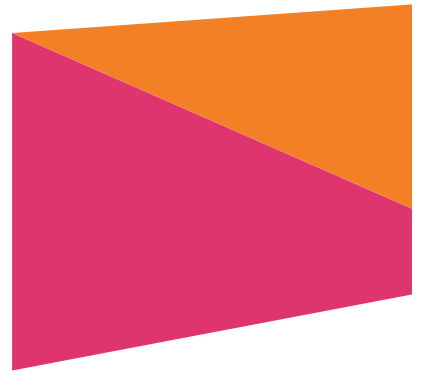




# Jewish Museum in Prague 2015 Annual Report



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# 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

Maisel Synagogue



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 2015:

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

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

**Eva Sedláková** (Jewish Community in Prague) – until 12 February 2015

**Jan Munk** (Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic) – from 16 March 2015

**Jiří Löwy** (Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic)

**Petr Svojanovský** (Czech Ministry of Culture) – until 31 May 2015

**Pavel Hlubuček** (Czech Ministry of Culture) – from 1 June 2015

The JMP's control body is the Supervisory Board, which comprised the following members in 2015:

**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 2015. Minutes were taken at each meeting in the presence of a lawyer.

The JMP director in 2015 was Leo Pavlát.



# 2

## Basic information about the JMP

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

- Administrative building, U Staré školy 1/3, Prague 1: JMP administration, specialist workplaces, depositories, Multimedia Centre, café, Robert Guttmann Gallery (venue for temporary exhibitions).
- Maisel Synagogue: (in the main nave) new permanent exhibition *Jews in the Bohemian Lands, 10th–18th Century*, with 169 originals, facsimiles and copies on display. Open from 30 June 2015.
- 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 buildings; 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 and visitor services

Total number of visitors			
		Adults	Children
January	23 929	16 954	6 975
February	28 549	17 422	11 127
March	53 833	25 245	28 588
April	61 600	39 723	21 877
May	56 546	45 303	11 242
June	56 790	42 356	14 434
July	66 594	46 804	19 790
August	77 138	57 452	19 686
September	57 477	43 073	14 404
October	60 776	45 707	15 069
November	36 362	28 176	8 186
December	49 533	36 810	12 723
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>629 126</b>	<b>445 025</b>	<b>184 101</b>

In 2015 the JMP saw an 8.48% increase in visitor numbers – 49,166 more than the previous year. This was despite the fact that one of the sites it oversees – the Maisel Synagogue – was closed for reconstruction until the end of June. The opening of the fully reconstructed Maisel Synagogue with a new permanent exhibition, *Jews in the Bohemian Lands, 10th–18th Century*, was the JMP's central event of the year.

Drawing on its tried-and-tested methods, the JMP developed its activities with the aim of improving visitor services. There was an increase in the sale of tickets for a tour of the JMP and the Old-New Synagogue; this option was particularly popular with local people on family visits, taking advantage of the discount offered in the "Culture Against Antisemitism" programme (the Prague Jewish Town tour).

The JMP continued to provide discounted tickets for Pražská plynárenská's loyalty card programme, as well as for Prague City Pass and Opencard holders. The JMP's inclusion in the Prague Card programme once again proved beneficial, attracting more than 30,000 visitors.

The JMP's new Information and Reservation Centre (Maiselova 15, Prague 1) has significantly contributed to increasing visitor numbers and is becoming a key starting point for the museum's tours.

Via its Department for Education and Culture, the JMP continued to provide considerable discounts to school groups visiting the JMP in 2015. The activities of the Society of Friends of the Jewish Museum in Prague also helped to promote the JMP.

The 2015 TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence was awarded to the JMP and, separately, to the Pinkas and Spanish synagogues. Founded in 2010, the Certificate of Excellence award honours tourist attractions and destinations that consistently achieve outstanding reviews on TripAdvisor from travellers around the world. The TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence can be applied for by any organization that

has been listed on TripAdvisor for at least 12 months and has maintained a rating of at least 4 out of 5 points. The JMP scored 4 out of 5; the Spanish and Pinkas synagogues had an overall rating of 4.5. The profiles of the JMP and the Spanish Synagogue also received a Travelers' Choice award, making the list of the world's most popular destinations.

After launching a new website at [www.jewishmuseum.cz](http://www.jewishmuseum.cz) at the end of 2014, the JMP produced ten promotional videos about its exhibitions and activities, which can be seen on its new YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZrtwb3aubXq0new6Rz7FzQ>). The channel features virtual tours of the Klausen, Maisel, Pinkas and Spanish synagogues, the Ceremonial Hall and the Old Jewish Cemetery, as well as videos on the JMP's publication and conservation work, the Robert Guttman Gallery and on its activities in general.





# 4

## Organizational structure and staff

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In accordance with its organisational structure, the JMP comprised eight departments in 2015. The annual average number of employees for 2015 was 139 (rounded up from 138.8) – including seven whose salaries were fully covered by grants and six on maternity leave. As of the end of 2015, the JMP had 139 employees; the number of full time equivalent employees was 130 (rounded up from 129.8).

The staff structure in 2015 was as follows: director, security staff and custodians – 50, research and specialist staff (including conservators/restorers) – 50, economic staff (including exhibition ticket sellers) – 12, educational and cultural staff – 9, staff responsible for the maintenance, repair, reconstruction and management of the properties overseen by the JMP – 4, administrative staff – 4, publicity and exhibition staff – 6, Information and Reservation Centre – 3.

In the course of the year, 183 persons rendered their services to the JMP on a contractual basis (work agreements, agreements for the performance of work assignments, author contracts)

In 2015 the average monthly wage of JMP staff was CZK 24,170. The average monthly gross wage in the Czech Republic was CZK 28,152; the average monthly gross wage in Prague was CZK 35,385.



# 5

## Exhibitions

### a) Exhibitions at the Robert Guttman Gallery

Three exhibitions were held at the JMP's Robert Guttman Gallery (at U Staré školy 3, Prague 1) in 2015.

The exhibition *The Orient in Bohemia? Jewish Refugees during the First World War*, which reflected on the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, was on view until 1 February 2015. During the First World War, hundreds of thousands of people fled from destroyed 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 whether and how 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 illustrate how the local population dealt with this difference and reveal the prejudices against Jewish refugees. The exhibition also featured items from the Jewish Museum's visual arts collection, which further document the response to the Jewish refugees living in Bohemia. The exhibition was conceived and put together by Michal Frankl, Jan Wittenberg and Wolfgang Schellenbacher. It was held with financial support from the Czech-German Future Fund and the Jewish Museum in Prague Foundation. It was seen by 9,664 visitors.

The exhibition *Shattered Hopes: Postwar Czechoslovakia as a Crossroads of Jewish Life* was on view from 26 February until 23 August 2015. It was curated by the documentary film-maker Martin Šmok (USC Shoah Foundation). The defeat of Hitler's Germany and the end of the Second World War in Europe also brought an end to the genocide of people who had been designated as Jews or Jewish "Mischlinge" on the basis of laws that were in force in territories under the control of Nazi Germany and its allies. Survivors from Czechoslovakia gradually returned home to start a new life. This exhibition drew attention to little-known aspects of the post-war history of Czechoslovakia, focusing on the return of concentration camp survivors and the migration of tens of thousands of Jewish refugees across the country. It followed on thematically from the previous exhibition, *The Orient in Bohemia? Jewish Refugees during the First World War*, which described the twentieth century as an era of refugees. Among the items on display were unique documents and photographs that show the revival of religious life in Bohemia immediately after the Second World War. There were also video recordings of interviews with people who recollect this era. The exhibition was seen by 13,455 visitors, becoming the most visited show ever at the gallery.

The exhibition *The Missing Images: Eugeen van Mieghem and the Jewish Emigrants to the New World* was on view from 10 September until 31 December. This, the JMP's third exhibition on the refugee phenomenon focused on the emigration of millions of people from Eastern Europe to America

Opening of The Missing Images  
exhibition

at the end of the 19th century and the start of the 20th. One of the main focal points of this emigration was the port of Antwerp and the Belgian shipping company Red Star Line, which transported about 2.4 million Eastern European emigrants to the New World between 1873 and 1934. Among them were hundreds of thousands of Jews who were fleeing poverty, oppression and persecution. Between 1881 and 1914, more than two and a half million Jews emigrated from Eastern Europe and Russia, and another million left Europe between 1918 and 1939. This exodus was depicted by the painter Eugeen Van Mieghem (1875–1930), who was born and lived his whole life in Antwerp. In addition to 50 drawings and paintings by Van Mieghem, the exhibition also featured Red Star Line documents and



period photographs of the Antwerp harbour. The exhibition was organized in cooperation with the Eugeen Van Mieghem Foundation and the Red Star Line Museum in Antwerp. Financial support was received from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in the Czech Republic and the General Representative of the Government of Flanders in the Czech Republic. It was held under the auspices of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to the Czech Republic, Françoise Gustin. The exhibition was seen by 6,618 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. Five exhibitions were held in Prague. Five exhibitions were held at the Prague office (Maiselova 15, Prague 1): *TLV24* – photography by Pavlína Schultz; *Memory, Remembering, Commemoration* – work by participants of the Terezín Memorial's 16th art competition; *Mazel Tov* – photography by Jindřich Buxbaum, featuring two Orthodox Jewish weddings in Kiev; *Jiří Winter The Known and The Unknown* – less well-known works by Jiří Neprakta with focus on Jewish topics; *The Disappeared Jewish Trail* – photography by Libor Cabák, depicting Jewish sites in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia that have either disappeared or been preserved.

Ten exhibitions were held at the Brno office of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture (at the Brno Jewish Community Building): an overview of pupils' winning entries in Terezín Memorial's art competition *Memory, Remembering, Commemoration*; *The Return of Hassidim to Mikulov* – black and white photography by Jindřich Buxbaum; *The Testimony of Terezín Walls* – photography by Richard Homola; *Journeys and Memories* – tapestries and paintings by Hana Langová-Vepřeková, a member of the Brno Jewish Community; *Children of the Holocaust* – photography by Petr Daniel;

*On the Trail of Rabbi Neuda* – emotional photography from the workshop of the Olomouc Home for Children and Young People; *Simply: One Soul* – paintings by Eva Zahradníková; *Routes of Disappearance: Jewish and Roma Memory of Transnistria* – a new touring exhibition; *Rabbi Feder: Life and Work*; *Photographic Images from the Tugendhat Villa* – photographs by Libor Teplý.

#### c) Online exhibitions

Sir Nicholas Winton, who organized the rescue of 669 children from Nazi persecution in 1939, died aged 106 on 1 July 2015. In honour of Sir Nicholas, the JMP put together an online exhibition, entitled *I regard the parents as the heroes*. This exhibition contains excerpts from an interview with Zuzana Marešová, who is one of “Winton’s children”, together with unique photos and documents from her family archive. The exhibition can be seen at this site:

[http://collections.jewishmuseum.cz/index.php/simpleGallery/Show/displaySet/set\\_id/128](http://collections.jewishmuseum.cz/index.php/simpleGallery/Show/displaySet/set_id/128)

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

In collaboration with the Prague City Gallery, the JMP prepared *The Auschwitz Album* exhibition, which was on view at the Prague House of Photography from 18 May until 20 September. This exhibition featured copies of all of the almost 200 photographs from the Auschwitz Album, a unique document from 1944 that depicts the systematic liquidation of Europe’s Jews. Although most of the people in the photographs are citizens of pre-war Czechoslovakia from Carpathian Ruthenia, this album has not previously been shown in the Czech Republic. The JMP provided new prints from the original glass negatives (produced in 1947) and financially supported the exhibition. The curator and author of the accompanying texts was Martin Jelínek, the head of the JMP’s Photo Archive. Several guided tours with the curator were held for the exhibition and a leaflet was published. In connection with the exhibition, a discussion was held with Serge and Beate Klarsfeld, who played a significant role in ensuring

The Auschwitz Album exhibition



that the original Auschwitz Album was handed over to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem in 1980. Serge and Beate Klarsfeld were the guests of Czech Television’s Hyde Park Special programme, part of which was devoted to the Auschwitz Album and the exhibition. The show was also accompanied by a lecture by Miroslav Petříček (Charles University, Prague), titled “The Power and Impotence of Photography”. The exhibition met with great media interest. Information about the show

was provided by, for example, Czech Television, Týden, Lidové noviny, Blesk, Deník, Prague.tv and the Travel Trade Gazette. The exhibition was seen by 4,644 visitors.

In collaboration with the Museum of the Mladá Boleslav Region, the JMP prepared the exhibition *Jewish Customs and Traditions in the Mladá Boleslav Region*, which was on view at Mladá Boleslav Castle from 26 June until 1 November. Mladá Boleslav was the first place in the Bohemian lands where, at the end of the 19th century, the local Jewish community built its own museum. In 1938 the collection included almost 500 liturgical objects, including textiles, which recalled the history of the Jewish communities in the surrounding area. During the war, in 1940–1942, the collection was transferred to Prague, where it remains in the JMP's holdings. The exhibition was seen by 3,226 visitors and attracted the interest of the regional media. The exhibition-related programmes for children and young people were also a success.

As in previous years, the JMP held touring exhibitions in collaboration with various partners. In 2015 the Prague office of the Department for Education and Culture provided 13 such exhibitions, 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* and *The Children's Story: Children's Drawings from the Terezín Ghetto*. Five other touring exhibitions dealt with topics of general interest: *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*. Also on display was *Silver Tide*, a touring exhibition of photographs by Karel Cudlín showing the life of senior citizens at the Prague Jewish community's social care facility Hagibor.

In 2015 these exhibitions were installed at 50 schools and museums in 22 towns in the Czech Republic and at three venues abroad (Germany, Slovakia, USA, Sweden).

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*. They were on display at five venues in the Czech Republic.



# 6

## Care and documentation of the collections

### a) Care of the collections

The JMP fully ensured that its collection objects, books and archival holdings were kept in optimal environmental conditions with regard to temperature, light and humidity. The JMP's conservation/restoration staff regularly checked the state of the objects in its depositories and in its permanent exhibitions, where they also took light intensity measurements. Preventative insect control was carried out within selected areas of the JMP's administrative building and depositories.

The JMP commissioned external conservators/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 2015 external specialists were commissioned to conserve or restore two items from the textile collection, three from the collection of manuscripts and genizah papers and one from the visual art collection. The historic doors to the holy ark in the Klausen Synagogue (part of the original furnishings) were also restored by external specialists.

The Textile Conservation and Restoration Studio focused mainly on the preparation of collection objects for the JMP's new permanent exhibition in the Maisel Synagogue, as well as objects for display in Mladá Boleslav. In total, 104 items from the JMP's textile collection (including Arthur Eisner's military uniform) were either conserved or restored.

The JMP's paper conservators/restorers contributed to the preparation of two exhibitions (*The Auschwitz Album* and *The Missing Images: Eugeen van Mieghem and the Jewish Emigrants to the New World*) and were also involved in the preparation of material for the new permanent exhibition in the Maisel Synagogue (8 facsimiles and extensive installation material). At the beginning of 2015, conservators/restorers collaborated with the JMP's Collections Management Department in the Smíchov depository in connection with the installation of a fixed fire-extinguishing system. Together, they relocated the JMP's entire collection of paintings (approx. 1,300 paintings). Work for the JMP's individual departments included the following: restoration of 54 items on paper, cardboard and tracing paper and minor conservation and cleaning of 696 paintings for the visual art collection; restoration of one manuscript and 71 genizah papers for the collection of manuscripts and genizah papers; restoration of seven items for the Shoah History Department; restoration of 22 books and additional treatment and conservation of 161 books for the JMP Library; restoration of six bound archival sources for the JMP Archives. Together with the curator of the collection of manuscripts and genizah papers, the paper conservators/restorers undertook a detailed survey of the collection of genizah finds from Rychnov nad Kněžnou.

The Metal Conservation and Restoration Studio conserved/restored 93 silver, brass, wooden and iron objects. It also conserved/restored collection objects for exhibitions, for loans and for the systematic digitization of the silver collection. In addition, 15 collection objects were conserved/restored and a ceremonial object was reconstructed for the JMP's new permanent exhibition in the Maisel Synagogue.

Two of the JMP's depositories were temporarily closed in 2015. After the installation of fixed fire-extinguishing equipment in the JMP's building in Prague–Smíchov, the JMP's collection of paintings was returned to its place in the first months of 2015. The depository of the collection of metal and other three-dimensional objects was re-opened after completion of the reconstruction of the Maisel Synagogue.



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, the JMP management accepted a decision to relocate the textiles to a new depository in Prague.



Twelve tombstones set in the Old Jewish Cemetery wall at the Klausen Synagogue and seven tombstones from the entire area of the cemetery were restored under the supervision of a JMP archivist (Vlastimila Hamáčková). A sandstone tomb on the Nefele mound was also restored.

#### **b) Documentation**

The Collections Management Department made out 166 issue slips for 5,645 collection objects (to be taken out of the depository and subsequently placed back in storage) in 2015. The items were taken out of storage to be digitized, restored, conserved or cleaned. In total, 2,668 items remained out of storage as of 2 February 2015 (mainly in exhibitions or on loan for exhibition purposes). Work was almost completed on the digitization of the collection of drawings and prints. The digitization of the collection of paintings was completed.

The Collections Management Department also focused on an ongoing inventory of the JMP's holdings in 2015. An inventory was made of part of the visual art collection (more than 2,220 paintings and about 350 sculptures) and – in connection with the temporary closure of the Maisel Synagogue depository – part of the collection of metal and other three-dimensional objects (approx. 3,200 objects), i.e. about 14.5% of the JMP's holdings. In addition, detailed checks were carried out on the data in the JMP's database system for storing information about objects, and preparations were made for transfer of data to the new registration system.

Three reports concerning changes to the Central Register of Collections were submitted to the Czech Ministry of Culture in 2015. In accordance with the relevant legal regulations, documents were prepared for the cataloguing of acquisitions for the year 2012, and 133 new registration numbers in the Judaica sub-collection were reported.

Information on collection objects was added to the JMP database on an ongoing basis. Work continued on the standardization and adding of data about collection objects in the CollectiveAccess system (in particular, establishing mutual links between associated objects and unifying acquisition records, etc.). Data from the previous museum and archival database system (MUDAS) was imported into CollectiveAccess, which is the primary database system. At the end 2015, information on the JMP's collection objects was made available online to the general public for a trial run.



The Collections Management Department proceeded with a review and supplementary transcription into electronic form of information contained in the so-called "German Catalogue". This project is set to continue for several years. A group of so-called "N" numbers – i.e. registration numbers of objects that were not primarily included in the JMP's holdings during the Second World War – was also converted into electronic form in 2015. In addition, departmental staff carried out a detailed review of the objects in the JMP's Auxiliary Collection and prepared their pictorial and text documentation for data transfer into the new registration system.

Following on from the project *The Story Continues*, which focused on the JMP's acquisition activities between 1994 and 2014, the issue of acquisitions was assessed in an extensive material study that was published in the journal *Judaica Bohemiae*.

The Photo Department digitized 10,736 images of collection objects, primarily from the visual art collection (8,348 images – comprehensive completion of the digitization of the paintings collection) and from the collection of manuscripts and genizah papers (1,736 images).

The Photo Department continued to digitize the JMP's archival and library materials – 6,447 images for the Shoah History Department (comprehensive digitization of its photo albums), 987 images for the Library and 752 images for the Archives). The Photo Department produced about 400 photographic images for the exhibitions *The Auschwitz Album*, *Shattered Hopes* and *The Missing Images*.

Throughout 2015 the JMP's opening shows, prominent visits and important events were photo-documented, as were building exteriors, interiors and exhibitions (1,095 images). Photo-documentation of the reconstructed Maisel Synagogue was also taken. In collaboration with the Development and PR Department, photographic images were also made for the JMP's website and for the Information and Reservation Centre. All of these photographs were later added to the CollectiveAccess database

A substantial portion of the Photo Archive's work involved dealing with requests (about 190) submitted by researchers from the Czech Republic and abroad, and providing the necessary materials (mostly in electronic form).

### c) Archives

In 2015 the overall scope of the JMP's archival work and services for the research community was impacted by the installation of a fixed fire extinguishing system in the archives building (in Prague–Smíchov). In the first quarter, archival materials were completely relocated and placed in temporary storage in the JMP's archive building and in the depositories of the Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences. All of the fonds were subsequently returned. The JMP Archives fully resumed its activities on 1 April 2015.

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 Conservation and Restoration Studio. A total of 157 archival books and 10 other books were restored in 2015. In addition, newly acquired documents were mechanically cleaned before being processed in the archives.

Archival staff focused on the re-processing of material in the archives and on the processing of five newly acquired personal papers (Monika Hanková). In addition, 30 boxes of records from 1969–1994 in the JMP's business archive were classified and arranged. An appraisal process was also carried out (M. Kurečková). Five new inventories were produced in electronic format and work was done on supporting

documents were processed for a descriptive list. The papers of Jiří Fiedler were examined in detail, a list was compiled for the handover procedure and a donation agreement was drawn up (L. Petrusová). A large collection of personal papers (more than 40 boxes of files) was disinfected in the Prague City Archives.



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 and much-in-demand material that is mainly of use for genealogical research. Six archival books (1696 images) were digitized. A digitized circumcision register, dating from 1783–1811, from the fonds of the Prague Jewish Religious Community (566 images) was made available on the JMP's website. The archivist L. Petrusová digitized and presented online copies of epitaphs from the Old Jewish Cemetery in Prostějov (410 images), as well as selected material, dating from the mid-18th century and the first half of the 19th, from the fonds of the Jewish Religious Community Mikulov (14 reference codes / 161 images). Second World War material from the fonds of the Prostějov and Slaný Jewish religious communities was prepared for digitization next year. Eight boxes of files were checked and folioed (approx. 8,000 folios)

#### d) Library

Library staff continued to focus on the cataloguing of books, journals, articles and essays. The library added 1,696 records to its electronic catalogue, which contained more than 57,511 records by the end of the year; 69,818 pieces of information about individual units were added. Journals were processed in the periodical depository at Pinkas Synagogue and 64 titles with information on the individual issues were added to the library catalogue. In addition, 117 entries on events held at the JMP's Department for Education and Culture were processed and included in the catalogue.

Since the beginning of May 2015, the JMP Library has been processing its fonds in accordance with Resource Description and Access (RDA) cataloguing rules that are binding for the Czech Republic. The most important change to the previous cataloguing rules (Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules / AACR2R) is the overall approach to the description of sources and, thereby, also a structural change to the rules. Aside from the considerable descriptive cataloguing changes, the use of authorized selection data and the creation of authorized forms of names have also changed and expanded. Library staff took part in RDA training and also completed an e-learning course, titled "Kurz 1: Printed Monographs 1 (RDA, MARC 21), Basic Course in Cataloguing in MARC21 format". In order to facilitate work, templates were produced for processing specific types of documents. In addition, changes were made to the personal, corporate and subject authority files.

The library works with the national Article Bibliography Cooperation System (the ANL database) and with the Czech Union Catalogue. In 2015 it sent 166 records of articles from the *Roš chodeš* journal to the ANL database and 1468 bibliographic records of books and 59 periodical records to the Czech Union Catalogue.

In 2015, the Library digitized complete series of the periodicals *Hickls illustrierter Volkskalender für das Jahr...* for the years 1902/1903-1938/1939 and *Služba repatriantům* [Services for Returnees] for the year 1945. In addition, the documents were made available on-line. This project received 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 326 books in the Central Register of Collections. The 'Books' sub-collection contained 2,902 titles by the end of 2015. An additional 348 volumes were registered over the course of the year. Photographs of title pages were gradually added to the book records in the electronic catalogue. More than 530 rare printed books have been documented so far in collaboration with the Photography Department.

The library's care of the collection of rare printed books continued with the restoration of six such works – two by paper restorers at the JMP, four by external restorers (with the help of funding from the Prague Jewish Community Foundation. The curator of the collection of rare printed books (S. Singerová) carried out regular checks on the condition of printed books from Bohemia and Moravia for subsequent restoration. Old printed books in the library collection were catalogued on an ongoing basis and other titles were selected for inclusion in the Central Register of Collections.

The library continued its co-operation with the Higher Technical School of Graphic Arts. The library staff and the JMP's paper conservators/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. Six volumes were repaired in this way during the year.

#### 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.

Material was acquired from family archives on an ongoing basis and was included in the relevant collections after being digitized and researched. The digitized documents were imported and processed in the CollectiveAccess database. Technical descriptions were provided for more than 6,000 items (archival materials, photographs, personal data, etc.) in the digital database.

In 2015 Shoah survivors/witnesses and their relatives and friends provided about 2,000 document folios (archival materials / photographs) on loan. This material was scanned and re-catalogued in the JMP's CollectiveAccess database. 649 folios were donated to the JMP and were subsequently digitized and stored in the CollectiveAccess database. Original materials were processed and then included in the 'Neighbours Who Disappeared' and 'Personal Papers' collections that are under preparation. In the JMP's database, a technical description was produced and English-language descriptions were provided for about 400 images from the 'Occupation' set in the collection of Shoah photographs.

The Shoah History Department continued to process its extensive archive groups and gradually made them available to the public through its online catalogue at the website <http://collections.jewishmuseum.cz/>. The collections catalogue was supplemented with information on newly acquired items. In addition, extensive alterations were made to the catalogue in order to make it more visually attractive and, in particular, to improve the function and clarity of the published information.



# 7

## Academic and research work

The JMP's scholarly 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 2015 involved interpreting and studying various collections, focusing on individual objects, archival fonds, the photo archive and library collections. 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 research work.

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 specialist activities. Five seminars were held in 2015, four of which were presentations of the research projects of prominent researchers from the USA, German and the UK.

A new books series, titled *Židé – dějiny – paměť* [Jews – History – Memory], was launched, having been put together by the JMP and the Institute for Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Sciences and published by *Lidové noviny*. The first volume in the series, Michael L. Miller's *The Jews of Moravia in the Age of Emancipation*, is the first key study to combine the cultural, social and political history of the Jews in Moravia from the beginning of the emancipation to the latter half of the 19th century. The translation of this book into Czech was made possible with support from the Rothschild Foundation Europe. The second book in the series is Michal Frankl and Miloslav Szabó's *Budování státu bez antisemitismu? Násilí, diskurz loajality a vznik Československa* [Building of State without

Antisemitism? Violence, Loyalty Discourse and the Founding of Czechoslovakia]. This study provides a comparative account of Czech and Slovak antisemitism at the end of the First World War and in the early days of inter-war Czechoslovakia. It also explores the role of anti-Jewish violence and analyzes the function of antisemitism in the period when the national state was being “built”. The study is the result of a project supported by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic (No. P410/11/2146). The JMP and the Institute for Contemporary History regularly updated the website [www.jewishhistory.cz](http://www.jewishhistory.cz), which disseminates information about research projects, conferences, workshops, book series and seminars on Jewish history. A key role in communicating with the academic community is played by the JMP’s peer-reviewed journal with impact factor *Judaica bohemiae* (see Department of Jewish History and Jewish Studies).

The strategy of supporting and improving the quality of research also involves increasing access to the archival fonds and other collection that are overseen by the JMP and by other memorial institutions in the Czech Republic. Having the largest collection relating to the Jewish history of the Czech Republic, the JMP has a central role to play in making available metadata online and in publishing digital representations of various types of collections. To this end, the JMP is active both on a national level and in major international projects. Of particular importance is the JMP’s involvement in the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (see Shoah History Department). The JMP has become involved in a new network of prominent research institutions and archives through the European Commission’s Seventh Framework Programme and, subsequently, the Horizon 2020 research programme. The JMP is also involved in the Yerusha project, which aims to create a European database of archival fonds and collections relating to Jewish history and culture (see Archives).

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. A new public user interface was provided for researchers in 2015. This interface has also been adapted to the needs of the newly published records of more than 40,000 collection objects and has been amended on the basis of user requirements.

The JMP also publishes its digital sources in connection with other projects, for example providing information on its archival fonds via the EHRI and Yerusha databases and – in a pilot project with documentation data relating to the Jews of Ostrava – via the Europeana portal with the help of *Judaica Europeana*.

Old Jewish Cemetery



The JMP (Michal Frankl) co-hosted a seminar on the digital humanities in the Czech Republic, which was held on 24 September by LINDAT/CLARIN (Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University) under the auspices of the Czech Ministry of Education. The JMP (Magdalena Sedlická and Jaroslava Vítámvášová) presented the EHRI and Yerusha projects at the seminar. Michal Frankl also contributed to the work of the Social and Human Sciences Working Group, which prepared an update of the Czech Road Maps for Large Research Infrastructures for the period 2016–2022, which was approved by the Czech Government.

### a) Collections Department

The JMP's curators focused on the following academic and research activities in 2015:

The metalwork curator Jaroslav Kuntoš focused on the supplementation and specification of cataloguing data for the JMP's collection of Torah pointers. 405 items were processed in this way by the end of 2015. The curator contributed to the preparation of the articles *Slovacika in the 'Judaica' sub-collection of the Jewish Museum in Prague* (published in the proceedings *Acta Judaica Slovaca 21/2015*) and *Acquisition Activity in the 'Judaica' Sub-collection Groups of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 1994–2014* (published in the journal *Judaica Bohemiae* L-1, 2015). He also prepared material for the revitalization of the JMP's exhibition of silver in the Winter Prayer Hall of the Spanish Synagogue, where minor changes have been prepared with regard to the structure of the exhibition and the way the items are displayed.

The visual arts curator Michaela Sidenberg undertook research in archives in the Czech Republic and other countries with regard to the collections in her care; the results of this research have been used in connection with dealing with restitution cases and with creating proposals for the JMP's new permanent exhibitions. The curator also focused on research associated with special projects under preparation – in particular the exhibition *Stranded in Shanghai: The Hongkew Ghetto Through the Eyes of Refugees and the Lens of Arthur Rothstein*, which will be held at the JMP in 2016. She also contributed to the preparation of the article *Acquisition Activity in the 'Judaica' Sub-collection Groups of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 1994–2014* (published in the journal *Judaica Bohemiae*, L-1, 2015).

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 overseen by the JMP and were previously owned by 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. The curator's work led, among other things, to the successful restitution (on 28 May) and subsequent repatriation of a Torah mantle that was put up for auction by the Kedem Auction House in Jerusalem at the beginning of 2015. The curator also mapped a collection of 22 missing artworks that were transferred from the then state-run Jewish Museum in Prague to the National Cultural Commission at the start of the 1950s on the basis of a decision of the Communist authorities and subsequently transferred to the present-day National Heritage Institute.

The curator of the collection of manuscripts and genizah papers, Lenka Uličná, contributed to the preparation of the articles *Slovacika in the 'Judaica' sub-collection of the Jewish Museum in Prague* (published in the proceedings *Acta Judaica Slovaca 21/2015*) and *Acquisition Activity in the 'Judaica' Sub-collection Groups of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 1994–2014* (published in the journal *Judaica Bohemiae* L-1, 2015). The curator also focused on the issue of genizah finds: at the international 'Methodology and Practice: Developing Jewish Libraries and Archives' course in the 'At the Source' training and development programme at the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem, L. Uličná presented a JMP genizah project connected with comprehensive research into genizah finds from



Rychnov nad Kněžnou. In October the curator took part in a course on Hebrew codicology and palaeography that was held by the Accademia Ambrosiana in Milan. L. Uličná was also involved in selecting and finding appropriate material for display at the JMP's new exhibition in the Spanish Synagogue. In addition, she focused on the languages of inscriptions on collection objects and their inclusion in the CollectiveAccess database.

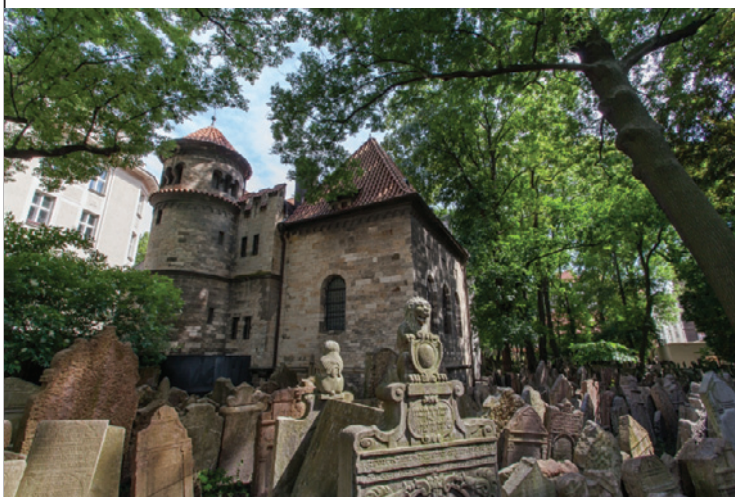
The textile curator Dana Veselská contributed to the preparation of the articles *Slovacika in the 'Judaica' sub-collection of the Jewish Museum in Prague* (published in the proceedings *Acta Judaica Slovaca 21/2015*) and *Acquisition Activity in the 'Judaica' Sub-collection Groups of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 1994–2014* (published in the journal *Judaica Bohemiae* L-1, 2015). In addition, she collaborated with the Brno Jewish Community in a selection procedure for the production of a group of textiles designed by Mark Podwal for the reconstructed Brno Synagogue. She was also involved in selecting and finding appropriate material for display at the JMP's new exhibition in the Spanish Synagogue.

The head of the Photo Archive, Martin Jelínek, prepared the exhibition *The Auschwitz Album*, which was organized by the JMP in collaboration with the Prague City Gallery and was on view at the House of Photography. Information about the exhibition was also provided in a report that was published in the December 2015 issue of the journal *Judaica Bohemiae*, L-2. The exhibition enjoyed great success. It was also provided on loan to the Jewish Museum in Stockholm. In the autumn of 2015, M. Jelínek began curatorial work on the preparation of an exhibition and accompanying activities at the Lumičre Brothers Center for Photography in Moscow.

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. Michaela Sidenberg gave a lecture titled "Against Amnesia: The Jewish Museum in Prague's Visual Art Collection as a Memory Glyph" at the international seminar *Holocaust Art: An Essential Tool for the Methodology of Constructing a Historical Narrative*, which was held by the EHRI and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem on 9–11 February. Lenka Uličná gave a lecture titled "How Medieval Jews Contributed to the History of the Czech Language" at the Department for Education and Culture in Brno in June. The head of the Collections Management Department, Magda Veselská, talked about the history of the JMP at the 'Museums and the Second World War' conference that was held by the Ústí nad Labem City Museum in October. Department member Petr Brodák took part in a conference on fire protection for cultural monuments, which was held at the National Museum in Prague in October.

The coordinator of the JMP's Conservation and Restoration Studio, Veronika Ríchnr Nauschová, prepared a lecture on Jewish textiles relating to ceremonies for a child's birth (Torah binders) for the "Textiles in the Museum" conference at the Technical Museum in Brno.

Ceremonial Hall





On 9–10 June, Petra Ptáčnicková from the Textile Conservation and Restoration Studio attended lectures at Prague Castle that were organized by the Textile Group at the Commission of Conservators and Restorers of the Association of Museums and Galleries. On 8–10 September, Klára Čechlovská from the Metal Conservation and Restoration Studio took part in a nation-wide conference organized by the Commission of Conservators and Restorers at the Association of Museums and Galleries in Pilsen. On 11 November the coordinator of the Paper Conservation and Restoration Studio, Ondřej Zatloukal, took part in a workshop on new technologies for digitizing and reconstructing destroyed and damaged cultural assets at the Goethe Institute in Prague. A student from the Prague Institute of Chemical Technology (VŠCHT) completed work experience in the Textile Conservation and Restoration Studio under the supervision of the workshop co-ordinator. Another student from this school helped out here as part of a volunteer programme. A student from the Higher School of Graphic Art (VOŠG) completed work experience in the Paper Conservation and Restoration Studio under the supervision of the workshop co-ordinator.

## b) Shoah History Department

The Shoah History Department is contributing to research projects and infrastructures in the field history, archival science and digital humanities. The aim of EHRI – the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure – (Michal Frankl, Wolfgang Schellenbacher and Magdalena Sedlická from the JMP) is to combine and provide access to information about Holocaust-related material that is dispersed across archives in various countries: as of the end of 2015, the EHRI portal provided information about 1,828 archives in 51 different countries.

Two guides through the dispersed archival material were published at the end of project in March. The Terezín Research Guide (<https://portal.ehri-project.eu/guides/terezin>) links together detailed descriptions of documents from four of the most extensive archival groups of material relating to the Terezín ghetto (including post-war material) in a database. The material is also available via interactive maps and is combined with authority records from the database of Holocaust victims.

The Jewish Councils Research Guide (<https://portal.ehri-project.eu/guides/jewishcouncil>) combines information about archival resources and collections relating to the governing councils of Jewish communities and ghettos that were controlled by the Nazis and had to take part in the persecution of Jewish inhabitants. This archival guide focuses on the history and structure of the resources of the Jewish Councils in Prague, Vienna and Budapest. In 2015 the JMP staff member Magdalena Sedlická became involved in the Jewish Councils Archives in Europe, an international project that supplements EHRI's hitherto activities and aims to provide access to digitized archival sources relating to the Jewish Councils and their activities during the Second World War.

Michal Frankl gave a presentation at the final EHRI conference in Berlin and also talked about the project at a conference (*Texte, Karten, Erschließungsmethoden. Neue Perspektiven auf frühe Holocaust- und Lagerliteratur*), on 4–5 May 2015 in Gießen, where he gave a presentation on the early documentation of the Holocaust and on the EHRI (*Frühe archivalische documentation des Holocausts und die European Holocaust Research Infrastructure*).

As of May 2015, the JMP has been involved in the second phase of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, which is supported by the European Commission as part of the Horizon 2020 programme. In this phase, the JMP is leading the EHRI work package 'New Views on Digital Archives', as part of which Michal Frankl, Magdalena Sedlická and Wolfgang Schellenbacher are preparing an online blog that analyzes documents from Holocaust archives and online editions of documents, among other things.

As part of the 'Frontier of Memory' project, which is supported by the Claims Conference, the JMP is documenting the names and fate of Jews from the border regions of Czechoslovakia – one of the last

groups of Holocaust victims from the area of what is now the Czech Republic that have so far received insufficient attention from researchers. Finding information about the members of these often large and economically important communities that were destroyed immediately after the Munich Agreement is complicated by a lack of comprehensive sources; it is necessary to painstakingly reconstruct these sources from background material acquired from many different archives in the Czech Republic and abroad.

On 30–31 March, the EHRI, Yerusha and Frontier of Memory projects were presented at a joint workshop titled “Archival Traces of Jewish History and the Holocaust in the Czech Republic”, organized by the JMP and held at the National Archives in Prague. This workshop aimed, among other things, to inform Czech archivists of international archive projects and research infrastructures, and to bring them together in discussion with their partners from major international organizations.

The topic of Jewish refugees and the history of refugee policies played an important role in 2015. In residence at the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. from September 2015, Michal Frankl – as part of his ‘Citizens of No Man’s Land’ project – analyzed the forced migration of Jews on the borders of Central Europe in 1938 and explored the connections between the policies towards Jewish refugees and the transformation of Jewish citizenship in East-Central Europe during the second half of the 1930s. Frankl presented his project at several venues: at the CEFRES Research Forum (29 April), at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (16 December) and in a public lecture at the University of Michigan (3 December). Together with Kateřina Králová from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University, Frankl gave a presentation for a program titled “Global Refugees: The Case of Jews and Greeks in 20th-Century Czechoslovakia” at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (14 December). An online edition of documents about refugees who fled from Austria to Czechoslovakia after the “Anschluss” of 1938 is being put together by Michal Frankl and Wolfgang Schellenbacher as part of a project titled “BeGrenzte Flucht”.

Michal Frankl spoke at the Beyond Camps and Forced Labour conference in London (7–9 January) with a presentation titled “Museum and Survivors’ Testimony: Representations of the Holocaust in Czech Museums and Memorials”. At the “Radikalisierung des Antisemitismus während des Ersten Weltkrieges? Antisemitische Akteure und jüdische Kriegserfahrungen im europäischen Vergleich” conference, which was hosted by the Center for Research on Antisemitism in Berlin (18–20 March), Frankl gave a presentation on the anti-Jewish views of the Czech elites at the end of the First World War. At a symposium at the Museum of West Bohemia in Pilsen (26–28 February), he gave a presentation titled “A Discourse on Jewish (Non-)Loyalty in the Shadow of the First World War.”

An important part of the department’s work involved popularizing the results of its research work by means of exhibitions. The topic of refugees and migrants in the 20th century and their tragic fate was dealt with in two exhibitions: *The Orient in Bohemia? Jewish Refugees during the First World War* and *Shattered Hopes: Postwar Czechoslovakia as a Crossroads of Jewish Life* at the JMP’s Robert Guttmann Gallery, which were put together in collaboration with the Shoah History Department. Testimonies from selected interviews in the JMP’s Oral History Collection supplemented the unique photographic exhibition *The Auschwitz Album*, which was organized by the JMP in collaboration with the Prague City Gallery. Witness testimonies were used by Pavla Hermína Neuner and Michal Frankl for the online exhibition *I regard the parents as the heroes*, which was put together in tribute to Sir Nicholas Winton in July 2015

[http://collections.jewishmuseum.cz/index.php/simpleGallery/Show/displaySet/set\\_id/128](http://collections.jewishmuseum.cz/index.php/simpleGallery/Show/displaySet/set_id/128).

Jana Šplíchalová is a member of an international collective of authors of texts for the touring exhibition *Der Vernichtungsort Maly Trostenez/The Extermination Site Maly Trostinets*, which will be on view in Minsk at the end of 2016, later moving to Berlin and other cities.

Intensive work was done with regard to recalling the fate of transports from Brno and the Terezín ghetto to the occupied territory of Belarus. Thanks to an initiative from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs in association with Brno City Hall and the Brno Jewish Community, the JMP's long-term co-operation with the non-profit organization Internationales Bildungs- und Begegnungswerk (IBB Dortmund and IBB Johannes Rau Minsk) led to the laying of a commemorative stone on the site of the destroyed Jewish cemetery in the area of the former ghetto in Minsk. For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jana Šplíchalová prepared the text and photo-documentation for a publication under preparation, titled *The Tragic Fate of Jews Deported from the Czech Lands to Belarus, 1941–1944*.

The Shoah History Department became involved in a number of events to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War; Jana Šplíchalová gave a presentation titled "The Liberation Through the Eyes of Terezín Prisoners" at a conference that was held by the Czechoslovak Legionnaires Community on 27 April 2015.

Over the course of the year, 75 interviews with Shoah survivors and witnesses, mostly from the Czech Republic, but also from the USA and Israel, were recorded for the JMP's Oral History Collection, which is overseen by Pavla Hermína Neuner. At present, the collection contains 1,389 testimonies. Through oral history, the JMP aims to chart the lives of Jews in the Czech Republic; attention is paid mainly to recording multi-generational testimonies within individual families. The acquisition of photographs and documents from the family archives of interviewees is an important component of the project. Cataloguing this material provides an opportunity to add the photographs and stories of relatives of Shoah witnesses to the names of victims in the database of the Terezín Initiative Institute. In this way, the JMP is helping to make sure that the lives of witness' families are not forgotten either.

The witness testimonies formed the basis for an article written by the curator of the collection, Pavla Hermína Neuner, titled *Borůvka Sanatorium*, which was printed in the March issue of the Prague Jewish Community's journal.

In 2015 the Shoah History Department began to co-operate with Robert B. Fried from New York, who decided to support the JMP's oral history activities as part of the From Generation To... Interview Project. For more information on this joint project, see the JMP's last newsletter of the year (<http://c.jewishmuseum.cz/files/newsletter/ZpravodajZMP4-2015.pdf>).

As in other years, the Shoah History Department prepared supporting material for a number of publicity projects and film documentaries. The fate of the German Jewish pedagogue Fredy Hirsch was explored by Dirk Kämper, the author of the book *Fredy Hirsch und die Kinder des Holocaust: Die Geschichte eines vergessenen Helden aus Deutschland*, as well as by Helga Cramer in the film documentary *Fredy Hirsch, 1936–1944* and by the Israeli director Rubi Gat in the film *Dear Fredy*. For the Czech and Israeli embassies in Bangkok, the Shoah History Department prepared a selection of children's poems with an accompanying text on the occasion of the premiere of the children's opera *Brundibár*.

The Shoah History Department prepared a number of supporting documents for the Czech Red Cross and as evidential material for issuing certificates at the request of the Czech Defence Ministry's Department for Veterans. The department also provided information relating to the fate of Shoah victims to researchers, both in writing and in person, responding to more than 700 queries. The following topics, among others, were explored for research and publication purposes: Fredy Hirsch, the Czech Family Camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau, the extermination centres in Belzec, Sobibor and Maly Trostinets, transit ghettos in the territory of the General Government, Filming in the Terezín ghetto, and the children's opera *Brundibár*.

## JUDAICA BOHEMIAE L-2



JEWISH MUSEUM IN PRAGUE 2015

### 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 L / 2015) and began editorial work on the first issue of next year's volume LI. Two meetings of the journal's editorial board took place in 2015.

A priority for the department in 2015 was the completion of the preparations for the new exhibition in the Maisel Synagogue (*Jews in the Bohemian Lands, 10th–18th Centuries*), which opened on 30 June. I. Cermanová and A. Putík finalized all the supporting documentation for the new exhibition, edited the main and additional exhibition texts (including their translations into English), completed the captions, edited their English translations and proofread all the exhibition texts. In addition, they completed all the content material for the multimedia databases of prominent Jewish communities in the Bohemian lands and of historical maps of Jewish settlements from 1727/1728, for the presentation of a famous Jewish procession from 1741, and for the presentation of selected early Hebrew manuscripts and printed books. The department also prepared content material for the exhibition's audio-stands. In collaboration with the Development and PR Department, the Department of Jewish History and Jewish Studies provided the visual material for all of the audiovisual elements and secured the necessary reproduction rights for all of the exhibits. In addition, A. Putík and I. Cermanová undertook a complete review of the work done on the audiovisual elements by contracting firms and oversaw the installation of the exhibition.

In collaboration with I. Cermanová and D. Polakovič, A. Putík put together a publication for the new exhibition, titled *The History of the Jews in the Bohemian Lands, 10th–18th Centuries*. I. Cermanová wrote a report (*Jews in the Bohemian Lands, 10th–18th Century: The Jewish Museum in Prague's New Permanent Exhibition in the Maisel Synagogue*) for the journal *Judaica Bohemiae*, 2. In collaboration with H. Fetterle, I. Cermanová wrote an article about the new exhibition for the journal *Architekt* [Architect].

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. In collaboration with L. Petrusová, D. Polakovič and A. Putík completed work on the publication *Židovský hřbitov v Brandýse nad Labem* [The Jewish Cemetery in Brandýs nad Labem], which will be published electronically in PDF format in 2016. I. Cermanová and D. Polakovič contributed texts (*Abraham Trebitsch of Mikulov and his Family, Medieval Hebrew Prison Inscription in Vysoké Mýto* and *Bibliography of Jiřina Šedinová*) for a collection of papers for the 70th birthday of J. Šedinová (Acta Universitatis Carolinae, Philosophica et Historica). D. Polakovič wrote a paper titled *A Bibliography of Jiří Fiedler* for the journal *Judaica Bohemiae*, completed an article titled *The Last Will of the Tachov Tzadik* for the proceedings *Český Les in Tachov*, and contributed to the book *Canaanite Glosses in Medieval Hebrew Manuscripts Related to the Czech Lands* (Praha: Academia, 2015). P. Kocman wrote a study titled *Die kurze Geschichte der jüdischen Gemeinde in Auspitz (Hustopeče), 1621-1651* for the journal *Judaica Bohemiae*, completed a paper on the administrative development of Jewish communities in Moravia until 1945 for the proceedings *Židé a Morava* [The Jews and Moravia] and, in collaboration with H. Teufel, published an article on relations between the nobility and Jews in Moravia in the early modern period for the publication *Šlechticův žid - žid šlechticem: židovské elity a židovská šlechta v novověku a moderní době*, [Nobleman's Jew – Noble Jew: Jewish Elites and Jewish Noblemen in the Modern Period] (Ostrava, 2015).

A. Putík carried out genealogical research into Prague Jewish families and added a further 180 names to a genealogical database that now contains entries on 14,280 people (out of a total planned number of approx. 20,000). D. Polakovič continued the documentation of Jewish cemeteries in Prague and in five rural communities. P. Kocman collaborated with the Břeclav Museum and Gallery on the

preparation of background material for a new exhibition and continued his collaboration on a project of the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe – Yerusha: Archival Traces of Jewish History in the Czech Republic.

After the tragic 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. D. Polakovič contributed to the sorting and listing of the Jiří Fiedler papers for the JMP.

In addition to routine communication with the professional and lay public and responses to queries from researchers, P. Kocman reviewed a specialist study and a thesis, and provided consultation for a Master's dissertation. P. Kocman and D. Polakovič gave eight talks and lectures at various venues across the Czech Republic.

#### 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 of Czechoslovakia and on the history of the Jewish community in the Czech lands after 1945. Under a project supported by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic (Grant Project P410/102399) V. Hamáčková, in collaboration with M. Lhotová from the Museum of North Bohemia in Liberec, published in the journal *Judaica Bohemiae* the second 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. M. Hanková wrote a paper titled "November Winds Destroyed My Happiness: Gender, Ethnicity and Geographical Displacement during and after the Shoah" for the proceedings "Women and the Holocaust: New Perspectives and Challenges" (published by Instytut Badań Literackich PAN Wydawnictwo, Warsaw 2015), which she gave at the conference "Women and the Holocaust in Central Europe: New Perspectives and Challenges" in Warsaw, 17–19 November 2011. M. Hanková continued to study and compile a detailed overview of material relating to Jewish issues in the individual fonds of the Security Services Archive (Z and 310 fonds). In collaboration with the Shoah History Department, M. Hanková arranged eight interviews with Shoah survivors/witnesses during two working visits to the USA. In addition, she negotiated the handover of archival material to be added to the Sachs-Koretz Family Papers and the Hugo Feigl Papers (additional correspondence between Hugo Feigl and Oskar Kokoschka).

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 JMP published the proceedings "Židé v Čechách 5" [The Jews in Bohemia, Vol. 5], which featured papers from a seminar that was held Teplice in October 2014.

Work continued on the two-year Yerusha project with support from the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe. In collaboration with state regional and state district archives in Bohemia and Moravia, the JMP is contributing to the creation of a database of archival fonds that contain sources relating to the Jewish history of the Sudetenland in the period between 1848 and 1938 and to the topic of Jewish political communities in Moravia. The Yerusha database will provide researchers from the Czech Republic and other countries clear information about the storage and character of sources relating to this topic. As part of the project, information about all the fonds in the JMP Archives that relate in theme to the project will be made available in English. Descriptions pertaining to 75 fonds in the JMP Archives were processed in 2015. In March, a joint workshop of the EHRI, Yerusha and the Frontier of Memory project, titled "Archival Traces of Jewish History and the Holocaust in the Czech Republic", was held at the National Archives, Prague. After the complete processing of metadata in CollectiveAccess by the end of 2016, it is anticipated that the access to the database will be provided to the public on the JMP's website.

In collaboration with the Department of Jewish History and Jewish Studies, the JMP Archives contributed to the documentation of Jewish cemeteries and to an assessment of the newly found epigraphic material. L. Petrusová continued to focus on the documentation of the Jewish cemetery in Habry. She also published a paper on the Jewish cemetery in Teplice in the proceedings of the seminar *Židé v Čechách 5* [The Jews in Bohemia, Vol. 5]. Reconstruction and restoration work at Prague's Old Jewish Cemetery was carried out under the supervision of Vlastimila Hamáčková.

Archival staff 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 ("Lost and Found, or Examples of Good and Bad Practice in the Creation of the National Archive Heritage Not Only from an Archivist's Perspective"; "Archives, Libraries and Museums in the Digital World"). Two members of staff undertook training for a new version of the archive registration programme PevA, organized by the Archive Administration and Records Management Department of the Czech Ministry of the Interior in collaboration with the Institute for Public Administration.

The JMP Archives received 156 visits from researchers in 2015; 86 researchers came to study at the archives and 1,093 register units were provided for study purposes. As in previous years, the main focus of researchers' interest was on genealogy, the history of individual Jewish communities and the documentation of heritage sites (cemeteries, synagogues). Archival staff undertook 17 literature searches and provided about 120 consultations and replies to written queries. 25 scans were processed for exhibitions, publications and research purposes. Material was provided on loan from the JMP's archival fonds for a comprehensive exhibition on the work of the architect, typographer, set designer and pedagogue Zdeněk Rossmann (1905–1984), which was organized by the Moravian Gallery in Brno. For a documentary series about sportspeople who became involved in the struggle against Nazism or were persecuted by the Nazis in the Second World War (series titled *Sporting Heroes*, broadcast by ČT Sport), the JMP Archives prepared material for the section devoted to the marathon runner Oskar Hekš. This episode also dealt with the history of the Jewish sports club Hagibor.

#### e) Library

The JMP Library had a total of 532 registered members in 2015. The Library and the Multimedia Centre received 912 research visits; other technical queries were dealt with in writing. In total, the Library provided 2,634 documents on loan, of which 1,325 were taken out. As in previous years, the Library also provided inter-library loans. Seventy documents were loaned to other libraries and 32 loans or copies of articles and essays were provided for JMP staff.

Multimedia Centre





A physical inspection of the Library's holdings was completed in 2015 with the aim of ascertaining the original ownership. In total, 2,076 books were inspected and 724 records were added to the database in 2015. Since 2001, when the project started, 99,258 have been checked in this way and 48,977 individual ownership records have been entered. Checks were completed to determine whether the Library contained books that had previously belonged to S. H. Lieben; this was done by examining the original list from the "German Catalogue" and physically checking books in the Library's holdings with corresponding titles. After completing the checks, a further 34 books were added to the original list of 355, which were identified on the basis of ownership records.

Library staff (M. Bušek and S. Singerová) contributed to putting together the new exhibition in the Maisel Synagogue. Library documents on view in this exhibition include both facsimiles and reproductions of individual pages. The show also includes a model of a Neo-Classical library as based on printed books in the Library's holdings.

Since 2012 the JMP Library has been involved in the Cooperative Creation and Utilisation of National Authority Files project. An authority file is an index containing the standardized 'authoritative' form of personal and corporate names, geographic names, document titles and subject-specific target language terminology. The above project is coordinated and guaranteed by the Department of National Name Authority Files at the Czech National Library. As a local supervisor, the JMP Library is adding new entries to the database of national authority files and is contributing to the correction of existing authority files. The JMP's cataloguer M. Kotyzová processed 57 new authority files in 2015. In November the JMP Library became directly connected to the database of national authority files, which provides daily updates of entries. At present, direct links to the national authority file for personal and corporate names can be found in the online catalogue.

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. Recordings of events held at the JMP's Department for Education and Culture can also be seen here, provided that consent has been given by the lecturers. The Reference Library is open to researchers and also offers JMP publications for sale to visitors.

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

The JMP was represented at the annual conference of the Association of European Jewish Museums, which was held in Jerusalem (M. Veselská) and at the meetings of the Association of Museums and Galleries in the Czech Republic (D. Veselská). the visual arts curator M. Sidenberg represents the JMP on the board of the European Shoah Legacy Institute. M. Veselská is also a member of a Judaica working group at the European Shoah Legacy Institute. The JMP Library is a member of the Czech Association of Library and Information Professionals (SKIP) and the Czech Association of Libraries (SDRUK). 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).

M. Frankl continued to represent 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). As in previous years, the JMP director Leo Pavlát served on the editorial board of the Academia Publishing House and P. Kocman remained active in the Society for the History of the Jews in the Czech Republic.





# 8

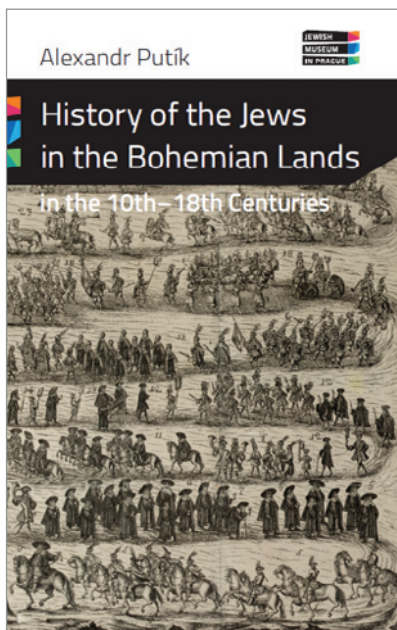
## Preparation of new exhibitions and changes to the JMP

In connection with the overall plan for the JMP's new exhibitions, preparations were completed for the new exhibition *Jews in the Bohemian Lands, 10th–18th Centuries* in the Maisel Synagogue.

The reconstruction of the Maisel Synagogue building and the alterations to its surroundings were successfully completed and officially approved on 19 March 2015. Under preparation from 2011, the exhibition was installed between April and June. It presents in a fresh way the most important phenomena that were characteristic of Jewish life in the Bohemian lands in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period. Multimedia are an important component of the exhibition, sensitively complementing the informational value of the 169 originals, facsimiles and copies on display. The most eye-catching multimedia display is a several-minute 2D virtual tour of Prague's Jewish Town as based on Langweil's famous model of Prague, which is projected onto a large screen. The exhibition also has touch screens that feature a rich variety of pictorial materials, which will enable visitors to search the museum's database for information about prominent Jewish communities and personalities, to look through rare manuscripts and printed books, and to have a detailed look at the Prague Jewish procession of 1741. Unlike the layout of the previous exhibition, the central part of the synagogue has remained an open space, so that it can be turned into a multi-functional auditorium for concerts, recitals, solo theatre performances, screenings and discussions in the evening. This new cultural space seeks to attract mostly Czech visitors. The complete refurbishment of the building has significantly improved the quality of the interior space and, thereby, also the quality of care for the collection objects on display. The curators of the new exhibition are Iveta Cermanová and Alexandr Putík. The architectural design of the exhibition and the building refurbishment was done by Hynek Fetterle, the main building contractor was the joint-stock company Konsit. The display cases and installation elements were produced and installed by the company Lotech Design. The graphic design was done by Jan Jiskra, Vladimír Vašek and the company Signpek. The content for the audiovisual elements was prepared in collaboration with the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at the Czech Technical University in Prague and the companies Deep Vision and Lunchmeat.

At its meeting of 21 October 2015, the JMP's Board of Trustees took into account the information provided by the director L. Pavlát concerning the next steps to be taken for the JMP's transformation, including its financial aspects. In contrast to the costly alterations to the Spanish Synagogue, which had originally been considered, it was decided to go ahead with less costly changes to the Pinkas Synagogue. Work began on the exhibition texts and other activities leading to certain changes to the Memorial to the Bohemian and Moravian Victims of the Shoah and its immediate vicinity. It is anticipated that work on the alterations in the building will commence in June 2017 and will be completed in late 2017/early 2018. Work on the project for a new exhibition in the Spanish Synagogue should begin in February 2018 and it is expected that the exhibition will open by June 2019. An additional project that has been planned for 2016 is the reconstruction of the rooms of the Department for Education and Culture (at Maiselova 15), to make them more presentable and more usable for cultural programmes.

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. Forty-five volunteers – mostly students – got involved mainly by helping out at cultural events and in the Pinkas Synagogue Memorial to the Bohemian and Moravian Victims of the Shoah. In addition, they provided assistance to the JMP's various departments, for example by scanning documents, transcribing interviews with Shoah survivors, archiving documents and processing video recordings.





# 9

## Acquisitions

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Two ordinary and eight extraordinary meetings of the JMP's Acquisitions Committee were held with external associates in attendance in 2015. Most of the acquisitions in 2015 were from the JMP's own research (processing of genizah finds, specifically in Spálené Poříčí) – 11 accession numbers for a total of 70 items. The second major group of acquisitions comprised donations from individuals from abroad and from the Czech Republic – 31 accession numbers for a total of 52 items. Some of the donations reflected the expansion of the JMP's collection programme for the post-war period; these acquisitions include, for example, Lev Brod's suitcase and the uniform of František Mahler (Frank Marlow). A smaller group of acquisitions comprised items from the JMP's depository, among which there was found to be an incorrect accession number – five new accession numbers were added in 2015. Thirty-eight items were purchased and registered under seven inventory numbers. Among the acquisitions of particular value was a group of synagogue textiles (probably from a genizah in Kasejovice) and a portrait of Kamila Vogl-Lüftschitz by Alfréd Justitz. One of the acquisitions is an item that was originally in the JMP's collections; it was spotted by JMP staff in the catalogue of the 43rd auction of the Kedem Auction House in Israel (Objects: Judaica & Israeliana, lot no. 52) and, after successful negotiations with the vendor, was subsequently repatriated to Prague via the Czech Embassy in Israel. The item in question is a Torah mantle of Moravian provenance, dating from the early 20th century, which disappeared from the JMP's collections in the latter half of the 1950s. The JMP also complied with one restitution claim from its visual art collection in 2015.

In total, 1,146 volumes were added to the JMP Library in 2015. A substantial portion of these volumes were acquired by donation or replacement. Thanks to an offer from the heirs of Jiří Fiedler (former JMP employee and prominent expert on Jewish sites in Bohemia and Moravia), the Library was also enriched by material from his extensive library. Another significant gift was that of a group of books by Hugo Salus from the estate of Mary Salus, donated by John Moore from Milton, Massachusetts, USA.



# 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.

As part of a 2015 city-wide programme of support for education in Prague, the JMP's Department for Education and Culture received a grant for the support of pupils and teachers in vocational schools with regard to questions concerning the prevention of socially dangerous phenomena. The aim is to have a positive effect in the area of prevention of extremism, racism and antisemitism. In its project, the JMP sought to familiarize pupils with the Jewish minority and its history as an important part of European – and therefore also Czech – culture, as well as to help them to see the prejudices the Jews have encountered through history and the current issues they face. In the first phases of the project, guided tours of Prague's Jewish Town were organized for the pupils. In the next phase, the pupils took part in some of the JMP's educational programmes focused against xenophobia, racism and antisemitism. There was also a seminar for the teachers from the participating schools. In total, the project involved about 200 pupils and 70 teachers from vocational schools.

In total, 8,014 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 2015 there were 508 participants from Germany, the USA, Great Britain, Hong Kong and Israel.

At the beginning of the 2015/16 school year, the Department for Education and Culture – for the sixth 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 77 schools and several kindergartens were involved in the project in the Czech Republic in 2015.

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 Terezin organization, which regularly organizes meetings with Shoah survivors.

As in previous years, great importance was attached to programmes for teachers. Three seminars on refugees – entitled "The Orient in Bohemia?" – were held in Prague with the support of the Heinrich Böll Foundation. Each seminar was attended by more than 40 teachers. Papers were given on Jewish refugees in the Czech lands in the 20th century and on Czech Jewish refugees in Denmark and Switzerland. The seminars also included a guided tour of the Orient in Bohemia exhibition at the Robert Guttmann Gallery and a presentation of the JMP's educational materials relating to refugees. The second part of the seminar was focused on the current refugee crisis. Teachers also had an opportunity

to meet with refugees themselves, for example from Belarus and Syria. The response from the participants was entirely positive.

Four two-day seminars for teachers on the topic “Jews, History and Culture”, which were attended by 60 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 a third off-site seminar for teachers in Kutná Hora and Český Brod 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; seven programmes were held here for 188 pupils and students there. Q&A sessions with Shoah survivors continued in schools across Moravia; 25 such meetings with two Shoah survivors were held for as many as 2,048 pupils and students from elementary schools through to university and for members of the public. 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). In addition, the Brno office hosted the spring and autumn series of the “Jews, History and Culture” seminars for teachers (eight lecture blocks attended by 119 elementary/secondary school teachers and staff from other museums and regional libraries).

The Brno office also organized thirteen guided tours of the Jewish cemetery in Brno for 338 pupils and students. The previous guided tours of the Brno Synagogue were not held in 2015 as the building was under reconstruction.

The educational programmes in Brno were again complemented by Divadlo Kufř’s theatre production *Židovka aneb Žonglování se životem* [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. Four of these performances were held for 98 pupils and students in 2015. By way of expanding its offering, the Brno office continued its collaboration with the Brno-based Líšeň Theatre, which included the

Pinkas Synagogue



play *Hygiena krve* [Blood Hygiene] 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. Fourteen such events were held for 1,180 pupils and students from throughout the Czech Republic and from Slovakia.

The Brno office continued its extended offering of a day-long educational programme in two versions, titled "On the Trail of the Brno Jewish Community". The first version involves a guided tour of the city centre with focus on inter-war architecture by Jewish architects, its residents and builders, as well as a visit to the synagogue or cemetery with commentary 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. Both versions of the programme include the option of a kosher lunch in the Brno Jewish Community's dining hall. This programme offering is appropriate as a teaching supplement and as a school trip for schools outside Brno; it was provided to 143 pupils from seven schools in the spring and autumn of 2015.

To mark the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, a new workshop, titled "All's well that ends well?", was prepared for elementary and secondary schools. In this workshop, pupils and students look through archive documents, photographs and testimonies to familiarize themselves with the fate of five Jewish survivors during and after the war. It also includes a screening of Olga Sommerová's documentary film *Hořký návrat z pekla* [A Bitter Return from Hell]. The workshop was attended by 83 students from four schools.

In addition, there were six interactive educational programmes and five lectures that were attended by 830 pupils and students of elementary and secondary schools in Brno.

Work on the JMP's educational project "Neighbours Who Disappeared" continued in 2015 for the 15th year running. Intended for elementary and high school pupils, this project charts the fate of Shoah survivors and witnesses 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 Zapomenutí/The Forgotten Ones. The project involves three phases – preparation (worksheets, etc.), implementation (seminars at schools) and conclusion (related activities). In each phase, JMP staff communicate with the schools and, where required, provide support for individual school projects. This comprehensive project includes an exhibition that is put together from the results of the research undertaken by individual schools and is supplemented by additional material (e.g., methodological material and archive resources presented on the website [www.zmizeli-souseded.cz](http://www.zmizeli-souseded.cz)).

The Neighbours Who Disappeared project continued to be presented to schools in the form of a seminar where a small group of trained students, equipped with worksheets and texts relating to each panel, guided their fellow students through the exhibition. In 2015, the project involved the participation of 23 schools and about 900 active student guides; the exhibition was displayed on school corridor walls and seen by between 5,000 and 6,000 pupils/students.

In addition, twelve new displays were produced in the Slaný and Trmice elementary schools, which are presenting their specific projects to other institutions in their vicinity. New educational materials (the Trmice Elementary School's animated film *Klíč života/Key of Life*, website and accompanying text) were also produced in connection with these displays.

The Neighbours Who Disappeared project was also featured in other countries. The German-language version of the exhibition was on view at the Jewish Community building in Dresden; the English-language version was shown at the Bellport Academic Center in New York. In Slovakia, the exhibition was presented at the headquarters of the Kremnice-based civic association CityNet Kremnica.



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

Cultural programmes were held for the public at both the Prague and Brno offices of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture in 2015.

The Prague office hosted 83 evening programmes for 2,420 visitors. From September onwards, cultural events were also held in the Maisel Synagogue, which re-opened in June; these included classical musical concerts on Jewish themes, discussions and recitals of literary texts by leading Czech actors. Lectures and screenings were also held in the auditorium of the Department for Education and Culture.

Those taking part in the discussions at the Department for Education and Culture included Rabbi David Peter, Rabbi Karol Efraim Sidon, the Catholic priest Marek Orko Vácha, the writer Irena Dousková, the German literary historian Hans Dieter Zimmermann and the Hungarian documentary filmmaker Eszter Hajdú.

Six concerts were held at the Maisel Synagogue between September and December, with performances by Collegium Musicum Brno and the singer Irena Troupová, the guitar duo Siempre Nuevo, the Prague Wind Trio, the Ančerl Quartet, the Hans Krása Quartet and Gran Duetto Concertante.

Of the films shown, one of the most noteworthy was the documentary *And There Was Fire in the Centre of the Earth* by the Austrian director and writer Bernhard Hetzenauer, which focuses on the psychologist Vera Kohn.

There were also six 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 *Prince se žlutou hvězdou, aneb podivuhodný život a putování Petra Ginze* [Prince with a Yellow Star: The Remarkable Life and Journeys of Petr Ginz], which was presented by the author František Tichý, and *Padre a rebe* [Padre and Rebbe], which was presented by the author Martin Flosman and the journalist Petr Brod.

The Prague office also hosted a monthly seminar on modern Jewish history in collaboration with the Institute of Contemporary History at the Czech Academy of Sciences. Leading Czech and international experts, such as David Rechter (Oxford University), Tatjana Tönsmeier (Bergische Universität Wuppertal) and Jindřich Toman (Michigan University), presented the results of their research at this meeting.

2015 saw the continuation of the "Our Twentieth Century" series, which features Jews and non-Jews who suffered under Nazism and Communism in discussion with the teacher and educator Petr Sokol and the journalist, documentary filmmaker and writer

The Prague office also hosted five exhibitions, including private views: *TLV24* – an exhibition of photography by Pavlína Schultz; *Memory, Remembering, Commemoration...* – an exhibition of the work of participants of the Terezín Memorial's 16th art competition; *Mazal Tov* – an exhibition of photography by Jindřich Buxbaum, which documents two Orthodox Jewish weddings in Kiev; *Jiří Winter The*



*Known and The Unknown* – an exhibition of lesser-known work by Jiří Neprakta with a Jewish theme; *The Disappeared Jewish Trail* – an exhibition of photography by Libor Cabák, which documents vanished and preserved Jewish sites in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.

The afternoon workshops for children with their parents continued to enjoy great popularity in 2015. They were held on the second Monday of each month and were attended by 108 people.

The Brno office of the Department for Education and Culture hosted 59 evening programmes for the general public, which were attended by 1,454 visitors. The lecture series “Famous Jewish Musicians and Composers” by Jana Špačka (Institute of Musicology, Faculty of the Arts, Masaryk University, Brno) continued. The “Reading Suits Everyone” series, in which actors from Brno theatres read from popular books by Jewish authors, attracted a large number of people. Among the book presentations were Arnošt Goldflam’s *O nepotřebných věcech a lidech* [About Unnecessary Things and People], Jan Kovanic’s *Mír v Izraeli* [Peace in Israeli] and Jaroslav Balvín’s *Deník z kibucu* [Kibbutz Diary]. There was a screening of the Czech-Slovak-Israeli film *Gisi* (directed by Nataši Dudinski) and the documentary film *Dancing with Torah* (directed by Robert O. Curry) about how a Torah scroll from a synagogue in Hořovice made its way to the Dallas Holocaust Museum; the film was presented by the architect Jaroslav Klenovský who provided information about the past and present of the synagogue in Hořovice. Q&A sessions also attracted much interest – the one with the dramatist, translator and director Antonín Přidal met with the greatest reception. A performance by the Brno Children’s Choir (directed by Valerie Matašová) of part of Karl Reiner’s series *The Flowered Horse* to words by Norbert Frýd – as a musical recollection for International Holocaust Remembrance Day – went down particularly well with the audience. Also of interest to the public was a programme titled “When Colours Speak to Us”, which was directed by the Mikulov-based artist Sylva Chludilová using art therapy methods for the exhibition of children’s drawings *Memory, Remembering, Commemoration*. Another popular event was the “Memory in Streets” tour, which focused not only on the architecture of Brno, but also on the lives of Jewish families living in the centre of the city in the inter-war period

The “Days of Jewish Culture in Brno” event was held in September 2015 in collaboration with the Brno Jewish Community. This event was launched with the opening of an exhibition of work by the Brno-based artist Eva Zahradníková, titled *Jednoduše – jedna duše* [Simply – One Soul]. The Days of Jewish Culture also included a workshop for parents and their children, which focused on the religiously traditional Jewish household; guided tours of the Jewish cemetery in Brno; a presentation of Jan Kovanic’s book *Mír v Izraeli* [Peace in Israeli]; a concert by the Graž Duo and Isabela Oravová entitled *Shalom Chaverim*; a lecture on the monthly literary magazine *Plav* and its double issue on the

Discussion in the Maisel Synagogue



Yiddish language; and a lecture on the history of the Brno Jewish Community, the founding of the local Jewish library, the Rabbi Feder Cultural and Educational Centre, and the work of the JMP's Brno office. These programmes attracted 210 visitors.

In its programmes for parents and their children, the Brno office continued its series of Sunday afternoon workshops focusing on major Jewish holidays. It also included a workshop titled "Shalom, Welcome to Our Place", which familiarized the children with some of the Jewish customs.

In collaboration with the Kávéeska cultural and educational centre in Brno, a series of programmes (titled "They Lived and Live with Us") was launched with the aim of uncovering the Jewish presence in the city's past and present. A total of six programmes were organized, which were attended by 296 people. In addition, there was a performance by the Brno-based Líšeň Theatre *Hygiena krve* [Blood Hygiene] for more than a hundred young people. Following on from this, the Shoah survivor Erika Bezdíčková shared her recollections.

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

The JMP organized and contributed to the organization of a number of concerts and other cultural events at the Spanish Synagogue in Prague. As in previous years, a gala concert was held at the Spanish Synagogue in Prague to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January. The M. Nostitz Quartet performed works by Haydn, Zikmund Schul, Josef Suk and Ernest Bloch. The concert was held in collaboration with the Prague Jewish Community and the Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH).

On 27 April the Spanish Synagogue hosted a children's concert in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War as part of the MAŽIF 4 music festival. This included performances of works by Jaromír Fogel, G. F. Handel, J. Křitel Vaňhal, J. Ibert, E. Hradecký, Vivaldi and Paganini.

On 29 June, a gala concert was held in the Spanish Synagogue for the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Terezín ghetto and the end of the Second World War. The concert featured the work of composers who perished in the Terezín ghetto, as well as contemporary works by composers from Israel, Ireland and the USA. The music was performed by the violist Mark Ludwig and the Boston Children's Chorus directed by Anthony Trecek-King.

The 7th annual "Cinegogue" programme took place on 13–14 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

Cinegogue



cinema and to encourage new ways of looking at Jewish culture and at the filmmakers of the 'post-emancipation' period. This year's Cinegogue was entitled "The Poetic Avant-garde: Between Walt Whitman and Robert Desnos" and featured five short films made by Jewish American photographers and experimental filmmakers. The films shown were Paul Strand and Charles Sheeler's *Manhatta* (1921), Ralph Steiner's *H2O* (1929) and *Mechanical Principles* (1930) and Man Ray's *Emak-Bakia* (1926) and *L'étoile de mer* (1928). New scores for the films were written by five young Czech composers – Eliška Cílková, Šimon Voseček, Jan Ryant Dřizal, Jacek Sotomski and Martin Klusák. The music was performed live by BERG Orchestra under the baton of Petr Vrábel, the ensemble's artistic director. The project was also held with the support of Prague City Hall.

As in previous years, the Spanish Synagogue was also the venue for regular concerts organized by the BM ART agency (233 in total).

The guitarist Lubomír Brabec completed another series of concerts for season-ticket holders – "Lubomír Brabec Presents Prague Musical Evenings in the Spanish Synagogue".

Other highlights of 2015 included a concert by the violin virtuoso Pavla Šporcl (11 June) and a performance of "Prague Shalom – Songs of Love and Peace" by the Vienna Jewish Choir, led by Roman Grinberg (17 August).

The annual "Light of Understanding" concert was held at the Spanish Synagogue on 4 November in association with the Prague-based Conservative Jewish congregation and the Holy Spirit Church. The event was filmed by Czech Television.

In total, there were 246 concerts at the Spanish Synagogue in 2015.



# 12

## Publications

In 2015 the JMP published seven publications, a compendium of papers and a number of printed materials to promote its events and activities.

*History of the Jews in the Bohemian Lands in the 10th-18th Centuries*, written by the historian Alexandr Putík, was published for the new exhibition in the Maisel Synagogue that opened on 30 June. It contains 135 high-quality illustrations of the items that can be seen in the Maisel Synagogue exhibition. It was published in Czech and English with a print run of 2,000 copies for each language version.

The proceedings *Židé v Čechách 5* [The Jews in Bohemia, Vol. 5] contains papers from a seminar that was organized by the JMP in collaboration with the Regional Museum in Teplice and held in October 2014. This was the fifth seminar of archivists, historians and regional museum employees dedicated to the history of Jews in Bohemia with focus on issues relating to the modern period and the history of the border regions. This time, the participants of the seminar devoted their attention mainly to an analysis of sources that make it possible to document the fate of Jews in the border regions after their occupation by Nazi Germany. The proceedings were published in Czech with a print run of 400.

A leaflet was published for the exhibition *Shattered Hopes: Postwar Czechoslovakia as a Crossroads of Jewish Life* (text by the curator Martin Šmok) with a print run of 1,000 copies in Czech and 3,000 copies in English.

A leaflet was published for the exhibition *The Missing Images: Eugeen van Mieghem and the Jewish Emigrants to the New World* (text by the curator Arno Pařík) with a print run of 1,000 copies in Czech and 2,000 copies in English.

The JMP's peer-reviewed journal *Judaica Bohemiae* came out as usual. 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 (Arts and Humanities Citation Index). In 2009 the journal was included in Elsevier's prestigious citation and abstract database, Scopus. In 2011 it was included in the European Reference Index for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (ERIH PLUS). 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 no. 50 (2015/1) starts with a study by Zdeňka Stoklásková on the life and academic career of Bertold Bretholz, a historian and archivist of Jewish descent. It is followed by the final part of a study by Markéta Lhotová and Vlastimila Hamáčková that explores in detail the way that Jewish organizations in the Czech border regions were liquidated during the Second World War. In the 'Reports' section, Arno Pařík looks back at the life and work of the historian Jiří Fiedler who tragically died recently; this includes a bibliography of Fiedler's work compiled by Daniel Polakovič. The December issue no. 50 (2015/2) contains a study by Daniel Soukup and Lukáš Reitingner, which explores in detail the mid-14th-century Krumlov picture codex *Liber depictus*. It looks afresh at the question of the origin of this historical manuscript and, for the first time, examines it from the

perspective of research into Jewish topics. This study provides an in-depth analysis of the codex and places the scenes depicting Jewish men and women within a broader context. As such, it significantly contributes to research into the clothing customs of the Jewish community in medieval Ashkenaz. On the basis of a study of hitherto unknown archival material, the following paper by Pavel Kocman offers completely new findings on the history of the Jewish community of Hustopeče from 1621–1651. In the 'Documents' section, Andrea Jelínková explores the beginnings of the Brno Hebrew printing press and its production in the years 1754–1760. In the 'Reports' section, Iveta Cermanová provides information about the JMP's new exhibition *Jews in the Bohemian Lands, 10th–18th Century* at the Maisel Synagogue, and Martin Jelínek discusses the exhibition *The Auschwitz Album*, which was held at the Prague House of Photography in May–September 2015 and organized by the Jewish Museum in Prague in co-operation with the Prague City Gallery.

A Czech-English overview with a print run of 250 copies and a leaflet with a print run of 4,000 copies were printed for the 7th annual "Cinegogue" programme.

The English-language version of the book *I have not seen a butterfly around here* was reprinted, with a print run of 500 copies.

English, French and German-language versions of the book *Jewish Prague* (written by Arno Pařík) were reprinted with a new cover – with a print run of 500 for each version. 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.

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 (with information provided in six languages).



# 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 2015. In various areas of its activity, it worked with 189 local and 109 foreign entities.

The JMP expanded its current system of pre-selecting and differentiating one-year and two-year contractual relations. It also entered into three-year loan contracts with pre-selected borrowers. This procedure 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. The JMP has provided long-term loans to nine local Jewish communities and to thirteen other cultural entities, more than 90% of which are outside of Prague. In other countries, the JMP has provided long-term loans for three exhibitions.

The JMP also loaned material to temporary exhibitions held by other organizations in the Czech Republic. The thematically closest collaboration with borrowers involves the exhibition project *Jewish Customs and Traditions in the Mladá Boleslav Region*, which is focused on, among other things, recalling the first Jewish museum in the Bohemian lands – the Mladá Boleslav Jewish Community Museum. As usual, most of the items on loan were from the visual art collection. Artworks from the JMP's collections were displayed in the following successful exhibitions: *Oskar Kokoschka and Prague* (National Gallery in Prague), *150 Years of Prague Steamships* (National Technical Museum) and *Munich – The Shining Metropolis of Art* (Gallery of West Bohemia, Pilsen).

Among the most interesting exhibitions in other countries that contains items from the JMP on short-term loan were *1945 – Defeat. Liberation. New Beginning* (Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin) and *Bildstrategien der Jahre zwischen den Kriegen. Kunst in Österreich 1918-1938* (Vorarlberg Museum, Bregenz). 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 copies of Terezín children's drawings – *The Children's Story: Children's Drawings from Terezín, 1943–1944* – were exhibited in Buenos Aires and South Wales, for example, and were also used for broader study projects (at Indiana State University, Sewanee). In addition, the JMP provided 16 copies of drawings by Markéta Zimmerová (one of the Terezín children) for the exhibition *We are still here* in Freiberg.

With the aim of increasing and co-ordinating mutual activities and co-operation, the JMP entered into a memorandum of understanding with the London-based Memorial Scrolls Trust, which oversees the care of a collection of Torah scrolls and Torah binders that were sold off by the Czechoslovak Communist authorities in 1964.

In 2015 the JMP issued 134 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

The JMP's co-operation with institutions and not-for-profit organizations in the educational and cultural field was also of great importance, as referred to elsewhere in this report.

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. In addition, he commented on issues relating to Judaism, Jewish history, antisemitism and the Middle East conflict for the media (including participation in ČT24's Hydepark programme on 13 January, a commentary for ČT24 on International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January, and interviews for DTV on 28 January, for *Deník* on 25 April and for *Svobodné fórum* on 2 March) and for the internal requirements of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic.

## c) Involvement in other projects

The JMP took part in several events that were held in collaboration with other institutions.

On 20 January the Světozor Cinema in Prague showed the Czech premiere of the documentary *Gisi*, which tells the story of a remarkable woman who believed that she could have stopped the Holocaust if only she had managed to raise enough funds. The premiere was jointly organized by the JMP, the Embassy of the State of Israel and the Jewish Community of Prague to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp.

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

March 2015 marked the 71st 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 on 8 March. The focal point of the commemorative programme in March was a memorial ceremony in the Pinkas Synagogue memorial to the victims of the Shoah from Bohemia and Moravia, 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 acquainted visitors with the history and form of the memorial during guided tours. 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 *Shattered Hopes: Postwar Czechoslovakia as a Crossroads of Jewish Life* at the JMP's Robert Guttman Gallery where guided tours were provided by the exhibition curator. In addition, the JMP's Department for Education and Culture hosted a seminar for journalists on the Holocaust topic in the Czech media, which was held on 9 March 2015.

The JMP was, once again, 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. More than two hundred people came to read the names of Shoah victims on Moravian Square in Brno in an event that involved the participation of the Brno office of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture.

On 11–12 June, a stage adaptation of Imre Kertész’s famous novel *Kaddish for an Unborn Child* was put on by Archa Theatre with the support of the Jewish Museum in Prague.

As usual, the JMP took part in Prague’s annual Museum Night, now in its 12th year. It was held on the night of 13 June. Free access was provided to the exhibitions in the Klausen and Spanish synagogues. Guided tours were offered in the Klausen Synagogue and a children’s programme was provided in the Spanish Synagogue. There was also a special tour for the profoundly deaf. In total, about 2,500 people visited the two synagogues

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 years in autumn, so that they come into bloom around 27 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. The JMP introduced the project to almost 80 classes in Czech schools.

Visit by the President of the State of Israel





# 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. The Technical Operations Department was also involved in outsourcing the JMP's IT facilities.

The most extensive project in terms of significance and scope was the completion of the new exhibition and reconstruction of the Maisel Synagogue. The main building contractor was the joint-stock company, which began work on the project in May 2014. After completion of the construction work, the building was approved for use in April 2015. The new exhibition was subsequently installed and the synagogue reopened on 1 July. As part of the reconstruction project, repairs were made to the roof, facades, pinnacles, doors, windows, metalwork and tinsmith elements. The front garden was given a new layout with the addition of rest areas. The interior space was transformed with the installation of a new marble floor, treatment for rising damp, repairs to plasterwork and restoration of wall paintings and balusters. The historical chandeliers and holy ark were also carefully restored by specialists. New light fittings were installed inside the synagogue, the lighting and intensity of which is centrally regulated. Electric underfloor heating cables were laid and a glass partition was added in the vestibule with automatic sliding doors and an air curtain doorway to provide the required temperature in the hall where there is a newly designed sales and ticket inspection area. New toilet facilities for visitors were installed. The entrance to the synagogue is wheelchair accessible, as is the entire interior space. Rest areas are available both inside and outside the building. A significant change is that the open space of the central part of the synagogue can be used as a multi-functional auditorium for cultural events with a seating capacity for 90 viewers. Related to this is the provision of a back-stage area for performers, a changing room for guests and a sound system installation for the auditorium.

The installation of a fixed fire-extinguishing system in the depositories at the Smichov Synagogue (including related building and technical measures) was completed and approved for use in March. The system was subsequently activated and is now fully functional. The installation of an Inergen fire suppression system has significantly improved the fire protection of the archival materials and paintings that are kept in the synagogue depositories. If fire is detected, gas is released in the affected area, lowering the oxygen levels so as to extinguish the flames.

The unsuitable technical state of the JMP's textile depository in the synagogue at Golčův Jeníkov was again addressed in connection with a related project to build a new depository. In February a preliminary lease contract was entered into with the joint-stock company Gepard Living, which will deal with the plans, implementation and future use of the new depository in Prague–Stodůlky. JMP staff collaborated with an architectural studio for work on the project documentation for a change to the building permit.

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 and replacing existing equipment and facilities – were provided to the JMP on the basis of an agreement with the IT company TREND-IT. 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. A Wi-Fi network was installed for visitors and staff in several areas of the JMP's administrative building, and three new computers were installed in the Multimedia Centre. The faulty back-up disk drives in the Smíchov depository were repaired. A diagnosis was carried out on the current state of the central digital storage site and related issues were discussed (e.g., the speed and means of internet connection, the means of future back-up storage and capacity specification).

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 2015.



# 15

## Investments

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The largest investments of 2015 were the reconstruction of the Maisel Synagogue, the installation of fixed fire-extinguishing equipment and the reconstruction of the depositories in the Smíchov Synagogue.

As for IT investments, two Eternus disk drives were acquired for backing up the JMP's production servers, a Wi-Fi network was established in the Maisel Synagogue, and new copy machines were provided for the archive and library study rooms. Other investments involved security measures in the JMP's administrative building – installing a glass door for access to the mezzanine staircase via employee ID cards and providing access to the ground-floor elevator via employee ID cards.



# 16

## Grants and donations

In 2015 the JMP filed 32 grant/subsidy applications, of which 13 were accepted, 13 were rejected, and the results of six are still awaited at the time of writing this report.

The JMP received grant/subsidy support of CZK 18,640,000, some of which is to be spread over several years. Funds awarded in 2014 that were uncompleted or not fully used – amounting to CZK 2,882,000 – were carried over to 2015. The amount of grant/subsidy funds used in 2015 was CZK 6,003,000. The remaining amount of CZK 12,637,000 is to be carried over to 2016 and the following years.

The following institutions in the Czech Republic provided considerable support for the JMP's activities in 2015:

- Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports: "Jews, History and Culture" seminars for teachers
- Czech Ministry of Culture: student worksheet for the exhibition in the Maisel Synagogue, access to endangered periodicals, provision of library services via digital technology (VSK 7 subsidy programme)
- City of Prague: "Cinegogue 2015" project, project for the support of seminars for trainees, project for the support of cultural programmes
- Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH): restoration of tombstones, recording of interviews with Shoah survivors, Sunday workshops for children
- Prague Jewish Community Foundation: restoration of rare printed books

The following institutions abroad provided considerable support for the JMP's activities in 2015:

- Rothschild Foundation Europe: Yerusha project 1 and 2, Jewish Council Archives in Europe digitization project
- Claims Conference: Frontier of Memory project
- Zukunftsfond Austria: BeGrentze Flucht project
- European Commission Framework Programme 7, Horizon 2020: European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI project 1 and 2)





# 17

## Finances

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The JMP received 49,166 (8.48%) more visitors in 2015 than it did in the previous year, as a result of which receipts from ticket sales were up by CZK 11,265,209 (7.56%). Total revenues were up by CZK 13,320,900 (7.91%). Revenues were higher in all areas, including income from ticket sales, rentals, other services, the sale of goods, donations and subsidies. The largest increase was in grant income, which was up by CZK 4,069,200 (243.69%).

Expenses were up by CZK 6,988,900 (5%) compared to last year, which was mainly due to the increase in grant income. Costs relating to the consumption of materials and repairs also increased, as this included items from the new exhibition in the Maisel Synagogue that were originally planned as investments.

Other expense items that were higher than planned reflect the increase in grant-related expenses, which were also higher than expected.

The JMP's financial results for 2015 were highly favourable, with gross profit of CZK 35,230,265 and net profit of CZK 28,642,675 (after paying CZK 6,587,590 in tax). Net profit was up by CZK 5,720,900 year-on-year.

12.79% of the total costs went towards research, with 77.57% covered by the JMP's own resources and 22.43% covered by donations and subsidies. Donations and subsidies for research were received from several sources – 10.89% from the state and municipal budgets, 39.53% from the European Union and 49.58% from private and foundation sources.

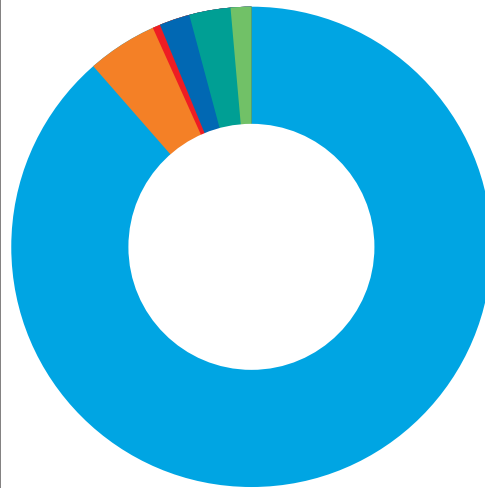
Prague, 30 May 2016

Leo Pavlát  
Director, Jewish Museum in Prague



## Appendix 1 – 2015 budget implementation

Revenues of the Jewish Museum in Prague (2015)



- 88.2 % Entrance fee
- 4.4 % Rent
- 0.5 % Sales
- 2.1 % Other services
- 3.2 % Donations and grants
- 1.6 % Other revenues

Expenses of The Jewish Museum in Prague (2015)



- 2.1 % Energy, water, gas
- 1.5 % Repairs
- 21.1 % Rent
- 21.9 % Salaries
- 0.9 % Other personal expenses
- 8.5 % Social insurance
- 0.9 % Mandatory fringe benefits
- 0.0 % Donations
- 5.9 % Depreciation
- 1.5 % Insurance
- 9.1 % Services
- 0.6 % Other costs
- 0.2 % Purchase of books
- 0.0 % Purchase of items for the collections
- 21.1 % Investments
- 2.4 % Material
- 3.4 % Income tax

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

	Year ended 31 Dec 2014	Year ended 31 Dec 2015
<b>REVENUES</b>	168,424	181,745
Sales of goods and services	12,250	12,820
Entrance fees	149,045	160,310
Subsidies	3,807	5,739
Recognition of provisions	0	0
Other revenues	3,322	2,876
<b>OPERATING COSTS</b>	139,526	146,514
Expenditures on realized sales	67,627	70,513
Personnel costs	58,173	60,441
Depreciation	8,987	11,385
Other operating costs and provisions	4,739	4,175
<b>INCOME TAX</b>	5,976	6,588
<b>RESULT</b>	22,922	28,643

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

	Year ended 31 Dec 2014	Year ended 31 Dec 2015
<b>PERMANENT ASSETS</b>	133,645	139,779
Intangible fixed assets	1,845	1,940
Tangible fixed assets	131,800	137,839
Financial investments	0	0
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	206,275	230,900
Inventories	8,210	7,897
Receivables	9,270	16,556
Financial assets	185,946	203,571
OTHER ASSETS	2,849	2,876
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	339,920	370,679
<b>OWN RESOURCES</b>	317,742	340,816
Funds	294,820	312,173
Financial results in current accounting period	22,922	28,643
<b>EXTERNAL RESOURCES</b>	22,178	29,863
Short-term commitments	19,768	16,926
Provisions	0	0
OTHER LIABILITIES	2,410	12,937
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	339,920	370,679

## Appendix 4 – Staff structure

In accordance with its organisation manual, the JMP comprised eight departments in 2015. As of the end of 2015, it had 138,8 employees, including six on maternity leave and seven whose salaries are fully covered by grants. The average number of employees employed by the JMP in 2015 was 139 and the number of full time equivalent employees was 129.8.

Director	1
Research and specialist staff, including restoration staff	50
Education and culture staff	9
Staff in charge of the maintenance, repairs, refurbishment and administration of buildings and cemeteries	4
Publicity and exhibition staff	6
Reservation Centre staff	3
Administrative staff	4
Economic staff, including exhibition ticket sellers	12
Security staff and custodians	50

Average monthly salary for JMP staff in 2015: CZK 24,170

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

Building	1995–2015
Spanish Synagogue	34,479
Administration building in Jáchymova st.	3,215
Maisel Synagogue	43,007
Pinkas Synagogue	15,525
Ceremonial Hall	3,168
Klausen Synagogue	9,817
Depository of textiles	4,472
New Administration and Research Centre	99,125
Department for Education and Culture, Information and Reservation centre	17,536
Smíchov Synagogue	76,052
Brandýs Synagogue	855
Depository of books Spořilov	210
Jewish Cemetery - Fibichova Pgue 3	11,980
Old Jewish Cemetery	12,780
<b>Total</b>	<b>332,221</b>





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