniment. The event was held by the JMP in association with the Cervantes Institute in Prague.

As in previous years, the Spanish Synagogue was also the venue for regular concerts organized by the BM Art and MF Reklama agencies.

The guitarist Lubomír Brabec completed the 14th series of concerts for season-ticket holders – “Lubomír Brabec Presents Prague Musical Evenings in the Spanish Synagogue”.

The JMP also contributed to the organization of other concerts at the Spanish Synagogue. On the 28th of April, a gala concert was held for Sir Nicholas Winton as part of a small Jewish festival called MAŽIF. On the 3rd of May, a private concert was held for the International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW). On the 1st of June, a concert of ethnic music by Baklava was held by the Macedonian Embassy. On the 11th of October, a concert was given by the Gary Bertini Choir from Israel. As part of the “Trauma and Home” conference, organized by the Rafael Institute in association with the Prix Irene Committee, the Mišpacha Choir gave a concert on the 25th of October and the French band Diasporim Zinger gave a concert on the 30th of October. The eighth annual “Light of Understanding” concert was held at the Spanish Synagogue on the 4th of November in association with the Prague-based Conservative Jewish congregation and the Holy Spirit Church. The event was recorded live by Czech Television for subsequent broadcast.

In total, there were 243 concerts at the Spanish Synagogue in 2014.



# 12

## Publications

In 2014, the JMP published nine publications, one seminar proceedings and a number of printed materials to promote its events and activities.

The proceedings *Acquisition and De-acquisition Activities of Museums and Galleries* (ed. Dana Veselská) are a collection of eight papers given at a seminar that was held by the JMP in collaboration with the Czech Association of Museums and Galleries and the Czech Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) in June 2014. They include an extensive paper on the JMP's acquisition and de-acquisition activity in the past twenty years (1994-2014). The publication has a print run of 300 copies in Czech and each chapter concludes with an English summary.

A Czech-English brochure was published for the exhibition *The Story Continues: Acquisitions in the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 1994–2014* – with a print run of 1,000 copies. It was prepared by the exhibition curators Dana Veselská and Michaela Sidenberg.

A leaflet was published for the exhibition *The Orient in Bohemia? Jewish Refugees during the First World War* – with a print run of 1,000 copies in Czech and 1,000 copies in English. It includes texts by the exhibition authors Michal Frankl, Jan Wittenberg and Wolfgang Schellenbacher.

The JMP's peer-reviewed journal *Judaica Bohemiae* came out as usual – Volume XLIX. Published since 1965 by the Jewish Museum in Prague, *Judaica Bohemiae* focuses on Jewish history and culture in Bohemia, Moravia and the wider Central European area (the territory of the former Habsburg Monarchy). In 2008 *Judaica Bohemiae* was included in the List of Peer-reviewed Journals without Impact Factor in the Czech Republic, as well as in the prestigious Web of Science Database and the Arts and Humanities Citation Index. In 2009 the journal was included in Elsevier's prestigious citation and abstract database, Scopus. The journal also regularly contains papers from contributors outside the Czech Republic.

Originally published twice a year, *Judaica Bohemiae* became an annual journal in 1994 and has come out biannually since 2009. The July issue 49 (2014/1) starts with a paper by William C. McDonald, analyzing the anti-Jewish song-cycle of Michel Beheim. The next paper, by Joseph M. Davis, deals with the concepts of family and friendship on the basis of a famous group of Yiddish letters written by Prague Jews in 1619. The third of the main studies, by Jan Machala, illustrates the troubled fate of Jewish monuments during the Second World War by exploring the example of synagogues in Central Moravia (Holešov and Kroměříž). The December issue 49 (2014/2) starts with a paper by Branislav Šprocha and Pavol Tišliar, exploring the demographic situation of the Jewish population in Slovakia between the two world wars on the basis of a comparison with other Jewish communities in Czechoslovakia. The next paper, by Markéta Lhotová and Vlastimila Hamáčková, looks in detail at the way that Jewish organizations were liquidated in the annexed Czech border regions during the Second World War. The third of the main studies, by Miloslav Szabó, focuses on populist antisemitism and examines the tension between antisemitic semantics and practice, which to this day partially influences historical reflection on antisemitic and nationalistic discourses of the day. It also provides an interesting contribution to the discourse on the theory and methodology of research into modern antisemitism.



A Czech-English overview was published for the 6th annual "Cineogue" programme (with a print run of 600 copies).

Re-editions of the book I have not seen a butterfly around here were published – in English (with a print run of 500 copies) and in Spanish (with a print run of 500 copies).

Re-editions of five foreign-language versions of the book Jewish Prague (written by Arno Pařík) were published with a new cover. This guide to the history of the Prague Jewish community and Jewish Town contains more than a hundred full-colour photographs of Prague synagogues, Jewish cemeteries and other monuments (English version – 1,500 copies, French version – 500 copies, Italian version – 500 copies, Spanish version – 500 copies, German version – 500 copies).

A revised edition of Hana's Suitcase was published for inclusion in workbooks. Intended for school pupils aged over 14, this educational material was inspired by Karen Levine's book Hana's Suitcase, the Czech translation of which (by Dana Makovičková) was published by Portál in collaboration with the JMP in 2003. On the basis of their own research in documents and subsequent discussions with Shoah survivors, school pupils learn about the fate of individual families from the Nazi Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia during the Second World War.

The JMP also published a brochure for potential sponsors – with a print of 250 copies in Czech and 250 copies in English.

The JMP continued to publish its quarterly newsletter (in Czech and English) in electronic form, as well as a bi-monthly guide with basic information about its sites, permanent exhibitions and forthcoming events, including exhibitions, concerts, programmes for parents and children, guided tours, lectures and discussion evenings.

Where required, the ZMP reprinted its leaflets for distribution with entry tickets – in a new six-language version with new photographs of the Information and Reservation Centre.

A still from the film The City Without Jews, as published in the 2014 Cineogue programme brochure





# 13

## Co-operation with institutions

### a) Loans

As in previous years, the JMP collaborated with a large number of political, administrative, cultural, academic and educational institutions in the Czech Republic and abroad in 2014. In various areas of its activity, it worked with 152 local and 109 foreign entities.

In 2014, the JMP fully developed a system of identifying and differentiating two-year and one-year contractual relations concerning long-term loans. This procedure helps to improve mutual co-operation, to enhance the care of loaned collection objects in specific cases and to provide greater synergy for exhibitions whose focal point is not on the documentation of the lives of local Jewish communities. It also involves time savings, as the extension of each contractual relation is bound to the requirement of prior physical checks and assessments of the conditions of collection objects by JMP staff. Over a long-term period, this procedure concerns loans to nine local Jewish communities and to twelve other cultural entities, more than 90% being outside of Prague. In other countries, the JMP is involved in the provision of long-term loans for three exhibitions.

The JMP also loaned material to temporary exhibitions held by other organizations in the Czech Republic. There was extensive co-operation on the exhibition 600 Years of Jews in Teplice, which was among the closest in terms of theme. The JMP also loaned material for Architecture Week Praha 2014, an international festival of architecture and urban planning whose main exhibition on architectural icons was in the Convent of St. George at Prague Castle. As usual, most of the items on loan were from the visual art collection. The JMP continued to loan material for the successful exhibition Young Lions in a Cage: Art Groups of German-speaking Artists from Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia in the Inter-war Period (Karlovy Vary Art Gallery of in collaboration with the Gallery of Fine Arts in Cheb). Other exhibitions with items on loan from the JMP included Bohumil Kubišta in Broader Contexts (Gallery of Fine Arts in Ostrava), Josef Matička – A Gift to Litomyšl (Museum and Gallery of Litomyšl) and At the Edge of the Crowd: Art and the Social Question in the Nineteenth Century (Gallery of Southern Bohemia, Pilsen).

The JMP loaned material for one of Europe's most important art shows in 2014 – Vienna Berlin: Art of Two Metropolis: From Klimt to Grosz. After many years, however, liturgical objects predominated over visual artworks when it came to the presentation of JMP items on temporary loan abroad. Important exhibits from the JMP were also on display in the exhibition The First Europeans at the Jewish Museum of Hohenems and in the Snip it! exhibition at the Jewish Museum of Berlin. The long-term loan of original children's drawings from Terezín at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington continued, as did the long-term loan of liturgical objects in the permanent exhibitions of the Memorial Scrolls Trust in London and the Jewish Museum of Berlin. The JMP's exhibition of copies of Terezín children's drawings – The Children's Story: Children's Drawings from Terezín, 1943–1944 – was loaned to two European institutions in 2014. In the first half of 2014, the exhibition was on display at the Jewish Museum of Bologna, which – with JMP approval – also arranged for a selection of the drawings to be shown at the famous Bologna Children's Book Fair, along with a presentation of the Italian version of the book I have not seen a butterfly around here. In addition, arrangements were made for the newly established Children's War Museum in the UK, in association with several other British institutions and schools, to exhibit prints of the children's drawings.

In 2014, the JMP issued 155 permissions for the use of JMP materials in books and magazines and for publicity and study purposes, as well as for taking photos and filming at sites overseen by the JMP.

#### **b) Not-for-profit sector, information, consultation and media**

Also of great importance was the JMP's co-operation with institutions and not-for-profit organizations in the educational and cultural field.

The JMP's expert staff provided necessary information and consultation (in person and in writing) for the work of other institutions and specialists in various areas, for the renovation of heritage sites and for the preparation of exhibitions across the Czech Republic. As in previous years, the JMP director Leo Pavlát provided expert opinions for textbooks applying for an endorsement from the Czech Ministry of Education and commented on issues relating to antisemitism for the media and for the internal requirements of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic. In the media and for the internal requirements of the Federation of Jewish Communities, moreover, Leo Pavlát provided comments on issues relating to antisemitism and the Middle East conflict. Michal Frankl and Jana Šplíchalová also appeared in the media to discuss topics relating to the history of Bohemian and Moravian Jews and the Shoah. On the 4th of June, Israeli Television broadcast a documentary on the Jewish past and present in Bohemia and Moravia, which was made with contributions from Leo Pavlát and was partly shot in the JMP.

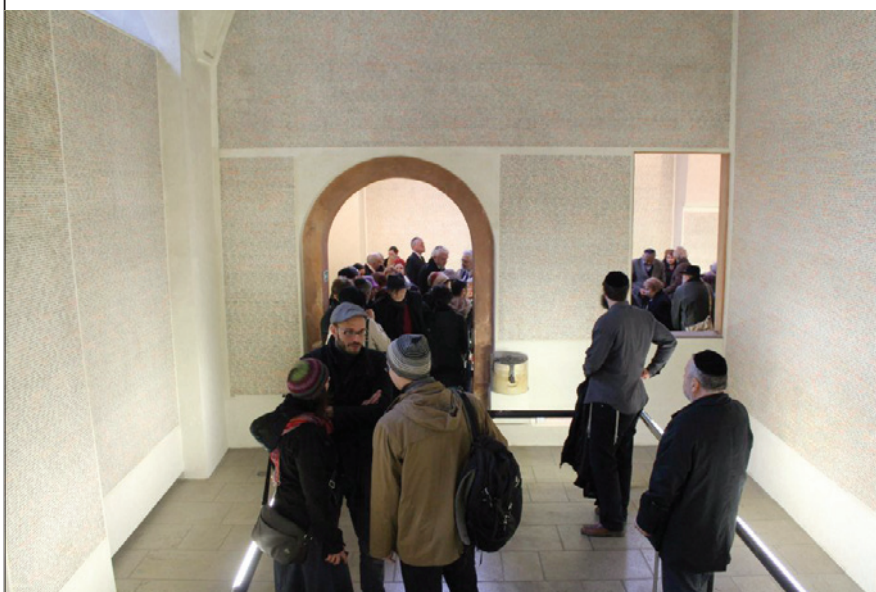
#### **c) Involvement in other projects**

In 2014, the JMP took part in several events that were held in collaboration with other institutions.

As usual, the JMP also focused its attention on the public commemoration of the Shoah. On the 27th of January, it hosted a special concert at the Spanish Synagogue to mark the International Holocaust Remembrance Day (see Section 11b).

March 2014 marked the the 70th anniversary of the extermination of the inmates of the Terezín Family Camp in the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau. In association with other partners, the JMP prepared a commemorative programme for the whole year. The focal point of the commemorative programme in March was a concert in the Spanish Synagogue on the evening of 8th March and a memorial ceremony in the Pinkas Synagogue memorial to the victims of the Shoah from Bohemia

Memorial ceremony in the Pinkas Synagogue





and Moravia on the morning of 9th March, which was organized by the Terezín Initiative Institute in collaboration with JMP. Members of the public had free access to the Pinkas Synagogue on the day of the memorial ceremony, and the museum's experts were on hand to acquaint visitors with the history of the synagogue memorial. Staff and volunteers helped people search for the names of murdered Jews in the museum's Database of Holocaust Victims, in the Terezín Memorial Book and on the walls of the synagogue memorial. Visitors also had the opportunity to see the exhibition Truth and Lies: Filming in the Ghetto Terezín, 1942–1945 at the JMP's Robert Guttman Gallery where guided tours were provided by the exhibition curator. In addition, the museum's Department for Education and Culture hosted a public meeting and discussion with survivors of the Terezín Family Camp. Both Czech Radio and Czech Television provided considerable information about the events being held as part of the JMP's commemorative programme.

In collaboration with the USC Shoah Foundation, the JMP carried out a project entitled "The Memorial in the Pinkas Synagogue: Towards a Shared Culture of Remembrance." This project was supported by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).

For several years, the JMP's Department for Education and Culture has been involved with the Crocus Project, which is organized by the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland (HETI). The aim of this project is to involve pupils aged 11 years and over in a symbolic commemoration of the child victims of the Holocaust. HETI provides schools with yellow crocus bulbs, as well as work materials and teaching aids free of charge. Each participating school from a particular European country then works on the project in its own individual way. Under the supervision of their history teacher, pupils plant the crocus bulbs at the start of the school year in autumn, so that they come into bloom around the 27th of January – to coincide with International Holocaust Memorial Day. The yellow flowers symbolically commemorate the yellow Stars of David that Jewish children were forced to wear under Nazi rule. In 2014, the JMP introduced the project to almost 80 classes in Czech schools.

In 2014, the JMP was involved as a partner in the public reading of the names of Shoah victims from Bohemia and Moravia, which is organized each year by the Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH) and the Terezín Initiative Institute. This commemorative event was held at Náměstí Míru (Peace Square) in Prague on the 28th of April – Yom Ha-Shoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), which marks the anniversary of the beginning of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising (19th April – 16th May 1943).

On 4th–7th May 2014, 150 Jewish women from 28 different countries convened at the Prague Intercontinental Hotel for the 22nd International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW) Quadrennial Convention. The JMP arranged for the participants to visit its exhibitions and to see a performance of the Feigele children's theatre group in the Spanish Synagogue.

As usual, the JMP took part in Prague's annual Museum Night, now in its 11th year. It was held on Saturday 14th June between 10 p.m. and 1 a.m. Free access was provided to the exhibitions in the Klausen and Spanish synagogues, attracting up to 2,700 visitors. In addition to regular guided tours and a children's programme, the JMP provided special tours for the hard of hearing, which were particularly well received.

Organized by the JMP in co-operation with the Czech Association of Museums and Galleries, a one-day seminar for museum and gallery staff on the topic of the acquisition and de-acquisition activities of museums and galleries was held on the 20th of June 2014 to coincide with the exhibition The Story Continues: Acquisitions in the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 1994–2014. Forty-four museum professionals from throughout the Czech Republic came together to discuss theoretical and practical issues concerning the building of museum collections, the selection and evaluation of collection objects, and active work on museum collections, including their refining through a process of



de-acquisition. Representing the JMP, Michael Sidenberg gave a paper on the importance of provenance research in the acquisition of new artefacts and Dana Veselská summarized the results of the JMP's acquisition and de-acquisition activities over the last two decades.

On 6th–14th September 2014, the JMP – as in previous years – became involved in the European Heritage Days, during which it provided free access to its exhibition in the Robert Guttmann Gallery, *The Orient in Bohemia? Jewish Refugees during the First World War*.

In September 2014, the JMP supported the 23rd Saint Wenceslas Celebrations, an international festival of sacred music held by the Society for Spiritual Music. On the 23rd of September, "Songs from Silence" were heard in the Spanish Synagogue. This is a unique Slovak-Czech music project featuring songs of longing, hope and love that have been collected throughout Europe. These are some of the songs that were written on the walls of concentration camp barracks and preserved in the memory of Holocaust survivors. They were performed by The Hope Gospel Singers, the vocal group VOX and the chamber orchestra ZOE Bratislava.

The JMP added its digitized art collections to the Google Art Project ([www.googleartproject.com](http://www.googleartproject.com)) in 2014. Throughout the world, visitors online can now take a virtual tour of the museum's rare exhibits.

Throughout the year, the JMP's expert staff provided information to the Czech and foreign media and prepared background documents for comprehensive journalistic material. The JMP's representatives (director Leo Pavlát and deputy director Michal Frankl) also appeared in the media.



# 14

## Maintenance and reconstruction

The JMP's Technical Operations Department oversaw the management and maintenance of all of its sites, including the operation of various integrated technical facilities.

This work involved maintenance, repairs and reconstruction work on its buildings and technical facilities, arranging necessary service and inspection work, maintaining and developing the integrated security system, maintaining all greenery in the Old Jewish Cemetery and in the area in front of the Maisel Synagogue. In addition, it undertook checks on compliance with obligations relating to fire protection and security regulations and to safety and health at work, and for the subletting of space in its exhibition and commercial space, and arranged for the cleaning of its properties. The Technical Operations Department was also involved in outsourcing the JMP's IT facilities.

One of the JMP's largest building projects in 2014 was the complete refurbishment of the ground-floor property at Maiselova 15 in the centre of Prague for the JMP's new Information and Reservation Centre (designed by the architect Jakub Tejkl). New service agreements were arranged for the operation of the building technical facilities here – measurement and regulation, air-conditioning, cooling, gas boiler and heating system, automatic door servicing, IT servicing, security system servicing, elevator servicing, toilet servicing and cleaning services.

After the Reservation Centre had relocated from the Klausen Synagogue to the newly refurbished property in Maiselova Street, the souvenir shop on the ground floor of the Klausen Synagogue was extended (after minor building and interior alterations had been made).

Another building project of major importance and scope was the refurbishment of the Maisel Synagogue, which followed on from two years of preparatory and design work. The synagogue was closed to the public in April and the previous exhibition was then deinstalled. Protective boarding was put up in the galleries and the chandeliers were taken down for restoration. The tender for the main building

Reconstruction of the Maisel Synagogue



contractor (based on plans drawn up by the architect H. Fetterle) was won by the joint-stock company Konsit, with which a work contract was signed on the 15th of April. The building site was handed over to Konsit on the 30th of April and the subsequent work was carried out to plan. The building, installation and restoration work was carried out in close collaboration with Prague City Hall's heritage protection staff and was completed by the end of 2014. The display cases and audiovisual elements were then installed, the final touches were made and comprehensive checks were carried out. The property was approved for use on the 19th of March 2015 and was officially handed over on the 13th of April 2015.

Work was completed on the building of a storage area for chemicals and hazardous waste in the basement of the JMP's administrative building. Operational and fire safety regulations were drawn up and the storage area was handed over to the user departments.

In 2014, the problem with regard to the approaching expiration of the shelf life of the fire protective coatings for the steel structures in the JMP's archives and depositories at Smíchov Synagogue was successfully dealt with technically and legally. The most appropriate solution turned out to be the installation of fixed fire extinguishing equipment, which will improve fire safety for these areas and for the collections and archival materials that are kept there. At the beginning of November, work began on the installation of fixed fire extinguishing equipment using Inergen (IG 541), which the JMP's technical staff regard to be the most appropriate fire extinguishing agent with regard to eliminating damage to collection objects and archival materials in the event of fire. The plans for the project were drawn up by the architectural practice Znamení čtyř – architekti, s.r.o. and were approved by the local building authority on the 22nd of October 2014. Ten firms with the necessary qualifications were contacted to submit proposals for the tender. The winning bid was put in by SIEZA s.r.o., with which a work contract was signed on the 30th of October. The fixed fire extinguishing equipment was successfully approved for use on the 31st of March 2015 and the system was put into operation on the 13th of April 2015.

Due to the unsuitable technical state of the JMP's textile depository in the synagogue at Golčův Jeníkov, discussions were held to explore the options of building a new depository that would meet the necessary safety, spatial, structural and climatic requirements. On the basis of the most appropriate solution provided by the company Gepard Living a.s., it was decided to build a new textile depository in the Stodůlky district of Prague. A memorandum of agreement was subsequently signed with Gepard Living a.s. in June 2014. The JMP commissioned an architectural study, which was subsequently approved after all the relevant considerations and comments had been taken on board. A letter of intent for a lease agreement was concluded on the basis of the memorandum and the architectural study. The lease was signed in February 2015.

In January 2014, the properties at the Jewish cemetery in Fibichova Street, Prague 3, were officially handed over to the Prague Jewish Community's property management company Matana. All the necessary contractual transfers of rights and obligations were arranged.

The JMP's Technical Operations Department's other activities in 2014 included the following: restoring stucco plasterwork and removing damage from the painted walls of the Spanish Synagogue; repairing plasterwork and paintings on the interior and exterior of the Pinkas Synagogue; repairing the stone jambs and selected windows, sealing all the window sashes and repairing the heating in the Ceremonial Hall; repairing and replacing damaged pantiles on the supporting and perimeter walls of the Old Jewish Cemetery; replacing the central equipment for measuring and regulating the temperature and humidity in the Pinkas Synagogue depositories; installing and maintaining self-regulating heating cables in the gutters and drainpipes at the Pinkas Synagogue for frost protection; carrying out repairs to basement areas damaged by heavy rain in May; overhauling the cooling system for the server room in the JMP's administrative building. As part of the "Tree Care in the Old Jewish Cemetery" project, the

condition of the trees was checked and adjusted in the autumn and a proposal was made for applying cultivation measures

Complete IT services – including minor repairs, supplementing or replacement of existing equipment – were provided to the JMP on the basis of an agreement with the IT company TREND-IT, s.r.o. The JMP purchased the relevant software licences, renewed its ESET anti-virus licence for another year and, where necessary, replaced or supplemented the uninterruptible power supply (UPS) for the reliable running of its servers.

The Technical Operations Department also undertook the required reviews and checks of the JMP's technical and electrical facilities, elevators, wheelchair ramps, and security and fire protection systems.

In the area of workplace health and safety, the JMP undertook all the necessary checks on its buildings and facilities. New staff and fire safety managers underwent the relevant training in the areas of fire protection and health & safety at work. Occupational health doctors carried out an inspection of the JMP's workplaces and delivered a positive opinion with regard to its occupational health, safety and hygiene conditions. There were no accidents or emergencies at the JMP's workplace in 2014.



# 15

## Investments

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Investment projects in 2014 mainly involved reconstruction work – setting up the new Information and Reservation Centre, building a storage area for chemicals and hazardous waste in the administrative building, refurbishing the Maisel Synagogue, installing fixed fire extinguishing equipment and reconstructing the depositories in the Smíchov Synagogue – and activities relating to the creation of a new website. IT investments included setting up an IT office in the basement of the Information and Reservation Centre and replacing the multifunctional photocopiers on the ground floor of the administrative building.



# 16

## Grants and donations

In 2014, the JMP filed 18 grant/subsidy applications, of which seven were accepted and six were rejected. Five of the applications have not yet been decided.

In 2014, the JMP received subsidy support of CZK 2,151,786 and grant support of CZK 3,076,423. CZK 2,020,482 of the latter amount was carried over to the next few years as this was provided by multi-annual funding. In total, therefore, the JMP received CZK 3,207,727 in grant and subsidy support for 2014.

The following institutions in the Czech Republic provided considerable support for the JMP's activities in 2014:

- The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports – for the “Jews, History and Culture” series of seminars for teachers
- The City of Prague – for the “Cinegogue 2014” project
- The Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH) – for the restoration of tombstones, the recording of interviews with Shoah survivors, and the Sunday workshops for children
- The Czech-German Future Fund – for the exhibition The Orient in Bohemia? Jewish Refugees during the First World War
- The Prague Jewish Community Foundation – for the exhibitions The Story Continues: Acquisitions in the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 1994–2014 and The Orient in Bohemia? Jewish Refugees during the First World War; and for the JMP's paper restoration workshop

The following institutions abroad provided considerable support for the JMP's activities in 2014:

- The Rothschild Foundation Europe – for the refurbishment of the Maisel Synagogue and the preparation of a new permanent exhibition there; and for the “Yerusha” project
- The Claims Conference – for the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and for the “Borders of Memory” project
- The European Commission Framework Programme 7 – for European Holocaust Research Infrastructure
- The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance – for a project for teachers and journalists that focuses on the Terezín Family Camp and the Pinkas Synagogue Shoah Memorial.





# 17

## Finances

The JMP's total revenues for 2014 were up by CZK 2,494,600 (a rise of 1.5%) on last year. This was mainly a result of an increase in visitor numbers – 38,959 more than in 2013 (a rise of 7.2%) – which meant that receipts from ticket sales were CZK 8,769,300 higher than the previous year (a rise of 6.25%). In addition, receipts for other services grew by CZK 530,400 (a rise of 18.33%). By contrast, there was less income from rental properties, the sale of goods, donations, subsidies and other receipts.

Expenses were down CZK 6,537,500 (a drop of 4.47%) compared to last year, which was mainly due to a decline in income from grants. Costs amounting to CZK 4,238,500 were covered by grants. Other expense items were reduced by CZK 8,062,700, which was higher than planned.

Some costs were higher than planned primarily as a result of expenses relating to grants that were obtained subsequently. After deducting the costs covered by grants, however, only one budgeted amount was exceeded – Other Expenses. The item includes the net value of the previous exhibition in the Maisel Synagogue, which had to be removed prior to the building's refurbishment.

Unplanned savings were made primarily on the cost of electricity, water and gas (down CZK 768,100 – a 16.36% reduction), as well as repairs and maintenance (down CZK 1,158,600 – a 31.55% reduction) and other services (down CZK 1,629,900 – a 10.14% reduction). In addition, wage costs were reduced by CZK 3,275,000 (down 7.42%) and other personnel costs were reduced by CZK 309,300 (down 16.29%). Social security and health insurance costs were also reduced – by CZK 1,606,800 (down 10.26%).

The JMP's financial results for 2014 were highly favourable with gross profit of CZK 28,898,375.74 and net profit of CZK 22,921,775.74 (after paying CZK 5,976,600 in tax). Net profit was up by CZK 6,759,357.48 year-on-year.

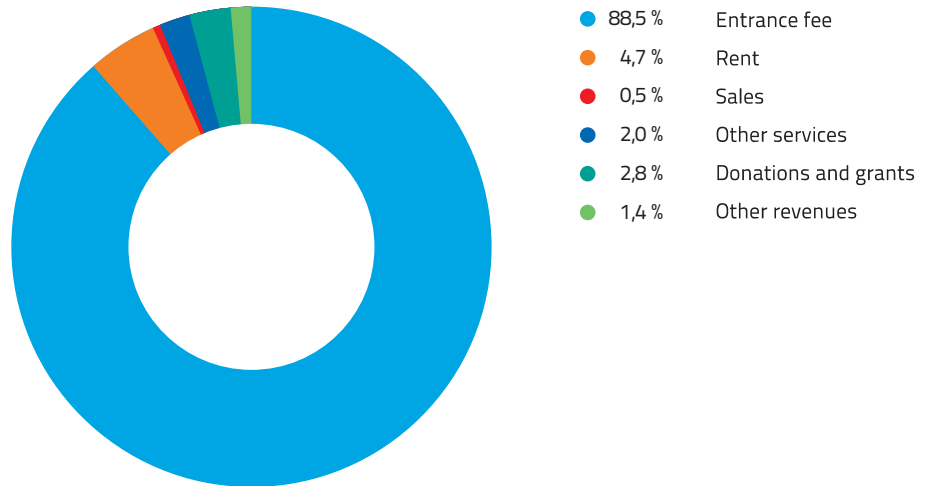
Of the JMP's total expenses, 11,86% was spent on scientific work, of which 83,48 % was covered by the museum's own sources and 16,52 % came from gifts and donations. The majority of the gifts and donations came from private donors. The museum did not receive any subsidy from the state budget, and 15,63 % of the museum's total science spend was covered by EU funding.

Prague, 30th May 2015

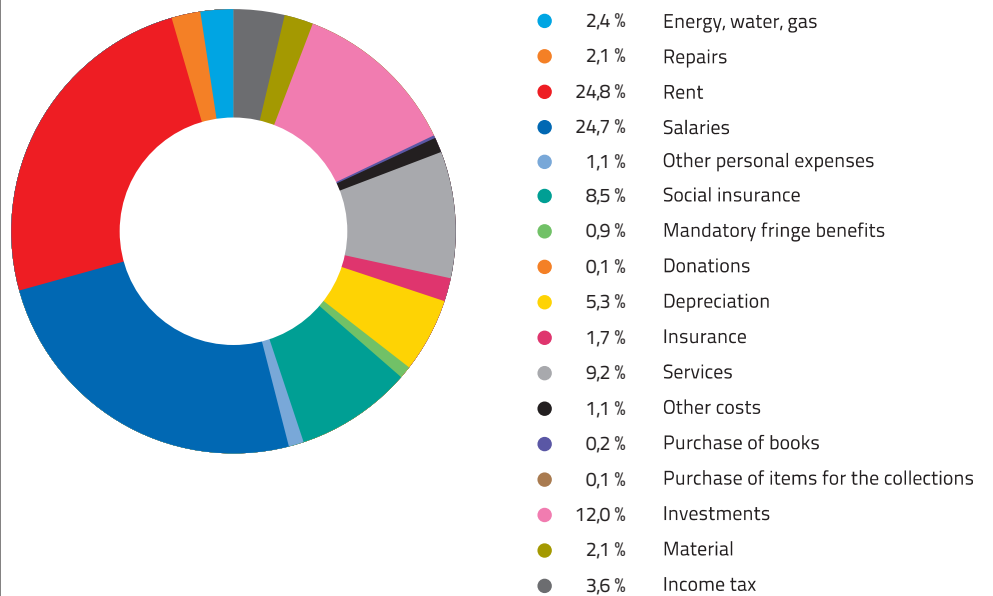
Leo Pavlát  
Director, Jewish Museum in Prague

## Appendix 1 – 2014 budget implementation

The Jewish Museum in Prague revenue sources (2014)



Expenses of The Jewish Museum in Prague (2014)



## Appendix 2 – Profit and loss statement ('000 CZK)

	As of 31 December 2013	As of 31 December 2014
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>165,926</b>	<b>168,424</b>
Sales of goods and services	11,410	12,250
Entrance fees	140,275	149,045
Subsidies	11,249	3,807
Recognition of provisions	0	0
Other revenues	2,992	3,322
<b>OPERATING COSTS</b>	<b>146,063</b>	<b>139,526</b>
Expenditures on realized sales	71,534	67,627
Personnel costs	62,276	58,173
Depreciation	7,841	8,987
Other operating costs and provisions	4,412	4,739
<b>INCOME TAX</b>	<b>3,701</b>	<b>5,976</b>
<b>RESULT</b>	<b>16,162</b>	<b>22,922</b>

## Appendix 3 – Balance sheet ('000 CZK)

	As of 31 Dec 2013	As of 31 Dec 2014
<b>PERMANENT ASSETS</b>	<b>116 908</b>	<b>133 645</b>
Intangible fixed assets	973	1 845
Tangible fixed assets	115 935	131 800
Financial investments	0	0
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>200 697</b>	<b>206 275</b>
Inventories	7 689	8 210
Receivables	8 187	9 270
Financial assets	181 888	185 946
OTHER ASSETS	2 933	2 849
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>317 605</b>	<b>339 920</b>
<b>OWN SOURCES</b>	<b>297 365</b>	<b>317 742</b>
Funds	281 203	294 820
Financial results in current accounting period	16 162	22 922
<b>EXTERNAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>20 240</b>	<b>22 178</b>
Short-term commitments	17 764	19 768
Provisions	0	0
OTHER LIABILITIES	2 476	2 410
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>317 605</b>	<b>339 920</b>

## Appendix 4 – Staff structure

In accordance with its organisation manual, the JMP comprised eight departments in 2014. As of the end of 2014, it had 135 employees, including eleven on maternity leave and nine whose salaries are fully covered by grants. The average number of employees employed by the JMP in 2014 was 136 and the number of full time equivalent employees was 123.

Director	1
Research and specialist staff, including restoration staff	52
Education and culture staff	9
Staff in charge of the maintenance, repairs, refurbishment and administration of buildings and cemeteries	4
Publicity and exhibition staff	4
Reservation Centre staff	3
Administrative staff	4
Economic staff, including exhibition ticket sellers	13
Security staff and custodians	46

Average monthly salary for JMP staff in 2014: CZK 24,796.

## Appendix 5 – Building repairs and reconstruction ('000 CZK)

Building	1995–2014
Spanish Synagogue	34,270
Administration building in Jáchymova st.	3,215
Maisel Synagogue	19,109
Pinkas Synagogue	15,439
Ceremonial Hall	3,121
Klausen Synagogue	9,721
Depository of textiles	4,472
New Administration and Research Centre	98,584
Department for Education and Culture, Information and Reservation centre	17,406
Smíchov Synagogue	73,302
Brandýs Synagogue	855
Depository of books Spořilov	210
Jewish Cemetery - Fibichova Pgue 3	11,980
Old Jewish Cemetery	12,570
<b>Total</b>	<b>304,254</b>





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