



Commissioner of the Path of Life exhibition Eva Kosáková, giving a tour of the show

JEWISH MUSEUM IN PRAGUE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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1. Legal framework of JMP 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 30 September 1994. In accordance with Act No. 122/2000 on the Protection of Museum Collections as subsequently amended, the activities of the association as a cultural institution primarily include the creation, addition to, expert management, collection, and presentation of, the collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague; the creation, addition to, and management of, the library and archival holdings; research, cultural, publishing, and educational activities; sales of souvenirs, publicity and other materials, publications, recorded audio and audiovisual recordings and other things related to the purpose and the activities of the association; as well as cultural and other activities related to Judaism, the Jews and their history in Bohemia and Moravia. The main activities performed by the association also include necessary repairs and technical improvements of the premises rented in the buildings in which the museum has its seat and presents its collections to generate revenue for the payment of part of the rent, and sublease of premises temporarily unused to a third person upon consent of their owner, that is the Jewish Community in Prague. The association's activities also include the care of the Jewish cultural heritage in the Czech Republic via the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic.

The association's supreme body is the Board of Trustees, which comprised the following members in 2009:

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

Verona Miletinová, Jewish Community in Prague

Jan Munk, Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic

Eva Sedláková, Jewish Community in Prague

Petr Svojanovský, Czech Ministry of Culture

The association's control body is the Supervisory Board, which comprised the following members in 2009:

Jan Neubauer, Jewish Community in Prague (Chairman)

Vladimír Látal, Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic

Marta Rubínová, Czech Ministry of Culture

Five meetings of the Board of Trustees and three meetings of the Supervisory Board were held in 2009. Minutes were taken at each meeting in the presence of a lawyer.

The director of the JMP in 2009 was Leo Pavlát.

2. General information about the JMP

a) Properties and sites overseen by the JMP

- Headquarters Office Building, U Staré školy 1 and 3, Prague 1: Museum administration, specialist workplaces, depositories, reference centre, café, Robert Guttmann Gallery (venue for temporary exhibitions).
- Maisel Synagogue: in the main nave, the permanent exhibition *The History of the Jews in Bohemia and Moravia – I. From the First Settlements until Emancipation*. 146 originals and facsimiles on display.
- Spanish Synagogue: in the main nave and gallery, the exhibition *The History of the Jews in Bohemia and Moravia – II. From Emancipation to the Present*. New vitrine installed in the gallery in 2008: *Czechoslovak Jews in the Struggle and Resistance Against Fascism and Nazism*. 546 originals and facsimiles on display; Winter Prayer Hall: permanent exhibition *Synagogue Silver from Bohemia and Moravia*. 193 items on display.
- Pinkas Synagogue: in the main nave, the *Memorial to the Bohemian and Moravian Jewish Victims of the Nazi Genocide*; in the gallery, the permanent exhibition *The Children's Story – Children's Drawings from Terezín*. 238 originals and facsimiles on display.
- Ceremonial Hall: Continuation of the permanent exhibition *Jewish Customs and Traditions – II. The Course of Life*. 140 originals and facsimiles on display.
- Klausen Synagogue: in the main nave, the permanent exhibition *Jewish Customs and Traditions – I. The Synagogue and Festivals*; in the gallery, the permanent exhibition *Jewish Customs and Traditions – II. The Course of Life*. 481 originals and facsimiles on display. The JMP Reservation Centre is also located on the premises.
- Former Synagogue in Prague–Smíchov (dating from the 1930s): depository for the JMP's art collection and work areas for the JMP's archive.
- Education and Culture Centre of the JMP, Maiselova 15, Prague 1.
- Old Jewish Cemetery (15th–18th century).
- Jewish Cemetery in Fibichova Street, Prague–Žižkov (17th–19th century).
- Main textile depository (housed in a 19th century rural Synagogue).
- Depository in Prague 4 for part of the JMP's book collection.



New poster at the Spanish Synagogue.

b) Services provided by the JMP

- Tours of five permanent exhibitions in historic sites; tours of the 15th–18th century Old Jewish Cemetery of Prague and the 17th–19th century Jewish Cemetery in Prague–Žižkov.
- Tours of temporary exhibitions in the Robert Guttmann Gallery.

- Educational programmes and tours organized by the JMP's education and culture centres in Prague and Brno.
- Seminars on Jewish topics.
- Cultural programmes on Jewish topics at the JMP's education and culture centres in Prague and Brno.
- Access to basic Judaic literature and special software at the Reference Centre.
- 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.
- Use of ORT computer room facilities with focus on Jewish topics and access to the Internet and special software (until April 2009).
- Reference access to the video and audio collection at the JMP's Education and Culture Centre in Prague (until April 2009).
- Further training of educational staff via the JMP's Education and Culture Centre in Prague.
- 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.
- Assessment and processing of requests for the permanent or temporary export of cultural objects.
- Provision of historical illustrated materials for reproduction.
- Own publications, CDs and publicity material, including the online sale of JMP. publications (and of entries from the JMP's electronic encyclopaedia of Jewish communities) 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.
- Advanced booking via the JMP Reservation Centre.
- Exhibition tours with qualified guides.
- Tours with audio-guides (provided in collaboration with Gallery Service, s.r.o.).



The Education and Culture Centre's Sunday Workshop in December.

3. Attendance figures in 2009

	Total Number of Visitors	Adults	Children
January	19 185	14 551	4 634
February	23 427	16 038	7 389
March	50 206	25 114	25 092
April	58 193	36 150	22 043
May	56 083	45 104	10 979
June	46 789	36 142	10 647
July	51 793	36 893	14 900
August	72 585	57 889	14 696
September	58 796	44 859	13 937
October	61 172	46 546	14 626
November	36 069	28 111	7 958
December	37 512	30 058	7 454
TOTAL	571 810	417 455	154 355

The JMP felt the full impact of the world economic crisis in 2009, which led to a considerable decline in tourism in the Czech Republic. According to data from the Association of Czech Travel Agencies from February 2010, the total number of foreign visitors to Prague in 2009 was 3,803,000, which is 5% less than in 2008. The number of visitors to the JMP, which mainly attracts people from abroad, was 40,500 lower than in 2008 – a decline of 6.62%. Although this is a negative trend when taking into account the previous two years (2006/2007), which saw the highest numbers, the attendance figures for the JMP in 2009 were higher in absolute terms than in the years 1997–2003, with the exception of 2000.

In addition to the effects of the world economic crisis, another reason for the lower visitor numbers – and for the reduced revenue from ticket sales – in comparison with previous years was the continually rising exchange rate of the Czech Crown against the dollar and the euro, which had an unfavourable influence particularly on visitor numbers from the U.S., Israel and Japan. Furthermore, the proportion of people from Western Europe and the U.S. visiting the Czech Republic continued to decline, which also impacted the JMP's business results for 2009, as did the fact that Prague is not a place that tourists tend to return to.

In an attempt to deal with the expected drop in revenue from ticket sales, the JMP carried out a number of measures that had been prepared in 2008, such as introducing different types of tickets (family and group tickets, extended ticket validity, etc.), improving publicity and attracting more local visitors. For the first time in 2009, local visitors were able to visit the JMP as part of *Česká spořitelna's* Bonus programme or with *Pražská plynárenská's* Gold Card, in both cases with a 70% discount on entry. Also in 2009, the JMP became involved in a project run by the Perpedes company, which through the sale of discount cards seeks to encourage people staying in Prague hotels to visit selected cultural sites in Prague.

The JMP improved visitor orientation at its sites in 2009 by displaying large-scale banners with pictograms of the JMP's individual tour sites at synagogues that house permanent exhibitions.

On several occasions in 2009, the JMP provided entry free of charge or at a significant discount in order to promote publicity. This occurred as part of the *Icy Prague*, *Prague 1 Days*, *Prague Museum Night* and *European Heritage Days* projects. In addition, considerable discounts were provided to all school groups visiting the JMP via its Education and Culture Centre.



Prague Museum Night at the Jewish Museum.

In October 2009, the JMP founded the Society of Friends of the Jewish Museum in Prague with the aim of helping to preserve and to provide the broadest possible access to the unique monuments of Prague's Jewish Town. There are seven membership categories and members have unlimited free access to the JMP's permanent exhibitions, temporary exhibitions at the Robert Guttmann Gallery and events at the Education and Culture Centre. The higher membership categories provide additional perks. In the future, the Society of Friends of the Jewish Museum in Prague may be of significant help in promoting the JMP, thereby contributing to greater visitor numbers and higher revenue.

At its last meeting in December 2009, the Board of Trustees approved a concept for the JMP's new permanent exhibitions in the context of related changes, which was presented by JMP director Leo Pavlát on behalf of a working team at the JMP. This concept – the result of discussions among JMP staff – reflects the current state of development at the JMP and outlines its development for the next few years. The anticipated changes at the JMP are to be introduced by 2016 and will involve gradually varying all of its permanent exhibitions, starting at the turn of 2012/13, and a new approach in the areas of communication, marketing and education. At the same time, the possibilities of current information and communication technologies will be utilized moderately and with full respect for the unique architectural heritage of Prague's Jewish Town and for the diversity of the JMP's collections.

In its new approach, the JMP intends to provide a significant stimulus to encourage visits, for it is essential that people return to the JMP if it is to have long-term financial stability. A modern museum approach also offers potential for increasing the number of local visitors.

4. Organizational and Staff Structure

The JMP is divided into nine departments in accordance with its organisation manual. The JMP had 133 employees (including staff on maternity leave) as of the end of 2009; of these, 122 were present at work (118.5 full-time positions) and 11 were on maternity leave. The staff structure is as follows: director, 46 security staff and custodians, 42 research and specialist staff (including restoration staff), 13 economic staff (including exhibition ticket sellers), 5 education and culture staff, 5 staff in charge of the maintenance, repair, reconstruction and management of the JMP's buildings and cemeteries, 4 administrative staff, 3 publicity and exhibition staff, and 3 Reservation Centre staff.

In the course of the year, 155 external associates rendered their services to the JMP on a contractual basis.

The average monthly salary for JMP staff in 2009 was CZK 22,974. The average salary in the Czech Republic was CZK 23,598; the average salary in Prague was CZK 29,726.



Petr Nikl at the awakening of the golem at the Robert Guttmann Gallery.

5. Exhibitions

a) Path of Life. Rabbi Loew (ca. 1525–1609)

Of key importance for all of the JMP's activities in 2009 was the 400th anniversary of the death of the renowned rabbi Judah Loew (Judah Lewa ben Bezalel – Maharal mi Prag), the most important Jewish figure to have lived in Bohemia and Moravia. This anniversary fell on 7 September 2009 by the civic calendar.

The JMP prepared a number of events to mark this special occasion. The most important event was the exhibition *Path of Life. Rabbi Loew (ca. 1525–1609)*, which was held in association with the Prague Castle Administration at the Imperial Stables of Prague Castle between 5 August and 8 November 2009. The exhibition commissioner was E. Kosáková and the curators were A. Putík and A. Pařík. Practically all of the JMP's staff, however, worked on the exhibition to a greater or lesser extent. Named for one of the Rabbi Loew's works (*Derekh Hayyim*), it was held under the auspices of the Czech President Václav Klaus, the Czech Minister of Culture Václav Riedlbauch and the Mayor of Prague Pavel Bém.



View of the Path of Life exhibition.

The first part of the show focused on the historical Rabbi Loew and the authentic traditions connected with him, while the second part looked at Rabbi Loew's legacy and the origin of the legends that are linked to his name. The exhibition featured as many as 200 unique collections objects, books and archival materials, mostly from the JMP's collections. A further 76 exhibits were on loan from ten Czech institutions, and 13 exhibits were on loan from seven foreign institutions

The JMP prepared a number of events (including guided tours and workshops for school-children) to accompany the show, as well as publishing a catalogue and souvenirs.

Attracting 24,565 visitors (a daily average of 256), the *Path of Life* show was the third most visited exhibition in the Czech Republic in 2009.

b) Robert Guttmann Gallery

In 2009, the JMP's Robert Guttmann Gallery hosted five exhibitions, of which three featured artists, one marked the Rabbi Loew anniversary and one focused on Jewish traditions and customs.

The exhibition *Jarmila Mařanová. Kafka and Prague* (from the series *Presentation of the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague*) was held between 25 September 2008 and 4 January 2009. On display were a set of Kafka monotypes, along with 16 other works from the collections of the Jewish Museum, five works from the City of Prague Gallery and three drawings from the Terezín Memorial to mark the artist's 86th birthday. The exhibition was seen by 3,609 visitors.

The exhibition *Parables. A Selection of Work, 1999–2008* (from the series *Presentation of the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague*) was held between 29 January and 10 May. On display were 15 paintings, 20 drawings and three sculptures by Jaroslav Róna. The exhibition was seen by 4,694 visitors.

The exhibition *Golem. Look for the symbol or word to revive him. A tactile sculpture by Petr Nikl for drawing with light* was held between 4 June and 4 October. A concert, entitled *Golem's Forehead – Concert for Light Scores. Light Drawing, Sand Rhythm, Didgeridoo Breath*, was performed by Petr Nikl, Milan Cais and Ondřej Smeykal to accompany the show on 5 October. The exhibition was seen by 12,005 visitors.

The exhibition *Helga Hořková-Weissová: Paintings and Drawings. An exhibition for the artist's 80th birthday* (from the series *Presentation of the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague*) was held between 15 October and 29 November. On display were 60 of the artist's Terezín drawings, 42 paintings and 23 publications. The exhibition was seen by 1,529 visitors.

The exhibition *May God Let Him Grow. Childbirth in the Culture of Bohemian and Moravian Jews* (from the series *Events of Jewish Life – from the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague*) was held between 10 December 2009 and 28 February 2010. This show marked the culmination of a major research project by the curator D. Veselská. On display were 51 objects from the JMP and another 10 items on loan from the Memorial Scroll Trust, London. The exhibition was seen by 1,691 visitors.



Jaroslav Róna at the opening of his show at Robert Guttmann Gallery.

c) Exhibitions at the Education and Culture Centre (ECC)

The JMP prepared other exhibitions through its education and culture centres in Prague and Brno. Five exhibitions were held in Prague: *My Picture of the Twentieth Century* – an exhibition of artworks from a competition held by the Terezín Memorial in 2006; *Jews in Combat and in the Resistance. The Resistance of Czechoslovak Jews in the Second World War; Jewish Education and Training; The Vanished Trace of Jewish Monuments – Photography of Jewish Cemeteries, Districts and Synagogues; History of Jewish Sport in the Czechoslovak Republic*. Nine exhibitions were held in Brno: *The Final Solution* – lithographic prints by Michal Hajnal; *Report on Lodz* – a travelling exhibition of photography by Karel Cudlín; *Sadness in the Soul* – photography by Jaromír Dvořák; *March of the Living – Auschwitz, Poland* – photography from the Photogenia School of Photography in Brno; *On the Way Home* – paintings by Vlastimil Toman; *My Beloved Israel* –

photographs by Jindřich Buxbaum; *How They Vote in Israel* – photography by Marek Čejk, *Jewish Education and Training*; *The Czech Heritage* – photographic paintings by Libor Teplý.

The ECC in Prague also co-ordinated several travelling exhibitions on 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*, *The Children's Story – Children's Drawings from Terezín*, *A Ghetto Called Baluty/Report on Lodz and Neighbours Who Disappeared – Tribute to the Child Holocaust Victims*. In 2009 these exhibitions were on view at 39 schools and museums in the Czech Republic and at nine institutions abroad. The ECC in Prague also arranged for the travelling exhibition *The History of the Jews in Bohemia and Moravia* to be on display at four venues in the Czech Republic and the exhibition *Children's Drawings from Terezín, 1943–1944* to be shown in Germany.

The ECC in Brno co-ordinated the loan of two 2 travelling exhibitions: *The Girls from Room 28, L 410, Terezín* and *The Children's Story – Children's Drawings from Terezín*. These exhibitions were loaned to five different institutions – mainly schools – in 2009. In co-operation with the Brno Jewish Community, the ECC in Brno also organized two parallel exhibitions at Brno's New Town Hall Cloister: *Cross-section of the Work of Michal Hajnal* and *The Jewish Community in Brno*.



Michal Hajnal exhibition in Brno.

6. Care and documentation of the collections

a) Care of the collections

After major investments in repairs, refurbishments and the construction of new depositories between 1995 and 2004, the objects and books in the JMP's collections are now stored in safe conditions that are optimal in terms of heat, light and climate control. All the restoration staff carried out regular checks on the climate control conditions and on the objects in the JMP's depositories and permanent exhibitions and took measurements of the lighting intensity.

Restoration workshop staff contributed to the preparation of items for exhibition purposes, including collaboration with depository staff on the installation of the *Path of Life* exhibition. Throughout the year, depository staff prepared objects from the collections for digitization in the JMP's photo studio and in the first half of the year assisted in the Maisel Synagogue depository on the launch of a project involving the complete digitization of the silver collection. Depository staff oversaw five clean-up days in all of the JMP's exhibitions and provided other museums with specialist consultations concerning the storage of collection objects.

The restoration of objects for the JMP's exhibition projects continued in the JMP's metal, textile and paper restoration workshops. In view of the need to reduce costs, only objects that were in immediate risk of deterioration due to a poor state of repair were restored and only large textiles were restored by external specialists.

In the textile workshop, 31 collection objects were restored and conserved (including documentation and photographic documentation) and ten binders from London's Memorial Scroll Trust on loan for the JMP's exhibition *May God Let Him Grow* were cleaned and conserved. In addition, seven collection objects were selected and prepared for external restoration; this involved ongoing consultations, acceptance procedures, recording of documents for competitions of tenders and restoration reports.

Restoration staff at the paper workshop collaborated on the preparation of the exhibitions *Helga Hošková-Weissová* and *May God Let Him Grow* at the Robert Guttmann Gallery (restoration, matting, framing and installation). Work for the JMP's various departments included the restoration of 164 drawings and



From the opening of the May God Let Him Grow exhibition.

prints, new acquisitions were cleaned and four photo albums were repaired. For the JMP Library, 15 books were fully restored for the *Haggadah* exhibition under preparation for 2010. In addition, 35 books were repaired, 24 volumes of periodicals, newspapers and yearbooks were cleaned and 30 books were disinfected. For the JMP Archives, 7 books were restored,

ongoing repairs were carried out on archival materials (approx. 150 sheets) and about 3,000 catalogue cards were cleaned.

Eighty-six silver and brass collection objects were conserved and restored in the metal workshop.

Eleven tombstones in Prague's Old Jewish Cemetery were restored under the supervision of the JMP's archivists. Two tombs in the Fibichova Street cemetery in Prague were stabilized and restored.

b) Documentation

In addition to processing regular loan agreements in 2009, the documentation section of the Collection Department also had to deal with a vast amount of paperwork concerning loans from the Czech Republic and abroad for the *Path of Life* exhibition. The JMP has never before loaned such a large amount of items from other collections for one of its exhibitions.

The work associated with the process of inventorying from 2008 was completed (incorrect registration numbers were sought out, catalogue cards were marked with a stamp to show that they had been reviewed, and a final report on the inventorying was drawn up). In addition, a further component of the JMP's collections was inventoried in accordance with the Central Registration of Collections Act.

In co-operation with depository staff, metal restoration staff and the curator of the collection of metal and three-dimensional objects, a physical inspection was undertaken of small sets of various synagogue, household and association objects (e.g., head covers, burial society cleaning sets, Hanukkah lamps, menorahs, mezuzahs, coins, medals, dishes and kitchen utensils, etc.) in the Maisel Synagogue depository, comprising about 4,400 inventory numbers – approximately 11.6% of the total number of objects overseen by the Collection Department.

About 77% of the JMP's collections were physically checked by the end of 2009 as part of all the inventorying undertaken to date

Four reports concerning changes were submitted to the Czech Ministry of Culture's Central Registration of Collections in 2009. Documents were prepared for the cataloguing of acquisitions for the year 2006 and, in co-operation with curators and depository staff, these acquisitions were sought out and catalogued and the changes were entered in the Central Registration of Collections.

Information on collection objects was entered in the JMP's database, which was also maintained. Work continued on the transcription of data from acquisition registers into an Excel database.

Work continued on the documentation of Judaica stored outside of the JMP and the Special Catalogue was supplemented on an ongoing basis

Recently photographed objects were added to the JMP's digital archive system. As of the end of December 2009, there were more than 16,500 database cards with low resolution images.

Worthy of special mention is a case dealt with by M. Sidenberg, the curator of the visual art collection, who identified a painting by Ilona Singer (1905–1944), *Boy with Teddy Bear* (1927, oil on canvas, 55 x 45 cm, inv. no. JMP 82.679) at an auction held by the Prague office of Dorotheum on 23 May 5 2009 (lot number 99). During the Second World War, this work was confiscated from the property of the artist's family and was placed via the Treuhandstelle (Nazi Trustee Office) in the JMP's collections, from where it disappeared under unclear circumstances some time between 1967 and 1994, together with another work by Ilona Singer (*Man with Cigarette*, 1928, oil on canvas, 55 x 46 cm, inv. no. JMP 82.680), which appeared under lot number 98 at an auction held by the Prague office of Dorotheum on 20

September 2008. Despite all efforts made, the *Man with Cigarette* painting – whose provenance was also drawn to the attention of the Prague office of Dorotheum by the JMP – could not be excluded from the auction sale. Thanks to the intervention of the Vienna-based head office of Dorotheum and the selfless help of the London-based Art Loss Register, however, we did ultimately manage to exclude the *Boy with Teddy Bear* painting from the auction sale. However, the painting was not returned to the Jewish Museum in Prague, which had identified the work was prepared to search for potential heirs of the original owner to bring a restitution claim regarding the work. Instead, the auctioneer returned it to the current owner who still has it at his disposal. Despite attempts to come to an agreement with the owner, the JMP has not managed to get the work back for the purpose of finding a potential restitution claimant and its fate remains unclear.

The Photo Department continued to digitize collection objects and archival materials (approx 11,000 images). Recently photographed objects were added to the JMP's digital archive system. As of the end of December 2009, there were more than 16,500 database cards with low resolution images

Photos were taken for opening shows, prominent visits and other important events held by the JMP (approx. 1,600 images), and photographic documentation was taken of exteriors, interiors and exhibitions (approx. 800 images). Key work undertaken by the Photo Department's in 2009 included the preparation of high-quality photographic material for the JMP's exhibitions and publications.

A substantial portion of the Photo Archive's work involved dealing with requests (more than 160) from the Czech Republic and abroad, and providing the necessary materials (mostly in electronic form).

Work continued on a project involving the digitization of glass negatives. More than 90% of the glass negatives in the Photo Archive had been digitized by the end of 2009.



Prague 1 Days at the Jewish Museum in Prague.

7. Specialist activities

a) Collection Department

The entire department contributed in a major way to the preparation of the exhibition *Path of Life. Rabbi Loew (ca. 1525–1609)*.

The curator of the metal collection continued to prepare materials for a large catalogue of silver artefacts, which involved ascertaining the authorship of silver collection objects and re-cataloguing the collection. The selection of objects was concluded and work began on the preparation of essays for the catalogue.

The curator of the visual art collection, M. Sidenberg, continued to collect data for photographic material in the collection and prepared archival searches for the preparation of a provenance catalogue of works that were confiscated during the Second World War and included in the JMP's collections.

The curator of manuscripts and rare books, O. Sixtová, significantly contributed to editorial work in the preparation of a prestigious publication to accompany the exhibition *Path of Life. Rabbi Loew (ca. 1525–1609)*. As part of a grant project supported by the Hanadiv Charitable Foundation, work continued on the cataloguing of rare Hebrew books printed in the Czech Lands and kept in the JMP's library collection and of Hebraica and Judaica at the Olomouc Research Library. As in previous years, work also continued on the collating of relevant information from the ongoing cataloguing of the collection of manuscripts and rare books and of items outside the JMP's collection that have been found in genizot.

The textile curator, D. Veselská, catalogued a set of Torah binders from Bohemia and Moravia as part of a project with financial support from the Czech Ministry of Culture. The results of this work were presented at an exhibition at the Robert Guttmann Gallery and featured in a catalogue that was published for this event.

The head of the documentation section, M. Veselská, undertook provenance research into Judaica in the JMP's collections, charted the fate of pre-war Czech Jewish museums during the Second World War, prepared a biography of Hana Volavková and documentation of the latter's specialist topics and projects, and continued to prepare material for the publication *History of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 1906–2006*.

The unKnown project continued throughout 2009. Supervised by the head of the Photo Archive, M. Jelínek, its main aim is to identify people in portrait photographs dating from 1942–1944 that have been preserved in the JMP's Photo Archive. A hundred people had been identified by the end of the year on the basis of archive research with the help of the Terezín Initiative Institute and, in particular on the basis of information from eyewitnesses. In connection with the project, several unique objects and a wealth of accompanying materials were acquired for the JMP's collections. Media updates on *The unKnown* project were provided throughout the year.

Specialist staff gave a number of lectures, mostly in connection with JMP exhibitions. A yearly lecture on the JMP's exhibitions was held for students at the Institute for Art History in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts, Charles University. Specialist staff also attended a number of conferences, symposia and discussions: of particular importance was participation in the Working Group on Looted Art and at the Holocaust Era Assets conference in Prague, June 2009. The JMP was also represented at the annual meeting of the Association of European Jewish Museums and at the meetings of the Association of Museums and Galleries in the Czech Republic.

On behalf of the JMP, staff member M. Sidenberg joined the board of the newly established European Shoah Legacy Institute. Paper restoration staff took part in a conference for

paper restoration and conservation specialists in Brno, as well as an IFLA conference on the topic of flooding and a seminar at the Prague Academy of Art, Architecture and Design in Prague on the topic of Chinese methods of paper restoration and on book binding. Textile restoration staff took part in textile seminars at the National Museum held by the *Textil* and *Stop* groups.

b) Shoah History Department

The JMP's former Holocaust Department was renamed the Shoah History Department in 2009, which more accurately expresses the content of its activity. One of its major priorities was to develop digital sources and to share and utilize them on a national and international level. A new database of interviews with Shoah survivors and witnesses was put together with support from the European Commission (as part of the Europe for Citizens programme). In the future, this database will make it possible to connect various types of digitized collections, including oral history, archive documents, photographs and databases of Shoah victims. The Shoah History Department also began work on the complete digitization of the archive collections in its care and scanned as many as 10,000 pages of written recollections of Shoah survivors.

The Shoah History Department collaborated with the Terezín Initiative Institute on the development of a joint database centre, the Terezín Digital Resource Centre and, from the autumn of 2009, on the Memory Mosaic project (also as part of the Europe for Citizens programme), which aims to modernize the internet portal www.holocaust.cz and to add digitized archive documents to it. The department also prepared two major European projects which – if supported – will facilitate the sharing of its sources and the use of its specialist potential for the general public and experts. Together with the Terezín Initiative Institute, the department prepared a project for creating a large educational portal on the history of the Jews in the twentieth century and, in collaboration with the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation and other institutions, a project promoting integrated research infrastructure for Shoah archives.

Preparations for the third part of the exhibition "*Since then I believe in fate...*" significantly proceeded in 2009. The aims of this project, which documents the fate of Czech Jews who were deported to Nazi-occupied Byelorussia, is to bring attention to the often forgotten places where Jews from the Czech lands were persecuted and exterminated. The curator Jana Šplíchalová, who undertook three study trips to Germany in 2009, collected a large amount of little known testimonies, documents and photographs from archives in the Czech Republic and abroad. This exhibition will run from 29 July 2010 to 30 January 2011. Work also continued on the assessment of testimonies from Shoah survivors and witnesses as part of an overhaul of the database of testimonies, and on the assessment of newly acquired findings from studies on the history of antisemitism and of the Holocaust of Jews from Bohemia and Moravia.

As it does every year, the Shoah History Department paid considerable attention to meeting the needs of researchers (110 visits, 50 researchers), communicating with specialists and the general public, engaging in acquisition activity and recording new interviews with Shoah survivors and witnesses. In addition, it launched an oral history project with the aim of documenting the recollections of Shoah survivors of their experience of life in post-war Czechoslovakia. In total, twenty new interviews were recorded.

The department head M. Frankl presented papers at seven international workshops and conferences in the Czech Republic and abroad. Also of importance were media activities to which M. Frankl and, in particular, the JMP director L. Pavlát contributed.

c) Department of Jewish History

For staff at the Department of Jewish History – particularly A. Putík and D. Polakovič – the main focus for 2009 was to prepare the exhibition *Path of Life. Rabbi Loew (ca. 1525–1609)* and a prestigious publication to accompany the show. With support from the Collection Department, the staff contributed to the implementation of the exhibition by setting out its concept and structure, suggesting exhibits from other institutions – libraries, archives and museums – in the Czech Republic and abroad, securing the production of copies, compiling a list of exhibits, preparing the exhibition scenario, collaborating on the spatial design of the exhibition, writing the texts and captions, designing and securing the production of maps and plans, and assisting with the installation.



May God Let Him Grow catalogue.

The department contributed to the preparation of the catalogue *Path of Life. Rabbi Judah Loew ben Bezalel, ca. 1525–1609* (in Czech and English) by writing and edited texts. A. Putík and D. Polakovič cowrote the essay “Judah Loew ben Bezalel Called Maharal – A Study on His Genealogy and Biography”; Polakovič put together the bibliography of Maharal’s works. Putík and Polakovič also contributed to the supplements and catalogue entries. Putík proposed the structure of the catalogue, secured the participation of external authors, edited the contributions with O. Sixtová, commissioned translations, selected illustrations and proofread the Czech and English texts.

I. Cermanová and A. Putík editorially prepared two issues of the JMP’s journal *Judaica Bohemiae* XLIV (2009) and began editorial work on Issue 1 of *Judaica Bohemiae* XLIV (2010).

Staff members also contributed to the preparation of D. Veselská’s book *May God Let Him Grow. A Child’s Birth in the Culture and Customs of Bohemian and Moravian Jews* (in Czech and English). A. Putík wrote the essay *Inscriptions on Circumcision Binders as a Genealogical Source*; M. Scheibová compiled the indexes and contributed to editorial work.

Work on long-term research projects also continued at the department. To this end, staff members undertook research in archives and research libraries, published some of the results, presented them at four research conferences and added them to an internal database.

A. Putík carried out genealogical research into Jewish families of Prague, focusing on the Bezalel and Perels families, and added about 500 names to a genealogical database. Putík also undertook genealogical research into Jewish families of Sušice for the requirements of D. Veselská’s book *May God Let Him Grow*. D. Polakovič focused on identifying new findings of Hebrew fragments in the collections of Bohemian and Moravian libraries and on carrying out epigraphic research into Hebrew inscriptions on tombstones and in synagogues. M. Scheibová focused on research into inscriptions on objects in the JMP’s textile collection. J. Fiedler continued his research into the demography and topography of Jewish settlements.

In collaboration with staff at the JMP Archives, D. Polakovič continued the documentation of Jewish cemeteries in Prague and in 27 rural communities.

Significant progress was made on the electronic *Encyclopaedia of Jewish Communities*, which is being put together with contributions from J. Fiedler. In total, 270 complete entries have been prepared for sale via the JMP's website and a further 430 entries are available to order.

d) Archives

Since 2005, when the JMP Archives were fully relocated to a new air-conditioned depository in the Smíchov district of Prague, it has been possible to regularly check and regulate the temperature and humidity of the space in which the JMP's archival materials are kept. In addition, continual checks are made on the physical condition of archival materials, dust is mechanically removed on an ongoing basis with the help of external workers and selected archival materials are restored every year in the JMP's restoration workshop. In 2009, a total of 490 archive books, 150 box files and 11 boxes of card indexes were cleaned and 14 archive books and 65 documents were restored. Items were mechanically cleaned and newly acquired documents were disinfected where necessary before being deposited in the archive.

In the area of sorting, the focus in 2009 was on reviewing and re-cataloguing materials in the archive with particular attention paid to the collection of personal papers and miscellaneous items, the Prague Jewish Community Collection and the JMP's business archive. Archivists continually updated the register of archive collections – both in the form of registration cards and digitally (as part of the nationwide archive registration programme PEvA). Archival material from the Jewish communities of Ústí nad Labem, Ostrava and Olomouc from 1945–1990 (covering almost 7 metres in length) were added to the collections in 2009. Preparations continued for the receipt of documents from the Prague Jewish Community.

As part of the JMP's document shredding procedure, 2.55 metres of JMP documents from 1952–1994 were added to the archive and 7.72 metres of documents were destroyed in 2009.

The recording of data in the archive databases continued in 2009. The database of people buried in the New Jewish Cemetery of Prague–Strašnice was checked and supplemented on the basis of burial registers, and records from 1942–1977 were added; this database currently has more than 25,200 records from 1890–1977. 2,071 records from 1750–1809 were added to the database of a list of Prague Jews from 1748 to 1838; this database contains a total of 3,500 records. The development of these databases will facilitate the effective use of selected sources, particularly for the purposes of genealogical research. Both databases should be completed by the beginning of 2011.

In collaboration with the JMP's photography workshop, work continued on the gradual digitizing of selected archival material with the aim of providing study and back-up copies of material that is of historical value and is often required by researchers. The earliest extant documents (up to 1700), selected *pinkasim* (minute books) and other archival material that is used mainly for genealogical research have already been digitized. In total, 4,200 pages of archive books were digitized in 2009.

The specialist activity of archivists focused mainly on research into the history of the Jews in the occupied border areas and on the history of the Jewish community in the Czech lands after 1945. Seminars on the history of the Jews in Bohemia continued to be organized in collaboration with museums and archives in the border areas. In 2009, the JMP published the proceedings *Židé v Čechách 2* [The Jews in Bohemia 2], featuring the papers that were given at a seminar in Nýrsko in September 2008. Work also continued on research into Judaica in archives in the Czech Republic.

In collaboration with the Department of Jewish History, the JMP's archivists contributed to the documentation of Jewish cemeteries and to work on the newly found epigraphic material. Particular attention was paid to the preparation of a publication about the Jewish cemetery in Brandýs nad Labem. Archivists also carried out specialist supervision of the reconstruction and restoration work at Prague's Old Jewish Cemetery and at the Jewish cemetery in Fibichova Street.

To further their skills and share experience, the JMP's archivists took part in two archive conferences, seminars on digitization, training for research workers and training as part of the nationwide archive registration programme PEvA.

The JMP Archives received 134 research visits in 2009. As in previous years, the main focus of researchers' interest was on genealogy, the history of individual Jewish communities and the documentation of sites (cemeteries, synagogues, ghettos). The JMP's archivists undertook 25 literature searches and provided about 130 consultations and replies to written queries. In total, 370 copies of archival material were made for exhibitions, publications and researchers.

e) Library

The JMP Library, which has 1,090 registered members, was visited by 1,163 researchers in 2009. The Library also offered inter-library loans and provided access to nine foreign databases.

The import of records to the JMP's online library catalogue continued in 2009 (as part of the VISK 7–Kramerius project). As many as 8,000 of these brief records were imported; they were produced by scanning and then retro-converting the part of the Prague Jewish Community's pre-war card catalogue written in Roman characters. The range of publications that can be searched and reserved online has thus been considerably expanded. By the end of the year, the JMP Library's electronic catalogue had more than 45,000 records. In addition, links to book covers and records of publications that are registered online in Google's digital book repository were added to the document records in the JMP's online library catalogue.

Biographical and topographical information continued to be added to the database in connection with a retrospective inspection of the collection with the aim of determining original ownership. In total, 6,493 volumes were checked and 5,678 records were entered in the database in 2009. There are now 42,243 in the database.

The JMP Library was visited by the participants of the 38th international conference of the Association of European Theological Libraries (BETH).



Visit by a delegation of the Association of European Theological Libraries.

8. Acquisitions

Two ordinary and four extraordinary meetings of the JMP's Collection-Building Commission with external associates in attendance were held in 2009. Most of the acquisitions to the JMP's collections in 2009 were donated – 33 items given by individuals and institutions from the Czech Republic and abroad. The limited amount that was available for purchases was used to acquire 10 items. Among the outstanding acquisitions of 2009 are a family Megillah that belonged to Josef Rochet and a Mohelbuch from Polná.

The JMP Library collection in 2009 was enriched by 1,594 volumes (36 for the Education and Culture Centre, 38 for the Reference Centre) and 237 periodicals.



Ritual spice box, inv. no. 179.460. Silver and filigree, Brno after 1872, maker: EE. Height: 153 mm.

9. Educational activities

As in previous years, the JMP organized many events, programmes and projects via the Prague and Brno offices of its Education and Culture Centre (ECC).

The ECC in Prague offered nine types of lectures with 15 interactive workshops that involve interpretations of Jewish holidays and other events in the life of Jews through art and drama and provide a counter balance to the more traditional lectures. Its programmes deal with various aspects of Jewish life, including traditions, customs, biblical history and the history of Jews in Bohemia and Moravia. Much attention was paid to teaching about antisemitism and the Shoah in 2009.

In total, 13,175 pupils and students took part in the EEC's programmes in Prague and 638 people attended its seminars outside Prague. Programmes and seminars were also held for foreign students, as well as for Czech visitors. In 2009, the EEC's Prague-based offerings attracted 637 people from Germany, the USA, the UK, Austria, Spain, Canada, the Netherlands, Italy and France.

In 2009, the ECC expanded its former material with a new workshop, *Ghetto without Walls*, which was also presented at a four-day international seminar for teachers, *The Holocaust in Education*, which was organized by the Terezín Memorial.

A workbook *Maharal–Rabbi Loew* was added to the *Golem* workshop on the occasions of the *Path of Life* exhibition. Workshops were also held at the exhibition at Prague Castle and were attended by 207 visitors.

The EEC attaches great importance to programmes for teachers. Three two-day seminars for teachers on the topic *Jews, History and Culture* were attended by 53 teachers. Another two-day seminar was held in collaboration with the ICEJ (International Christian Embassy Jerusalem) and was attended by 49 participants from this organization. Two additional one-day seminars were also held for ICEJ educators. 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 86 teachers on the topic *How to Teach about the Holocaust*.

The Brno office of the ECC held 11 various lectures and workshops in 2009. Five lectures for 77 pupils and students and 34 workshops for 762 pupils and students were held on its premises. Six lectures for 264 pupils and 25 workshops for 498 pupils and students were held elsewhere. Other educational activities were the result of collaborations with other institutions. With the support of the *Tři brány* [Three Gates] Foundation in Vyškov, the ECC held 10 workshops and one tour of the local Jewish cemetery. In collaboration with the Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University, a private view of the exhibition *The Girls from Room 28, L 410, Terezín* was held in its lobby area and was followed by a lecture and Q&A session. In collaboration with the National Theatre in Brno and to coincide with the premiere of



Workshop for children, prepared for the Path of Life exhibition by our Education and Culture Centre.

the Anne Frank opera, three workshops were held in the foyer of the Janáček Theatre, which also featured an exhibition on Anne Frank.

The EEC's educational programmes in Brno were nicely complemented a theatre show by Divadlo Kufr (Suitcase Theatre), entitled *A Jewess or Juggling with Life*, which began in 2007 under the auspice of the Brno ECC. The show was followed by a Q&A with a Shoah survivor. Eight performances were held for 172 pupils and students.

The EEC in Prague presented its educational programmes, travelling exhibitions, publications and publicity and press materials at the DIDACTA International Education Fair in Třebíč.

Work on the JMP's educational project *Neighbours Who Disappeared* continued in 2009 for the tenth year running. Intended for elementary and high school pupils, this project charts the fate of Shoah survivors and eyewitnesses in the neighbourhoods of those taking part. The EEC in Prague collaborated with the civic association Zapomenutí/The Forgotten Ones in 2009. Among the outcomes of the project are exhibitions, publications, a collection of archival material and testimonies from survivors and eyewitnesses.

Two Czech-language roll-up versions of the exhibition (comprising 20 panels) were seen in schools and institutions across the Czech Republic in 2009. Students and pupils once again presented their own project at the international seminar *How to Teach about the Holocaust* in the Terezín Memorial. One of the copies of the exhibition is also on permanent display in the Attic Theatre vestibule of the Magdeburg Barracks at the Terezín Memorial. In the Czech Republic, the exhibition was also on display at the Vojna (War) Memorial near Příbram as part of the *Fighters against Totalitarianism* project in collaboration with the Czech Ministry of Defence. The exhibition was also shown at the Štěpánská Academic High School in Prague 1 on the occasion of a visit by Mrs E. Weisseberger, a survivor of the Terezín ghetto.

The JMP's *Neighbours Who Disappeared* project was also featured abroad. Two English-language versions of the exhibition were seen in universities, museums and Jewish communities across the USA and Canada. Another English-language version was on view on the occasion of Holocaust Memorial Day in the UK, this time in Framlingham, Sussex, where local students contributed their own work to the project. The German-language version of the exhibition was seen at seven schools and institutions across Germany. Small copies of exhibition posters were printed as methodological worksheets for the German-language version. Additional small versions comprising 20 panels in Czech and English were used as accompanying material for the exhibition and, where necessary, for the training of young exhibition guides.

ECC staff member M. Ludvíková took part in two regular meetings of the International Task Force in 2009 – in Bratislava (March) and Oslo (December).



Travelling exhibition Girls from Room 28, L 410, Terezín in Brno.

9. Cultural activities

a) Evening programmes at the Education and Culture Centre

Cultural activities for the public were developed at the EEC in Prague and Brno in 2009. 87 evening programmes were held in Prague for 2,076 visitors. These included not only debates on topical issues (with three or four participants, moderated by Petr Brod), but also concerts (e.g., Mišpacha, Ester, Alexander Shonert, Duo Brikcius, David Kalhous, Klezmerim), literary evenings (e.g., Arnošt Goldflam: *Fairytales about Dad and Other Horrors...*), book presentations (e.g., Ivan Klíma: *Moje šílené století / My Crazy Century*) and film screenings (e.g., *Chronicle of the Uprising according to Mark Edelman*). Two series of lectures continued (*The Middle East – Yesterday and Today; Films of Death, Hope and Life*) and five other series were launched (*The Fundamentals of Judaism as Conceived by the Prague Maharal, Jewish Monuments in Bohemia and Moravia, The Maharal and His Times, Religion and Politics in Israel and Paths of Israeli Literature*). In addition, six projects dealing with the period of the Shoah were presented and five exhibitions were held. The monthly Sunday afternoon programmes for parents and young children were popular, attracting some 210 people.

In the early-evening hours, the Brno office of the ECC provided the public with eight lecture series of various types, as well as radio and music programmes, film screenings and Sunday workshops for parents and young children. Two theatre shows, four book presentations and Q&A sessions were also held. In total, 59 programmes were held for 1,620 visitors.

The Brno office of the ECC also collaborated with the Brno Jewish Community on a benefit concert at the Brno Synagogue, which was held on 9 November.

b) Concerts at the Spanish Synagogue and other events

The JMP directly organized or collaborated on five concerts at the Spanish Synagogue. In addition to a concert by the Prague-based choir *Mišpacha* on 24 January, a gala concert was held in collaboration with the Prague Jewish Community and Professor Zuzana Růžičková to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January. In collaboration with the Embassy of the United States of America and the Estonian Embassy in Prague, the JMP held a concert for the Prague Jewish Community on 26 April. Mendelssohn's complete works for cello & piano were performed by Latvian born cellist Josef Feigelson and the Estonian pianist Peep Lassmann.

The screening of the 1922 silent classic *Hungry Hearts* with a new score by Jan Dušek performed by the Berg Chamber Orchestra was a major – and, in the Czech context, unique – event of 2009. This took place on 14 October as part of the CINEGOGUE project, which is organized by the curator of the JMP's visual art collection M. Sidenberg.

The JMP also contributed to the fourth annual *Light of Understanding* concert, which was held on 4 November in collaboration with the Prague-based Conservative Jewish congregation and the Holy Spirit Church.

The Spanish Synagogue was also the venue for concerts organized by the BM Art, Pragoplakát and Opera Ars Magna agencies. The guitarist Lubomír Brabec completed the ninth series of concerts for season-ticket holders (*Lubomír Brabec Presents Prague Musical Evenings in the Spanish Synagogue*) and a concert was organized by OK-TOURS a.s. In total, 182 concerts were held at the Spanish Synagogue.

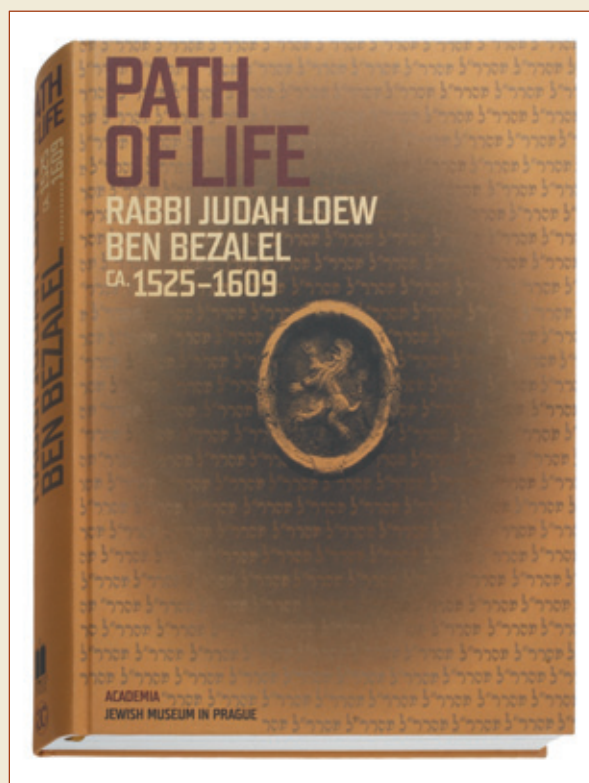
10. Publications

The prestigious book *Path of Life. Rabbi Judah Loew ben Bezalel, ca. 1525–1609* was the JMP's most important publication of 2009. Published in Czech and English-language versions, it was the JMP's largest publication since the 2003 book *Textiles from Bohemian and Moravian Synagogues*. The co-publisher was Nakladatelství Academia. The book was authored and edited by specialist staff mainly from the Department of Jewish History and also from the Collection Department.

This book was published on the occasion of a major exhibition of the same name at Prague Castle. In addition to an introduction by the JMP director L. Pavlát and reflections by the Chief Rabbi of Prague and the Czech Republic Efraim Karol Sidon, it contains 14 essays, including five by prominent international specialists. In its entirety, the book provides the public with insights into the authentic legacy of the most famous Jewish figure in Czech history, which to date has, for the most part, remained concealed.

The concept for the book, which also served as a catalogue of selected works on display at the Prague Castle exhibition, was put together by the Judaist A. Putík. The latter also secured contributors for the book and, together with D. Polakovič, wrote one of the chapters ("Judah Loew ben Bezalel Called Maharal. A Study on His Genealogy and Biography"). Another member of the JMP staff, A. Pařík, contributed two essays to the book: "The Prague Ghetto: In Search of Maharal" and "Maharal and the Golem in Art". This richly illustrated work also contains a bibliography, a list of illustrations, author profiles, a glossary and name index. The graphic design was by Clara Istlerová, who in February 2010 received the 2009 Academia Publishing House Award for Graphic Design.

The JMP's second major publication of 2009 was *May God Let Him Grow*, which was prepared by the curator of the textile collection, D. Veselská (in Czech and English). This book is the result of almost five years' research that was undertaken between 2004–2009 by staff at the JMP on the available donated circumcision textiles from Bohemia and Moravia (in public and private collections both in the Czech Republic and abroad). It contains specialist studies by JMP staff members D. Veselská, A. Putík and I. Cermanová. The catalogue section contains almost 1,330 items, including translations of Hebrew dedicatory inscriptions. It is illustrated with wonderfully rich full-colour illustrations on foldable pages. There are also indexes of the forenames and surnames of donors (i.e. the boys or their parents or grandparents) and an



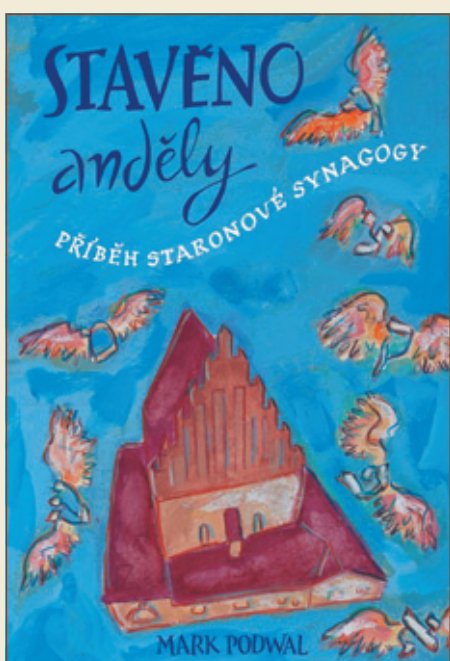
Title page of the English version of the Path of Life catalogue.



May God Let Him Grow catalogue.



Title page of the *Maharal – Rabbi Loew* workbook.



Title page from the new publication *Stavěno anděly [Built by Angels]*.

index of the localities mentioned in the dedicatory inscriptions, supplemented with all the ascertained variants of the Hebrew inscriptions.

The JMP's third publication of 2009 was a workbook for child visitors to the *Path of Life* exhibition, which will continue to be used as part of the ECC's Golem workshop, which is intended for younger children. It was written by ECC staff Zuzana Tlášková and Miroslava Ludvíková and was illustrated by Hana Pavlátová.

The JMP also published a Czech version of the children's book about the Old-New Synagogue, *Built by Angels*, by the acclaimed U.S. illustrator Mark Podwal.

The JMP's journal *Judaica Bohemiae* (issue XLIV) was published as usual but became a biannual publication in 2009. In the previous year, *Judaica Bohemiae* was included in the List of Peer-reviewed Journals without Impact Factor in the Czech Republic, as well as in the Web of Science Database and the Arts and Humanities Citation Index. The journal has now also been included in Elsevier's prestigious citation and abstract database, Scopus.

As usual, information leaflets were published for all the exhibitions held at the Robert Guttmann Gallery. Previously published materials were supplemented where required, in particular guidebooks, workbooks and fliers. In addition, various kinds of souvenirs – T-shirts, postcards, thimbles and fridge magnets – were produced for the *Path of Life* exhibition.

11. Co-operation with institutions

a) Specialist co-operation and loans

In contrast with the previous year, the JMP substantially expanded its co-operation with political, administrative, cultural, academic and educational institutions in the Czech Republic and abroad in 2009. In various areas of its activity, it collaborated with 180 local institutions and 109 foreign institutions.

A large number of collection objects were loaned to organizations in the Czech Republic, primarily to individual Jewish communities for liturgical purposes. As usual, the main recipients of loaned objects were the Jewish communities in Prague and Brno, but objects were also provided on loan to Jewish communities in Pilsen, Karlovy, Ostrava, Teplice, Liberec and Olomouc.

Other objects on loan were provided to museums and synagogues (including the Jewish Community in Děčín), documenting the life of local Jewish communities. The JMP also provided objects on loan to exhibitions held by other organizations in the Czech Republic.

Among the major loans abroad were five Ludwig Blum paintings to Beth Hatefutsoth in Tel Aviv and nine collection objects to the Jewish Museum in Berlin, eight of which were loaned for the Kasher & Co exhibition. As in previous years, loans of original children's drawings from Terezín were made to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington and intense loan co-operation continued with the Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust in London.



President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama watch as a child lights the Hanukkah candles at a reception in the White House, 16 December, 2009. (Official White House Photo by Samantha Appleton).

Of great importance last year was the loan the JMP's loan of a rare Hanukkah lamp for a celebration of the Jewish Festival of Lights in the White House on 16 December. This event was attended by U.S. President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle and attracted considerable media attention.

The JMP issued dozens of permissions to use JMP materials for books, magazines, publicity and study purposes, as well as permissions for taking photos and filming in JMP sites in 2009.

As part of its collaboration with schools, the JMP provided work experience in its restoration workshops for eight students from the Prague Institute of Chemical Technology (VŠCHT), Higher Technical School (VOŠ), Secondary School of Applied Arts (SPŠG) and the Turnov Secondary School of Applied Arts and College of Craft (SUPŠ – VOŠ). In addition, there were six excursions to the JMP from specialized schools. Staff at the Collection Department provided expert opinions on final and bachelor dissertations by students of the School of Museum Propedeutics – Association of Museums and Galleries, the Prague College of Information Services (VOŠIS) and the Faculty of Arts – Charles University. Specialist JMP staff provided information and consultations for other institutions and specialists of various disciplines, as well as for the renovation of heritage sites and the preparation of exhibitions across the Czech Republic.

b) Involvement in other projects

In 2009, the JMP took part in a number of festivals and events held by other institutions. It presented its publications and promotional materials in Jerusalem and London via the international book fair Book World (Svět knihy). In addition to its successful involvement in the Icy Prague, Prague 1 Days 1, Literature Night and European Heritage Days events, the JMP also focused its attention, as usual, on the public commemoration of the Shoah.

Two commemorative events were held at the Pinkas Synagogue. In co-operation with the Terezín Initiative, a ceremony commemorating the extermination of the Terezín family camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau was held on 8 March, and a Yom Hashoah commemorative event was held here on 21 April. A special event at the Spanish Synagogue to mark the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The JMP collaborated with the Holocaust Victims Foundations and the Czech Union of Jewish Youth on projects initiated by them for commemorating the Jews who perished during the Second World War. In association with the Terezín Initiative, the JMP also contributed to lectures and Q&A meetings at elementary and secondary schools as part of the One World Month of Film in Schools – Stories of Injustice project, which was prepared by the People In Need organization.

JMP staff – notably L. Pavlát but also M. Frankl, E. Kosáková and M. Jelínek – worked closely with the media, drawing particular attention to issues relating to the Shoah, extremism and antisemitism.



Jewish Museum Director Leo Pavlát at the ceremonial opening of the Stories of Injustice project in Světozor Cinema, Prague.

In 2009, for the fifth year running, work continued on a JMP-funded project aimed at the care of the Jewish cultural heritage via the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic. As in previous years, this project, as part of the JMP's main remit, significantly contributed to the development of the cultural, educational, publication and religious activities of entities associated with the Federation of Jewish Communities and their central bodies, supported the maintenance and technical appraisal of the assets of Jewish communities, and contributed to activities that promote Jewish solidarity in the Czech Republic and abroad.

12. Maintenance and reconstruction

The JMP's service department mainly oversaw the technical administration of the 13 sites rented from the Prague Jewish Community for the JMP's activities and of the JMP's library depository, which is based in a rented property in Prague 4. It carried out repairs and reconstruction work on the buildings and technical facilities and saw to the cleaning and maintenance of the sites, the development of the integrated security system, the maintenance of greenery, undertook checks on compliance with obligations relating to fire protection and security regulations and to safety and health at work, and arranged for the subletting of rooms and commercial space. The service department was also involved in outsourcing the JMP's in-house chauffeur service and IT facilities.

13. Investments

The investments made by the JMP in 2009 were primarily related to the running of its operations. Expenditures of this kind included the placing of advertising posters on JMP sites, the installing of a new wheelchair access ramp at the Spanish Synagogue, modernization of the electronic fire-control system at the Pinkas and Maisel synagogues, expansion of the CCTV system at the Pinkas Synagogue and the Ceremonial Hall and exchange of the backup disk drive at the JMP workplace in Prague–Smíchov.

14. Grants

In 2009, the JMP field 24 grant applications, of which 15 (including applications already filed in 2008) were accepted and nine were rejected. Grants provided by the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Prague City Hall, in particular, provided significant support. Major contributors from abroad included the Task Force Holocaust and the Rothschild Foundation Europe. In 2009, the JMP received grants worth CZK 1,544,017 EUR 4,620 EUR and GBP 7,000.

15. Finances

The unfavourable economic development as a result of the general economic crisis was particularly reflected in reduced revenue from ticket sales at the JMP – CZK 13,845,000 in absolute terms, which is 8.85% lower than in 2008. Lower visitor numbers inevitably affected the amount of revenue from the sale of goods, which dropped 7.59% from 2008 (CZK 150,000). Other revenue was also considerably lower than the previous year – a decline of about 60% (CZK 3,339,000). A key role here was also played by markedly lower interest on the current account and fixed-term deposits (CZK 2,683,000), the balance being down on previous years. The unfavourable economic development was evident particularly in the first half of 2009. Several concerts that had been contractually arranged were cancelled by an associate agency due to a lack of visitors, which resulted in a 4.65% drop in rent revenue (CZK 343,000) on the previous year.

There was an increase, however, in revenue from other services, particularly from filming and photography payments (CZK 150,000 – an increase of 5.90%) and donations and subsidies/grants (CZK 352,000 – an increase of 18.98%)

The JMP's total annual income in 2009 was CZK 17,175,696, which is 9.77% lower than in 2008 and close to the amount for 2000.

The JMP reacted operatively to the unfavourable economic development. On the basis of an initiative from the Board of Trustees, the budget was amended in the middle of the year to ensure that its expected revenue better reflected the current state of financial matters, and there was an almost 11% reduction in expenditure in comparison with the original budget for 2009.

A partial reorganization was effected, particularly at the Prague office of the ECC, which led to staff reduction. The in-house chauffeur service and the computer network administration began to be outsourced, from the beginning of May and the beginning of October respectively. The JMP sold its Ford Transit and now owns a single vehicle. In addition, some of the JMP's operations were reduced, particularly in the area of restorations and acquisitions.

As a result of these measures, the JMP managed to reduce overall costs by CZK 9,888,000 – 6.8% down on 2008. This occurred despite the fact that the JMP had to finance the prestigious *Path of Life* exhibition at the Prague Castle – a major and, at the same time, expensive event that was planned in the previous years. In comparison with 2008, the JMP managed to significantly reduce costs associated with materials (by almost 28.41%), repairs and maintenance (by approx. 51%) and travelling expenses (by almost 56%) in 2009. Publicity costs were also reduced (by approx. 19%), in particular in relation to the *Path of Life* exhibition, as the JMP succeeded in securing the required extent of publicity on the basis of favourable agreements with Prague City Hall, Czech Radio and Czech Television. Due to the staff measures taken, the JMP managed to keep wage costs at about the previous year's level, although they had to be increased in 2009 to cover 6.3% inflation on the previous year, corresponding to wage growth in the budget of about CZK 2,450,000; this item of the 2009 budget, however, was increased by only 0.29% (CZK 113,000). Under an agreement with the Prague Jewish Community, a rental discount of CZK 2 million was provided to the JMP.

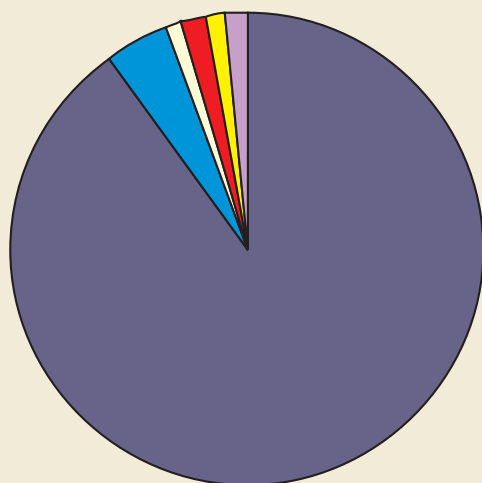
As mentioned above, however, a reduction of some of the JMP's activities came at the cost of reducing expenses.

The JMP's financial results for 2009 were positive with revenue of CZK 158,564,000 and costs of CZK 135,475,000. The JMP's gross profit was CZK 23,089,047 and net profit (after tax of CZK 4,669,360) was 18,419,687.

Prague, 12 May 2010

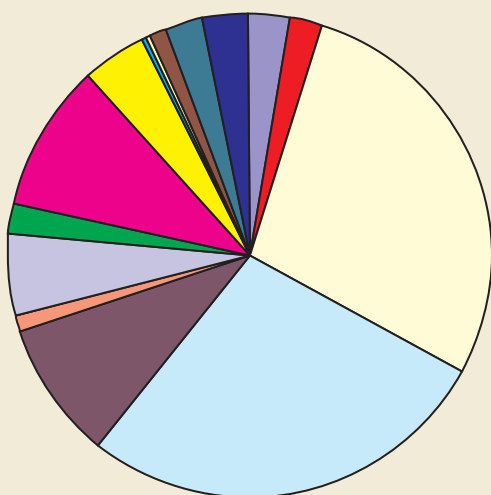
Leo Pavlát
Director

The Jewish Museum in Prague revenue sources (2009)



- 89,9% - Entrance fee
- 4,4% - Rent
- 1,2% - Sales
- 1,7% - Other services
- 1,4% - Donations and grants
- 1,4% - Other incomes

Expenses of the Jewish Museum in Prague (2009)



- 1. 2,9% - Energy, w ater, gas
- 2. 2,0% - Reparations
- 3. 28,1% - Rent
- 4. 27,5 % - Salaries
- 5. 9,2% - Social insurance
- 6. 1,0% - Legal social benefits
- 7. 0,1% - Donations
- 8. 5,6% - Depreciations
- 9. 1,9% - Insurance
- 10. 10,0% - Services
- 11. 4,4% - Other costs
- 12. 0,5% - Acquisitions of books
- 13. 0,2% - Acquisitions of antics
- 14. 1,2% - Investments
- 15. 2,4% - Material
- 16. 3,1% - Income tax

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT (in thousands of CZK)

	As of 31. Dec. 2008	As of 31. Dec. 2009
REVENUES	175 739	158 563
Sales of goods and services	11 898	11 554
Sales of entrance fees	156 406	142 561
Subsidies	1 855	2 207
Recognition of provisions	0	0
Other revenues	5 580	2 241
OPERATING COSTS	145 362	135 475
Expenditures on realized sales	74 718	68 529
Personnel costs	56 972	55 683
Depreciation	10 415	7 972
Other operating costs and provisions	3 257	3 291
INCOME TAX	6 508	4 669
ECONOMIC RESULT	23 869	18 419

BALANCE SHEET (in thousands of CZK)

	As of 31. Dec. 2008	As of 31. Dec. 2009
PERMANENT ASSETS	109 492	103 927
Intangible fixed assets	1 294	863
Tangible fixed assets	108 198	103 064
Financial investments	0	0
CURRENT ASSETS	180 513	183 381
Inventories	8 004	8 153
Receivables	9 281	13 730
Financial assets	161 805	160 383
OTHER ASSETS	1 423	1 115
TOTAL ASSETS	290 005	287 308
OWN SOURCES	275 987	274 462
Funds	252 118	256 043
Economic results in current accounting period	23 869	18 419
EXTERNAL RESOURCES	14 018	12 846
Short-term commitments	13 579	12 701
Provisiones	0	0
OTHER LIABILITIES	439	145
TOTAL LIABILITIES	290 005	287 308

Jewish Museum in Prague Staff Structure

In 2009, the JMP had on average 125 employees.

As at 31 December 2009, the JMP had 122 employees.

Director	1
Research and specialist staff, including restoration staff	42
Education and culture staff	5
Staff in charge of the maintenance, repairs, refurbishment and administration of buildings and cemeteries	5
Publicity and exhibition staff	3
Reservation Centre staff	3
Administrative staff	4
Economic staff, including exhibition ticket sellers	13
Security staff and custodians	46

Average monthly salary for JMP staff in 2009: CZK 22.974

Repairs and reconstructions of buildings (in thousands of CZK)

Building	1995-2009
Spanish synagogue	34 031
Administration building in Jáchymova st.	3 215
Maisel synagogue	18 220
Pinkas synagogue	11 541
Ceremonial hall	2 131
Klausen synagogue	6 680
Depository of textiles	2 732
New Administration and Research Centre	94 360
Education and Culture Centre	661
Smíchov synagogue	72 653
Brandýs synagogue	855
Depository of books Spořilov	152
Jewish Cemetery – Fibichova, Praha 3	11 638
Old Jewish Cemetery	8 600
Total	267 469