

Newsletter

2 2016

Stranded in Shanghai: The Hongkew Ghetto through the Lens of Arthur Rothstein

On May 11, 2016, the exhibition *Stranded in Shanghai: The Hongkew Ghetto through the Lens of Arthur Rothstein* opened at the Robert Guttman Gallery. The entrance to the ghetto in the Hongkew district, the dormitory on Chaoufoong Road, a woman carrying her allotment of food from the UNRRA distribution center, stateless children born in China to Jewish refugee families, a chess match on the street, an improvised open-air kitchen in one of the inner courtyards, matzo ball soup prepared in a traditional Chinese hot pot, an eviction notice on a wall, sorting the mail, a group of people scanning a freshly posted list of concentration camp survivors in Europe – these are the situations that American documentary photographer Arthur Rothstein (1915–85) captured in April 1946.

Rothstein's photo reportage from Shanghai, which became famous when published later, was taken after he had been discharged from the U.S. Army and had begun to work in China as head photographer for UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration). His primary assignment was to document the activities of this international organization, which during this period largely consisted of distributing food aid and organizing the repatriation of Jewish refugees back to the West.

The photographs documenting the poor Hongkew district, an area measuring about 2.5 square kilometers that between February 18, 1943, and August 14, or September 3, 1945, was the location of a ghetto set up by the Japanese occupation authorities. Called the "designated area," it was to house Jewish refugees from Europe who had come to Shanghai not earlier than 1937, and Rothstein documented the atmosphere there in the immediate postwar period. At this time there was still a rather significant population of European Jewish refugees living in the area, which between 1938 and 1942 became home to as many as 20,000 refugees who had arrived by a variety of routes.

The Stranded in Shanghai: The Hongkew Ghetto through the Lens of Arthur Rothstein exhibition employs Rothstein's photo reportage as a backdrop to tell the still largely unknown story of the fate of Czechoslovakian citizens, who formed a small but rather important group of the Shanghai population (on the basis of available sources, the Czechoslovak community in Shanghai during

1942–46 is estimated at 300-400 persons, around 75% of whom were Jewish).

You are cordially invited to take a guided tour of the exhibition with its curators, Michaela Sidenberg, Visual Arts Curator at the Jewish Museum in Prague, and documentarian Martin Šmok. The tour will be held on Wednesday, September 7, 2016, at 5:00 p.m.

Robert Guttman Gallery, U Staré školy 3, Prague 1



Arthur Rothstein: Communal kitchen and laundry in the courtyard of a residential block, April 1946



Exhibition curator Michaela Sidenberg with visitors at the opening

PREPARING

“Come, my beloved ...” – illustrations to the Song of Songs

A new exhibition organized by the Jewish Museum in Prague in cooperation with the Museum of Czech Literature presents the biblical “Song of Songs” and sheds light on its origin, its place in Jewish liturgy, its publication history and translation into Czech. The focus, however, is on its ornamentation,

illustrations, and the work it has inspired in the modern age from the beginning of the 20th century till the present.

On display are Art Nouveau illustrations from the likes of E.M. Lilien, František Kupka, and Israeli artist Zeev Raban, a number of lesser known art deco illustrations from the early 20th century, later Neoclassicist works, and a priceless set of original illustrations from the collection of bibliophile Josef Portmann that includes such renowned Czech artists as Václav Mašek, František Koblíha, Jan Konůpek, Karel Sovolinský, Cyril Bouda, and Milada Marešová, as well as work from a younger generation of artists such as Jarmila Mařanová and Olga Čechová. Among the international artists, exhibited are illustrations from Anatoli Kaplan, Shraga Weil, and contemporary American artists Marek Podwal and Barbara Wolff.

The exhibited objects come from the collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague and the Museum of Czech Literature. Select publications can be viewed in their entirety on interactive screens. The exhibition is loosely connected to previous exhibitions on the history of the JMP's rare books collection (2007) and to Passover Haggadahs from the JMP library collection (2010). The exhibition will run from October 6, 2016, to March 12, 2017, in the Robert Guttmann Gallery, U Staré školy 3, Prague 1.

CULTURE EVENTS AND LECTURES

Adventurers against Their Will

A new educational program, Adventurers against Their Will, was tested in June of this year at the Department for Education and Culture (DEC) with the cooperation of select schools. The program is based on the letters and fates of Czechoslovak Jewish émigrés during the period of WWII. More than four hundred letters from Great Britain, France, Palestine, Sweden, Argentina, Ecuador, China, and the United States were found by Joanie Holzer Schirm as part of the estate of her father, Oswald Holzer, and they eventually became the basis for her prize-winning book *Adventurers against Their Will*.

Through the medium of the letters, students are able to get a glimpse of the thoughts, feelings, and fears of those persons who after the Nazi occupation of the Czech lands had to leave their homes because they were Jewish and set out on a journey into the unknown. We follow the paths taken by five friends from Czechoslovakia who were dispersed by the war to all corners of the planet. Their stories make us aware of the often forgotten human dimension of emigration. For this and other reasons this new educational program has a wide scope that encompasses contemporary refugee issues.

Starting in September, *Adventurers against Their Will* will be a permanent feature of the DEC's program.

In 2016, a total of 29 classes from 11 schools signed up for the project aimed exclusively at students of vocational-technical schools in Prague. The participating students were most often studying in the fields of gastronomy and

health care. This year two special needs schools will be participating for the first time.

During May and June 2016 the first phase of the program was undertaken when a tour of selected JMP sites was prepared for students. The second phase of the program will take place during the following school year, from September to December 2016, at the DEC or in individual schools. This will consist of an interactive workshop focused on anti-Semitism, the Shoah and its issues, etc. As of June 22, 2016, roughly 200 students have participated in the program.



Traveling JMP exhibition at the Libeň Chateau

For the 170th anniversary of the setting of the cornerstone for the Libeň Synagogue the Jewish Museum in Prague in cooperation with the Municipality of Prague 8 presented to the public two of its traveling exhibitions: "*Synagogues of the 19th Century*" and "*The History of Jews in Bohemia and Moravia*." The exhibitions were located in the spaces of the Libeň Chateau and open to the public from May 3 to June 22, 2016.

Guided exhibition tours were also available. JMP curator Arno Pařík conducted visitors around the exhibition at Libeň Chateau on two occasions, May 10 and June 21. A visit to the Libeň Synagogue was also part of the first guided tour. The guided exhibition tour for the public on the history of Jews in the Municipality of Prague 8 spaces took place on June 14. Schools could arrange to visit the exhibitions on either May 17 or 19.

The exhibition "*Synagogues of the 19th Century*" was devoted to the period from 1800 to 1918 when 360 synagogues were built in Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia. For the occasion the Jewish Museum in Prague prepared an exhibition that for the first time ever provided a detailed presentation of these mostly forgotten architectural landmarks that also connected their dramatic fates to the present day.

The exhibition "*The History of Jews in Bohemia and Moravia*" presented the traditions, religion, and history of Jews in the Czech lands. The objects on display came from the Jewish Museum's collections and the permanent exhibitions, where visitors can see them displayed in Prague historical

landmarks. The exhibition was divided chronologically into individual historical epochs: the Middle Ages, the modern era, the period of emancipation, prewar Czechoslovakia, the Holocaust. The second section offered a deeper look at selected themes from Jewish life and history: the self-government of Jewish communities, vocational and commercial activities, Jewish settlements, traditional culture and schools, anti-Semitism and discrimination against Jews in the Czech lands.

A synopsis of the traveling exhibitions offered by the JMP can be found at: <http://www.jewishmuseum.cz/en/program-and-education/exhibits/traveling-exhibitions/>



The Department for Education and Culture in Prague

On Wednesday, April 13, 2016, the JMP's Department for Education and Culture organized a lecture by the American historian Steven Englund on "*Antijudaism and Antisemitism and Back Again?*" based on long-term research on anti-Semitic movements in Germany, Austro-Hungary, and France between 1800 and 1914. The lecture informed the public about the following findings: repressive social behavior toward Jews cannot be explained only in reference to social, economic, political, cultural, and racial factors, which is what the majority of contemporary scholars studying anti-Semitism do. An approach that thoroughly excludes societal imagery based on religion and religiousness cannot explain violence, irrationality, or the emotional stress of behavior rooted in anti-Semitism. A satisfactory historical explanation must systematically take into consideration both the conscious and, primarily, the unconscious as well as ancient religious factors. The lecture was part of an open series on the history of anti-Semitism.

On May 2, 2016, the auditorium of the Maisel Synagogue hosted an event for a new book series, *Jews – History – Memory*, and a debate on research into Czech Jewish history. The new book series is the collaborative effort of the Jewish Museum in Prague, the Institute for Contemporary History, and the Lidové noviny publishing house. Its objective is to make available to specialists in the field as well as the public at large contemporary studies on modern Jewish history and culture in the Czech lands and in Central Europe from the 18th century to the present. The series was conceived to address the lack of

quality scholarship published in Czech, and it would like to motivate and systematically inspire further research on Jews in the Czech lands. The publication of the first three volumes (vol. 1: Michael L. Miller, *Moravian Jews in the Period of Emancipation*; vol. 2: Michal Frankl and Miloslav Szabó, *State-building without Anti-Semitism?*; vol. 3: Ines Koeltzsch, *Prague Shared and Divided*) was an occasion not only to present the books themselves but to discuss the issues and needs faced by contemporary researchers on Jewish history in the Czech lands. The authors participated in the debate that was moderated by Iveta Coufalová from the Philosophical Faculty of Palacký University in Olomouc.

The six characters in Jacob Gordin's one-act play *Dement Lemach* were performed by actress Hana Frejková at the Maisel Synagogue on June 15. The play in all likelihood inspired Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*. Kafka described in his diaries how taken he was with Yiddish theater, particularly the intensity of the story and the passion the actors brought to their performances. Over the course of the evening Hana Frejková in the drama for a single actor harkened back to the fin-de-siècle atmosphere and Gordin's fondness for naturalist theater. The second half of the evening was then given over to Yiddish songs performed by Slávek Brabec (accordion) and Milan Potoček (clarinet).



Hana Frejková in the one-act play *Dement Lemach*

From the spring program of DEC Brno

In April at the Löw-Beer Villa on Drobného Street in Brno the program A Merry Purim! was held. It was organized for the public by DEC Brno and the Museum of Brno. In the building known as the Customs House there was a mask-making workshop for parents and kids and in the café Jiří Blažek gave a talk on the meaning of the Purim holiday. The Sunday afternoon also offered the pleasant opportunity to spend time in the villa's adjacent gardens.



“Even the most violent storm is followed by quiet rain ...” This Jewish proverb has now become the name of a compositional program organized by DEC Brno. The program is based on the personal memories of Holocaust survivor Erika Bezdíčková, dramatizing selections from her book *My Long Silence*. These selections are read by Brno actress Kateřina Rakovčíková, and the reading is accompanied by a puppet of the little girl Mína. The program was successfully held for students of primary and high schools at the premises of DEC Brno, but it was also put on for the general public at the Culture Center for Central Brno, in the auditorium on Dominikánská Street, at Klub Leitnerova, and in the Mikulov Synagogue.



NEW PUBLICATIONS

Judaica Bohemiae

A new issue of the journal *Judaica Bohemiae* (51/2016, 1) came out at the end of June 2016. This issue is exceptional in terms of scope and content, as it is entirely devoted to the famous Jewish scholar of the Renaissance era, David Gans. As implied by the subtitle – *David Gans (1541–1613): A Reconsideration* – it provides the most recent views and knowledge about Gans' life and work. The studies in this volume owe their origin to the conference 'David Gans (1541–1613) after Four Centuries: The Legacy of an Early Modern Jewish Polymath' at the Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Arts, in 2013, which was co-organized by the Prague Centre for Jewish Studies at the Charles University and the Kurt and Ursula Schubert Center for Jewish Studies at Palacký University, Olomouc. The volume starts with a groundbreaking study by Alexandr Putík, Daniel Polakovič and Jiří Šulc, titled 'New Findings about the Life of David Gans (1541–1613) and his Closest Relatives: A Study and Source Edition'. Pavel Sládek's essay explores Gans' key work, the historical chronicle *Tzemah David*, from many different perspectives, placing it in the broader context of the literature at the time. Rachel L. Greenblatt's study examines the concept of time and space in this work. Carsten Wilke provides a penetrating comparison between Gans' chronicle and the historical work *Shalshet ha-kabbalah* by the Sephardi author Gedaliah Ibn Yahya. On the basis of an analysis of *Tzemah David* and, in particular, of Gans' astronomical work *Nehmad ve-naim*, Sacha Stern deals with Gans' contribution to the study of the Jewish calendar. Daniel J. Lasker looks at how Gans' work was utilized by the Karaites. Tamás Visi presents a detailed textual analysis that explores the history of Gans' *Nehmad ve-naim*.

The final section of the journal contains a review by Jiřina Šedinová of O. Bláha, R. Dittmann, K. Komárek, D. Polakovič and L. Uličná's book *Kenaanské glosy ve středověkých hebrejských rukopisech s vazbou na české země* [Canaanite Glosses in Medieval Hebrew Manuscripts Related to the Czech Lands] (Praha, Academia, 2015) and a review by Antonín Kostlán of Marie Buňatová's *Pražští kupci na cestách. Předbělohorská Praha a středoevropské trhy* [Prague Merchants on their Journeys: Prague and Central European Markets in the Period before the Battle of White Mountain] (Praha: Nakladatelství MISHKEZY, 2013).

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). The texts are in English and German.

JUDAICA BOHEMIAE LI-1



David Gans (1541–1613): A Reconsideration

JEWISH MUSEUM IN PRAGUE 2016

Jews – History – Memory

With the publication of the first three volumes, the book series *Jews – History – Memory*, which is the collaborative effort of the Jewish Museum in Prague, the Institute for Contemporary History, and the Lidové noviny publishing house, has been launched. Its objective is to make available to specialists in the field as well as the public at large contemporary studies on modern Jewish history and culture in the Czech lands and in Central Europe from the 18th century to the present. The series was conceived to address the lack of quality scholarship published in Czech, and it would like to motivate and systematically inspire further research into Jews in the Czech lands.

Moravian Jews in the Period of Emancipation by Michael L. Miller is the first essential study linking the cultural, social, and political histories of Jews in Moravia from the beginning of emancipation to the latter half of the 19th century. The translation from English was made possible by the support of the Rothschild Foundation Europe. The second volume is *State-building without Anti-Semitism?* by Michal Frankl and Miloslav Szabó. The study looks at violence, loyalty, and the founding of Czechoslovakia while comparatively analyzing anti-Semitism in the Czech lands and Slovakia at the end of World War I and in the initial phases of interwar Czechoslovakia. The study is the result of project P410/11/2146 supported by the Grant Agency of the Czech

Republic, which in addition to other topics analyzes the role of anti-Jewish violence and the function of anti-Semitism in the period of nation-state “building.” *Prague Shared and Divided: Czech-Jewish-German Relations in the Capital City of Czechoslovakia (1918–1938)* by the German scholar Ines Koeltzsch provides a new perspective on Prague as a “city of three peoples.” Drawing on official statistics, communal politics, the intellectual community, and popular culture, she examines how Prague inhabitants created, negotiated, and transgressed their own group conceptions and images of the others. The translation of the volume was made possible by the support of the Czech-German Fund for the Future.

The presentation of the books series was attended by the authors and took place on May 2 in the auditorium of the JMP’s Maisel Synagogue.

ACQUISITION

The Jewish Museum in Prague has acquired photographs and letters from Karel Poláček

The donation comprises a bundle of unique documents connected to Karel Poláček and his partner Dora Vaňáková. The material was donated to the Jewish Museum in Prague by Zuzana Bílková, whose mother, Anna Vlková, lived with her family in the same building as Poláček and Vaňáková on Ruská Street in Prague’s Vršovice district. As neighbors, they eventually became good friends.

Part of the donated bundle is a letter Poláček wrote as a joke to Anna Vlková in the name of her dog Bibina. Among the valuable material are photographs of Karel and Dora a few days before having to report for transport, Poláček’s passport, personal documents pertaining to his family, and a set of postcards from Terezín addressed to Dora’s brother, Oskar Weisz. And it is these postcards that document their last connection to a world that was forever lost to them. In October 1944, Karel Poláček and Dora Vaňáková were deported on transport Es to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The Shoah History Department at the Jewish Museum in Prague has thus acquired priceless historical material that offers more than substantial informational value as Poláček’s unmistakable humor is also present in many of the documents. You may view them in the JMP’s online catalogue at: http://ca.jewishmuseum.cz/index.php/Detail/Collection/Show/collection_id/28472



Karel Poláček and Dora Vaňáková with their dog Mydlinka on the rooftop terrace of the house on 1024 Ruská Street in Prague–Vršovice, summer 1943

Unique set of photographs from the estate of Jiří Fiedler

In April 2016, the JMP acquired a unique set of photographs from the estate of longtime Museum colleague Jiří Fiedler. The collection contains more than 600 rolls on kinofilm and more than 18,000 negatives taken from the 1960s to the first years of this century.

In addition to the large number of photographs of Czech and Slovak Jewish landmarks – cemeteries, synagogues, schools – the collection also contains photographs of non-Jewish landmarks – churches, chapels, shrines, and other important monuments. Fiedler’s photographs provide a valuable testimony to the state of monuments in the countryside and society’s historical development.



Lower and Upper synagogues in Mikulov in 1966

MUSEUM NEWS

Mission to South Africa

The head of the Jewish Museum’s Department for Education and Culture,

Zuzana Pavlovská, accompanied a traveling exhibition to South Africa titled *“Keep faith in man ... the Protectorate through the eyes of children.”* From May 31 to June 7, 2016, she undertook a demanding program, during the course of which she gave lectures and led interactive workshops on the history of Czechoslovakia during the Second World War with a particular focus on the fates of Czech Jews after their return. These were attended by the public at large, teachers, and students in Johannesburg, Durban, and Cape Town. The program was sponsored by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Pretoria and the Holocaust Centers in Durban, Johannesburg, and Cape Town. At the end of her stay as well as at the official cocktail party held at the Czech ambassadorial residence, Ms. Pavlovská was able to meet with members of the local Jewish communities, Holocaust survivors, and invited diplomats.

Ms. Pavlovská’s visit was a great success overall. There was huge interest in her lectures and workshops, some of which had 150 people in attendance. The Czech Embassy in Pretoria reported that they received overwhelmingly positive feedback, particular from those who experienced the Holocaust. Details on the lectures and a photo gallery of the events can be found at: http://www.mzv.cz/pretoria/en/culture_and_education/cultural_events/successful_mission_of_zuzana_pavlovska.html



Jewish Daily School (Grade 6) Johannesburg. Photo: Dunreith Kelly Lowenstein



Jewish Daily School (Grade 6) Johannesburg. Photo: Dunreith Kelly Lowenstein

Prague Museum Night 2016

The Jewish Museum in Prague again participated in Prague Museum Night, now in its 13th year. The cultural event helps to promote the activities of museums and galleries, and since 2004 it has offered the public an opportunity to explore the city's cultural heritage in a somewhat different light. This year Prague Museum Night involved 52 museums, galleries, and other cultural institutions in 80 venues.

The Maisel Synagogue with its exhibition on the history of Jews in the Czech lands from the 10th to the 18th centuries and the Spanish Synagogue with its exhibition devoted to the fates of Jews in Bohemia and Moravia in the 19th and 20th centuries opened their doors to this year's throng of visitors. A program for children was organized in the Maisel Synagogue.

The public interest in visiting the participating museums at night was enormous. Around 2,701 visitors came to see the exhibitions between 10:30 p.m. and 1:00 a.m.



Photo (c) Mia Köhlerová

Awards for the Jewish Museum in Prague's Gloria Musaealis competition

The Jewish Museum in Prague received second place in the Museum Initiative of the Year category at this year's Gloria Musaealis competition.

The national competition of museums, Gloria Musaealis, was jointly announced by the Czech Association of Museums and Galleries, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, and for the first time the Czech board of ICOM. The fourteenth year of the competition covered the period from January 1, 2015, to February 28, 2016 and 72 museums and galleries from across the Czech Republic submitted 80 projects in the three main competition categories: Museum Exhibition of the Year; Museum Publication of the Year; and Museum Initiative of the Year.

The Revitalization of the Maisel Synagogue projects culminated with the building's reopening in June 2015. It was part of the continuing project to transform the Jewish Museum in Prague, the main objective of which is to modernize the permanent exhibitions and expand the cultural and educational program. Giving the public access to this exceptional cultural heritage goes hand in hand with the special attention given to ensuring that the essential standards of care are maintained for such a globally unique museum collection and the buildings that house it. The revitalization entailed a comprehensive transformation of the Maisel Synagogue, and what emerged was a modern permanent exhibition and a multifunctional auditorium for programs of a more intimate nature (music, theater, projections, discussions). The quality of the interior space was also significantly enhanced, which meant a great improvement in the preservation of the exhibited and deposited objects in the collection. Wholly financed by the JMP, the high level of construction and restoration work was an important consideration, and the positive responses were the finishing touches.



The awards ceremony on International Museum Day, May 18, in the Municipal House was attended by the JMP's director, Leo Pavlát, the head of department of the building investment, Milan Lička, and the chief curator of the exhibition at the Maisel Synagogue, Iveta Cermanová

CENA GLORIA MUSAEALIS 2015



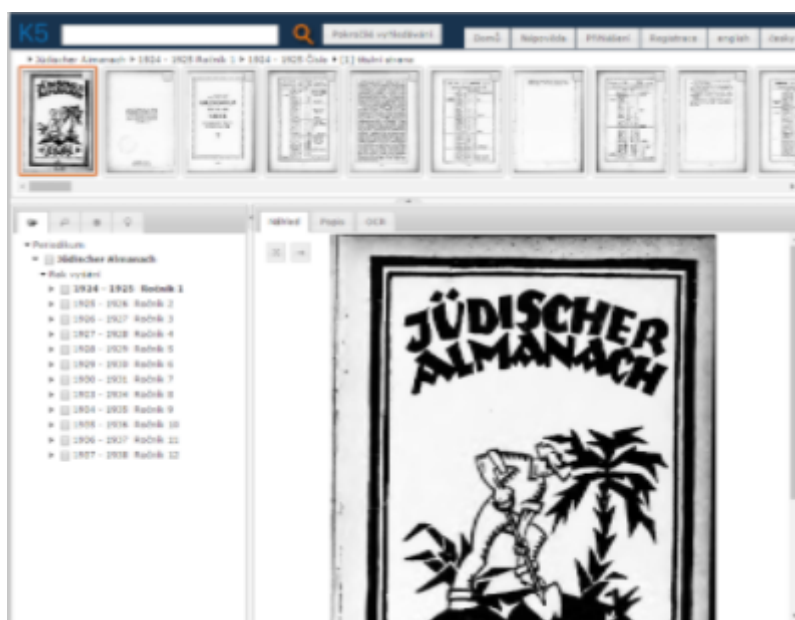
Ministerstvo kultury České republiky, Asociace muzeí a galerií České republiky, s. r. o.
a Český výbor ICOM odštěpí

II. místo

v soutěži o Cenu Gloria Musaealis

Židovskému muzeu v Praze
za projekt „Revitalizace Maiselovy synagogy“

 Ministerstvo kultury České republiky
 Asociace muzeí a galerií České republiky, s. r. o.
 Židovské muzeum v Praze



Digitizing documents in the JMP library

The library of the Jewish Museum in Prague has had a longterm objective to make accessible its holdings in digitized form. A subsidy from the Czech Ministry of Culture (the Public Information Library Services program) has allowed for the digitization of selected titles of Czech interest that are under threat of degradation to the poor quality paper and are earmarked to be removed from lending in the future. After digitization the texts are accessible via the Kramerius system (which readers can access from the library's website). At present 18 periodical titles and 6 monographs are available. The JMP's server has been updated with the latest version of the system, which gives readers the opportunity to make a full text search of most of the titles (whether written in Latin or Fraktur) and to limit the search to a particular time period or to a specific title. The copyright law states that materials must be examined on the premises of the Museum, but volumes older than 120 years can be displayed on the screen for users from wherever.

The Kramerius interface uses bookmarks to make it easier to determine the

starting point for a search. After searching a title or periodical year the title page is displayed and a preview of the other pages appears in the upper bar. The sidebar gives a list of other years or issue numbers.

After the full text search is complete, the system will offer an overview of titles in which the searched term is found. With each title there is the number of instances the term appears and short extracts of text in which it appears.

The goal of the library is to further increase the number of digitized documents to provide greater comfort to its readers as well as to preserve the printed volumes on poor quality or old worn paper.

The joint campaign of the JMP and Young & Rubicam to underscore the interconnection between Czechs and Jews

Every year the Jewish Museum in Prague welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors, the majority of them from abroad. With the new campaign prepared by the Young & Rubicam agency the Museum would like to attract the attention of the wider Czech public.

The campaign revolves around three composite images that recall the real stories of Jewish inhabitants during the Second World War who were greatly helped by their fellow Czech citizens. The campaign points out that the fates of Czechs and Jews, who have lived alongside one another for over a thousand years, are oftentimes tightly intertwined. So when local Czechs visit the Jewish Museum in Prague they will see the cultural heritage of their own country, and this is something that should be of interest to them.

Young & Rubicam prepared the press campaign by cooperating with art photographer Jiří Stach, recipient of a Magnesia Litera award in 2007 for the publication of his photographic book *Natura Magica*.

The photographs symbolically illustrate the dramatic stories of Jews who in several cases survived the war only because of the courageous help provided by their fellow Czech citizens. The handwritten text supplements the image motifs to tell its authentic story.

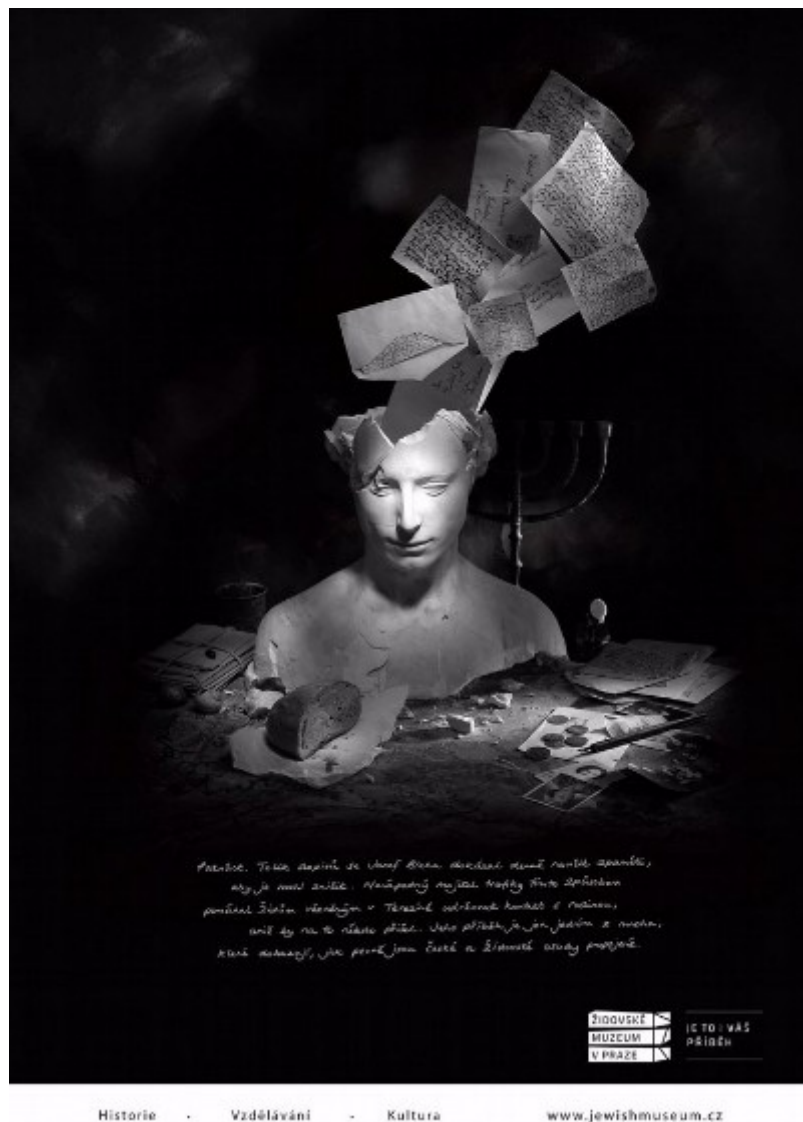


*Udala je do kramů ve věku, matka Anna šelák stříbřila
Ve sbírce, včas se vasa, uagrali deem, dýka, zlovolných, smradl.
Ať, co dýka, propadla ven z koncentračního tábora,
restala jí dýka, jímá se, pohládla jí, pláč, stánu se, vstala,
dýka, pláče, je jen, jasně a, smola, k, tak, dýka, jímá, je, pome,
jeon, šelák, a, šelák, smoly, propadla.*

JIDOVSKÉ
MUZEUM
V PRAZE

JE TO VÁS
PŘÍBĚH

Photo (c) Jiří Stach



Historie - Vzdělávání - Kultura www.jewishmuseum.cz

Photo (c) Jiří Stach

New online exhibition on the Jewish Museum in Prague's website

The Shoah History Department at the JMP has prepared a new internet exhibition titled *"I don't have to fear my neighbors anymore."* *The life story of Ivana Beranová and her family.* The exhibition is just one example of the JMP's longtime effort to map out the lives of Jews in our country over the course of the 20th century. Excerpts from the interviews about their lives, which Ivana Beranová and her mother, Marta Fantlova, gave to the JMP along with rare photographs and documents from their family archive, come from the oral-history collection Interviews with Survivors.

The exhibition will be online from July 1, 2016,
at: <http://collections.jewishmuseum.cz/index.php/simpleGallery/Show/Index>

The Jewish Museum in Prague has made a long-standing effort to preserve Jewish memory. Each fate is unique and deserves to be remembered. We are interested not only in witnesses of the Shoah, but also in the postwar experience of the so-called first and second generations.

If you are interested in sharing your memories and experiences with us, please contact the collection's curator Pavla Hermína Neuner – tel.: 222 749 227,

Yom HaShoah 5776 (2016)

On May 5, the Jewish Museum in Prague participated in the 11th year of publicly reading out the names of Holocaust victims on Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. The continuous reading of names took place in eleven Czech cities. In Prague, it was held at Jiřího z Poděbrad Square, with other sites in Blatná, Brno, Havlíčkův Brod, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Liberec, Liteň u Berouna, Olomouc, Plzeň, and Sušice. Each person who decided to participate in the program read out about six names and their associated fates in brief. On the same morning a commemorative event to remember the Jewish victims of the genocide was held in the Pinkas Synagogue.

יום השואה

Den vzpomínání
na oběti holocaustu

2006 - 2016

5. 5. 2016 – od 14 hodin

PRAHA - náměstí Jiřího z Poděbrad, Praha 3
BLATNÁ - třída J.P. Koubka, u kašny
BRNO - Moravské náměstí
HAVLÍČKŮV BROD - Havlíčkovovo náměstí
KOLÍN - Karlovo náměstí
KUTNÁ HORA - Městská knihovna Kutná Hora
LIBEREC - náměstí Dr. E. Beneše
LITEŇ U BEROUNA - Náměstí 72
OLOMOUC - Horní náměstí
PLZEŇ - U Branky, Smetanovy sady 2
SUŠICE - náměstí Svobody



Photo (c) Michal Stránský

Prague 1 Day

The Jewish Museum in Prague in cooperation with the Municipality of Prague 1 took part in the educational-cultural event Prague 1 Day. Residents of Prague 1 on this day were given free entry into the new exhibition *Jews in the Czech Lands from the 10th to the 18th Centuries* in the refurbished Maisel Synagogue.



The educational project “Culture against Anti-Semitism”

On April 15–17, 2016, for Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) the Czech branch of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) organized a three-day educational program for Czech and German high-school students. The project was financially supported by the Czech-German Fund for the Future and the Jewish Museum in Prague.

Forty-one students from two schools in Baden-Württemberg and twenty-nine students from three Czech schools participated in the program. On Friday, April 15, at the Jewish Museum in Prague they attended a workshop on the Holocaust directed by specialists in the field. The students were able to examine authentic documents from the period and take a guided tour of the Jewish Museum. At a joint meeting later the students presented the results of their investigations into Jewish neighbors from their areas who had disappeared.

On Saturday, April 16, the students attended a full-day program in Terezín, where they took a tour of the ghetto area and heard the testimonies of survivors and the historian Toman Brod, whom they could ask questions. A short memorial service to honor the victims of the Shoah took place at the end of the day in the Jewish cemetery.

On Sunday, April 17, the Czech and German students took part in the “March of Good Will,” a public event that capped the program. On Palach Square they read out the names of Jewish citizens from their hometowns who perished in the Holocaust, and in the procession they carried an enlarged photograph of these persons so that their “vanished neighbors” could be symbolically present.



Photo (c) Radek Hejret

The Maisel Synagogue is up for a National Heritage Institute award

The National Heritage Institute as a semi-budgetary organization of the Ministry of Culture entrusted with the care, preservation, and cultivation of the Czech Republic’s landmarks and monuments has announced the third year of the Patrimonium pro futuro Prize.

The award for owners and promoters of cultural heritage bears the subtitle “examples of best practices,” and this year four from twenty-five positive initiatives in the field of monument preservation nominated by the regional branches of the NHI have a chance to be awarded. NHI professionals who oversee monument care in their individual regions could select two representatives from each of the 14 regions. The greatest competition is in the category for monument renovation and restoration in which the jury will choose from among 13 nominated exemplary cases.

The Maisel Synagogue has been nominated for a Patrimonium pro futuro 2015 in the monument renovation category as an exemplary case of an overall renovation and new exhibition installation in the synagogue.

The winners in the individual categories will be decided on by a committee composed of specialists chosen from the NHI and other institutions. The committee will meet to evaluate the nominated candidates and then inform NHI's general director of the winners. The awards ceremony will take place on September 21, 2016, as part of European Heritage Days.



PROMINENT VISITS

April

Michael J. Sandel, Professor of Political Philosophy at Harvard University, visited the Museum on April 19, 2016.



Michael J. Sandel

May

On Friday, May 13, Israeli violinist and conductor Yuval Waldman visited the Museum.

Israeli ambassador to the Czech Republic, Gary Koren, attended the opening to the exhibition *Stranded in Shanghai: The Hongkew Ghetto through the Eyes of Refugees* and the Lens of Arthur Rothstein.



Photo (c) Karel Cudlín

On May 20, 2016, representatives from the National Heritage Institute in Prague and the regions visited the Maisel Synagogue as part of the project's nomination for an NHI Patrimonium pro futuro prize as an exemplary case of overall renovation and new exhibition installation.

Attendees of the Prague session of the Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union visited the Museum's exhibitions on May 30, 2016.

June

On June 28, 2016, Austrian ambassador of the Czech Republic, Dr. Alexander Grubmayr LL.M., visited the Museum. He was accompanied by JUDr. Tomáš Kraus, secretary of Federation of Jewish Communities in Czech Republic.



Jewish Museum in Prague, U Staré školy 1, 110 01 Prague 1

www.jewishmuseum.cz/en/info/visit/

Editing: Kateřina Honskusová, Jiří Tejkal

Photo: ŽMP