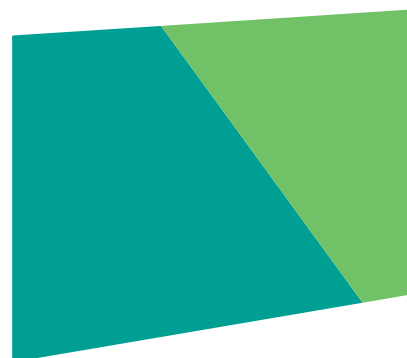
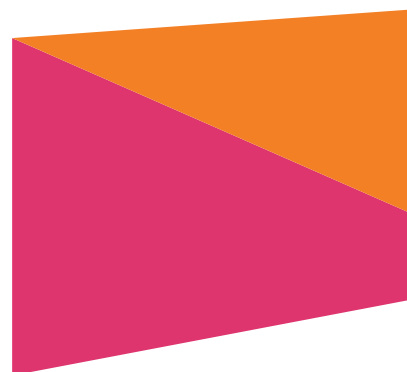




# Jewish Museum in Prague 2018 Annual Report



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# 1

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

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

The JMP's supreme body is the Board of Trustees, which comprised the following members in 2018:

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

**PhDr. Jan Munk** (Jewish Community in Prague)

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

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

**Mgr. Pavel Hlubuček** (Czech Ministry of Culture)

The JMP's control body is the Supervisory Board, which comprised the following members in 2018:

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

**RNDr. Michal Hron** (Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic)

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

Four meetings of the Board of Trustees and three meetings of the Supervisory Board were held in 2018. Minutes were taken at each meeting in the presence of the JMP's legal representative JUDr. Hynek Mottl. The JMP director in 2018 was Leo Pavlát.



# 2

## Basic information about the JMP

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

- Administrative building, U Staré školy 1/3, Prague 1: JMP administration, specialist workplaces, depositories, Multimedia Centre, café, Robert Guttman Gallery (venue for temporary exhibitions).
- Maisel Synagogue: (in the main nave) new permanent exhibition *Jews in the Bohemian Lands, 10th–18th Century*, with 231 originals, facsimiles and copies on display.
- Spanish Synagogue: (in the main nave and gallery) permanent exhibition *The History of the Jews in Bohemia and Moravia – II. From Emancipation to the Present*, with 578 originals, facsimiles and copies on display; (in the Winter Prayer Hall) permanent exhibition *Synagogue Silver from Bohemia and Moravia*, with 209 items on display.
- Pinkas Synagogue: (in the main nave) Memorial to the Jewish Victims of the Shoah from the Czech lands; (on the upper floor) permanent exhibition *The Children's Story – Children's Drawings from Terezín, 1942–1944*, with 234 originals, facsimiles and copies of documents on display; (outside grounds) *Journeys with No Return: The Deportation of Jews from the Czech Lands, 1939–1945*, an outdoor exhibition documenting the deportations of Jews from the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia to ghettos and to concentration and extermination camps in German-occupied Eastern Europe; digital version of the exhibition available via an interactive kiosk inside the synagogue, a web interface and a mobile app; *The Faces of the Victims of the Shoah*, an evening projection of photographs onto the gable wall of the mikveh
- Pinkas Synagogue: (in the main nave) *Memorial to the Jewish Victims of the Shoah from the Czech lands*; (on the upper floor) permanent exhibition *The Children's Story – Children's Drawings from Terezín*, with 238 originals, facsimiles and copies on display.

New permanent exhibition *Journeys with No Return. The Deportation of Jews from the Czech Lands, 1939–1945*, Pinkas Synagogue



- Klausen Synagogue: (in the main nave) permanent exhibition *Jewish Customs and Traditions – I. The Synagogue and Festivals*; (on the upper floor) permanent exhibition *Jewish Customs and Traditions – II. The Course of Life*, with 464 originals, facsimiles and copies on display.
- Ceremonial Hall: continuation of the permanent exhibition *Jewish Customs and Traditions – II. The Course of Life*, with 165 originals, facsimiles and copies on display.

#### b) Services provided by the JMP

- Tours of five permanent exhibitions in historic buildings; tours of the 15th–18th-century Old Jewish Cemetery, Prague.
- Tours of temporary exhibitions in the Robert Guttmann Gallery.
- Educational programmes and tours organized by the JMP's Department for Education and Culture in Prague and Brno.
- Cultural programmes on Jewish topics in the JMP's Department for Education and Culture (Prague and Brno) and in the Maisel Synagogue, Prague.
- Seminars on Jewish topics.
- Multimedia Centre – internet access, basic literature on Jewish topics, specialist database, video and audio recordings for reference, sale of books published by the JMP.
- Archive services for researchers – provision of archival materials for study purposes, specialist consultations, literature searches and reprographic services).
- Specialized library services for specialists and the general public.
- Further training of teaching staff via the Department for Education and Culture as part of the "Jews, History and Culture" seminars with certification from the Czech Ministry of Education.
- Training courses for a JMP tour guide licence, held in co-operation with Prague City Tourism.
- Consultation for specialists and the general public on issues related to the history of the Jews of Bohemia and Moravia.
- Consultation for specialists and the general public on issues related to the persecution of Jews from Bohemia and Moravia during the Second World War.
- Consultation for specialists and the general public on issues related to the JMP's holdings, specialist presentations and research.
- Assessment and processing of requests for the permanent or temporary export of objects of cultural value; appraisal services.
- Access to historical pictorial materials for reproduction.
- JMP publications, CDs and publicity material, including the online sale of JMP publications via the JMP's website.
- Online sale of entries from the JMP's electronic Encyclopaedia of Jewish Communities in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia via the JMP's website.
- Advance booking for visits via the JMP's Information and Reservation Centre.
- Exhibition tours led by qualified guides.
- Tours with audio-guides (contractually provided by Promotion & Education, s.r.o.)



# 3

## Visitor numbers and visitor services

Total number of visitors			
		Adults	Children
January	35,127	25,037	10,090
February	37,888	23,882	14,006
March	63,784	34,807	28,977
April	77,766	50,900	26,866
May	66,285	53,258	13,027
June	59,913	44,213	15,700
July	70,949	50,515	20,434
August	82,981	60,014	22,967
September	60,453	46,770	13,683
October	67,922	51,888	16,034
November	45,679	35,091	10,588
December	52,446	40,441	12,005
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>721,193</b>	<b>516,816</b>	<b>204,377</b>

In 2018 the Jewish Museum in Prague (JMP) received 721,193 visitors, which is 4,275 (0.59%) more than in the previous year. These are the the largest visitor numbers since 1994, when the museum was re-established. Moreover, due to increased ticket prices as a result of generally rising costs, it had the largest ticket revenue in its history.

Information and Reservation Centre of  
the Jewish Museum in Prague



On 1 December 2017, the JMP introduced a new design for its exhibition tickets. They are now brightly coloured and printed on high quality paper with direct thermal printers, which operate silently and fast. They also display an ad from a contractual partner. Overall, these tickets have helped to significantly speed up visitor flow and, thanks to their clear and colourful design, have improved visitor orientation.

Accommodating the interests of local visitors, the JMP expanded the range of discount tickets for the “Culture Against Antisemitism” programme (as part of the Prague Jewish Town tour). This programme was made available every Sunday – not just at 2 p.m. as before, but also at 11 a.m.

The JMP continued to provide discount tickets for the “Prague City Pass” and the “Lítačka” Prague travel card packages. Once again, the JMP’s inclusion on the “Prague Card” sightseeing pass proved beneficial, attracting more than 40,000 visitors to the JMP in 2018 – a year-on-year increase of about 10%.

The JMP’s Information and Reservation Centre (Maiselova 15, Prague 1), which opened in 2014, served as the tour starting point for a larger number of visitors than in 2017, and significantly contributed to visitor experience and satisfaction.

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

In 2018, the JMP managed to win five TripAdvisor® Certificate of Excellence awards – for the museum as a whole and, separately, for the Spanish Synagogue, the Pinkas Synagogue, the Klausen Synagogue, and the Old Jewish Cemetery. The Certificate of Excellence highlights the uniqueness of the JMP’s historic monuments and tourist destinations. It is only given to organizations that have consistently received excellent reviews from travellers across the world on TripAdvisor. Moreover, the profiles of the Spanish Synagogue and the JMP received the Traveller’s Choice award, which is the highest honour TripAdvisor can bestow. Based on hundreds of thousands of reviews from travellers around the world, this annual award reflects the best of the best for service, quality, and customer satisfaction from hotels, accommodation establishments and tourist destinations.





# 4

## Organizational structure and staff

At the beginning of January 2018, JMP director L. Pavlát received the final report from an external evaluation team that had carried out a personnel audit of the JMP in the last quarter of 2017. In November and December 2017, the audit included the JMP's departments responsible for activities ensuing from certain legal agendas (Act No. 122/2000 Coll., on the Protection of Museum Collections, Act No. 499/2004 Coll., on Archiving and Records Service, Act No. 257/2001 Coll., on Libraries and Conditions for the Operation of Public Library and Information Services, and Act No. 130/2002 Coll., on Support for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation).

The expert team comprised the following people: doc. PhDr. Ladislav Kesner, PhD. (team leader, Masaryk University, Brno), Prof. PhDr. Vít Vlnas, PhD. (dealing with Acts Nos. 499/2004 Coll. and 130/2002 Coll., Charles University, Prague), PhDr. Jan Dolák PhD. (dealing with Act No. 122/2000 Coll., Comenius University, Bratislava) and Alexandr Váša (dealing with Act No. 257/2001 Coll., National Library, Prague).

On the basis of the recommendations of the audit team, as well as an internal assessment of the JMP's organizational structure and management lines and the optimum allocation of existing work positions, a new organizational code was adopted as of 1 June 2018. The most significant change is the establishment of a new Archives Department with the merging of activities carried out pursuant to Act No. 499/2004 Coll., with a substantial strengthening of methodological guidance. In anticipation of the introduction of an internal electronic document management system (DMS) and with a view to reducing the administrative burden for specialist staff, the JMP also newly established an Assistants and DMS Department. In addition, the JMP established the following new posts: personnel manager, GDPR commissioner, and international fundraiser.

*Textile conservator at work*



The format of this Annual Report, however, is based on the organizational structure in effect as of 31 May 2018.

In accordance with its organisational structure, the JMP comprised eight departments (nine after 1 June) in 2018. The annual average number of employees for 2018 was 143.3 – including five whose salaries were fully or partly covered by grants and eight on maternity or parental leave. As of the end of 2018, the JMP had 143 employees; the number of full-time equivalent employees was 136.2.

The staff structure in 2018 was as follows: director, 52 security staff and custodians, 49 research and specialist staff (including conservators/restorers and Photography Department staff), 13 economic staff (including exhibition ticket sellers), eight educational and cultural staff, three staff responsible for the maintenance, repair, reconstruction and management of the properties overseen by the JMP, three IT staff, six administrative staff, five publicity and exhibition staff, three staff of the Information and Reservation Centre.

In the course of the year, 196 persons rendered their services to the JMP on a contractual basis (work agreements, agreements for the performance of work assignments, author contracts)

The average monthly wage (converted into FTE) for JMP staff was CZK 28,054 in 2018. The average monthly gross wage in the Czech Republic (converted into FTE) was CZK 31,885; the average monthly gross wage in Prague (converted into FTE) was CZK 40,011.



# 5

## Exhibitions

### a) Exhibitions at the Robert Guttmann Gallery

Two temporary exhibitions were on view at the JMP's Robert Guttmann Gallery (at U Staré školy 3, Prague 1) in 2018.

On view until 28 January 2018, *Through the Labyrinth of Normalization: The Jewish Community as a Mirror for the Majority Society* was produced by the JMP in co-operation with the Czech Security Services Archive and the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes for the 40th anniversary of the founding of Charter 77. The fortieth anniversary of its publication gave us an opportunity to present the situation of the Jewish community during the normalization period, undeniably unique on the one hand while on the other a microcosm in which similar processes no less intense than those affecting society at large were taking place. The exhibition showed the myriad forms "anti-Zionist" propaganda took during this period and its impact on individual lives. It also presented concrete cases of StB (former State Secret Police) operations against Jewish communities, the dilemmas faced by community members, and the involvement of several members in dissident and other activities outside the official scope of Jewish communities. The exhibition also drew attention to other aspects of Normalization – the destruction of Jewish cemeteries, the demolition of synagogues, and the obstruction of research and study into the fate of Jews during the Second World War as well as policies that nearly eradicated Judaism completely. The exhibition was conceived and curated by the film documentarist Martin Šmok. Financial support was received from the State Cultural Fund of the Czech Republic and from the City of Prague. The exhibition was seen by a total of 23,432 visitors over the course of its duration, from 6 April 2017 until 28 January 2018.

On 21 February 2018, the Robert Guttmann Gallery hosted a preview of an exhibition by the illustrator and caricaturist Jiří Slíva, titled *My Cup of Kafka...*. This show featured a number of drawings, colour lithographs, etchings, pastels and oil paintings on the artist's favourite themes – Franz Kafka, Sigmund Freud, the Golem, Jewish customs/symbols, and biblical motifs – as well as other material inspired by the works of Jewish writers. Jiří Slíva has been preoccupied with Jewish humour and illustrating the works of Franz Kafka for many years. In December 2017, the Franz Kafka Publishing House published *My Cup of Kafka*, a book featuring Slíva's main artworks inspired by the great writer. A selection of these works is on display at the exhibition. Also on view was a range of Slíva's illustrations from books by the Czech-Israeli writer Ruth Bondy, which are dedicated to the language, names and special idioms of Czech Jews. Slíva's exhibited work also included depictions of café society and scenes from

Opening of the exhibition Jiří Slíva: *My Cup of Kafka* at the museum's Robert Guttmann Gallery



everyday life, which are marked by absurd humour and a love of jazz, wine and dancing. Financial support for the exhibition was received from the City of Prague. The exhibition was seen by a total of 52,274 visitors over the course of its duration, from 22 February 2018 to 27 January 2019.

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

The JMP held other exhibitions at its Department for Education and Culture in Prague and Brno.

Five exhibitions were held at the department in Prague (at Maiselova 15): *Velká novina o hrozném mordu Šimona Abelese* [The Shocking Story of the Terrible Murder of Simon Abeles] – an exhibition conceived by Marek Toman, the author of the book of the same name; *Purim: The Story of Queen Esther* – an exhibition of photographs by Jindřich Buxbaum; *ISRAEL 70* – a photo display in honour of Israel's 70th anniversary, launched by the Museum of the Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot, Tel Aviv; *A Tribute to Dagmar Lieblová* – an exhibition of project work by elementary and secondary school pupils who had taken part in the "I Know What Happened: A Tribute to Dagmar Lieblová" project; *Po-lin / Jews in the Republic of Many Nations* – an exhibition on the fate of the Jewish community in the Polish-Lithuanian territory in the 16th-18th centuries, co-organized by the Polish Institute in Prague and the Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

Map of Europe, 1617. The territory of Rzeczpospolita is highlighted in colour.

© Biblioteka Narodowa, Warsaw.

Photograph from the exhibition *Po-lin / Jews in the Republic of Many Nations*



Six exhibitions were held at the department in Brno (at třída Kapitána Jaroše 3): *How I See It* – documentary photographs by FAMU graduate Jiří Kovanice from the 1970s and 1980s; *Po-lin / Jews in the Republic of Many Nations* – an exhibition on the fate of the Jewish community in the Polish-Lithuanian territory in the 16th-18th centuries, co-organized by the Polish Institute in Prague and the Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews; *Before Everything Changed* – an exhibition of photographic works by Kurt Bardoš (1914?1945), an amateur photographer of Jewish descent from Brno who was murdered in the Dachau concentration camp; *Let Me Be Myself: The Life Story of Anne Frank* – an exhibition created by the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam; *Andre Steiner: Not only a Brno Architect* – an exhibition of photographs by Kateřina Rusňáková.

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

Held in association with the Jewish Museum in Prague, the exhibition *Talent is Desire: Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and the Art Teaching Experiment* was on view at the Austrian Cultural Forum in Prague from 18 January until 13 April 2018. Its focus was on the exceptional artistic and pedagogical legacy of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis (1899-1944), an influential member of the Central European inter-war



avant-garde. It highlighted her tireless work as a teacher in the extreme conditions of the Nazi concentration camp known as the Terezín/Theresienstadt ghetto.

January saw the launch, in Rome, of the JMP's new touring exhibition, titled *I have not seen a butterfly around here: Children's Drawings from the Terezín/Theresienstadt Ghetto*. It features a selection of artworks from the preserved collection of almost 4,500 children's drawings, which were made during art lessons in the Terezín ghetto given by Friedl Dicker-Brandeis. The aim of this exhibition is to draw public attention to the world of these children who were incarcerated in the Terezín ghetto during the Second World War. The exhibition was launched in the Rome Opera House with His Excellency Pavel Vošalík, the Czech Ambassador to the Holy See in attendance. On the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January, a number of prominent personages – including the President of the Jewish Community of Rome, Ruth Dureghello – saw the exhibition, as well as a production of the children's opera *Brundibár* at Teatro Palladium.

The English-language version of the touring exhibition *Neighbours Who Disappeared* – part of one of the JMP's projects for secondary school students – was shown for the first time in the South African Republic. On 5 June 2018, the exhibition opened at the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre, where it was presented by Zuzana Pavlovská, the head of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture. The exhibition later moved to Durban and Cape Town, where it was put on display at a number of schools. It is due to return to the Czech Republic at the end of 2019. The *Neighbours Who Disappeared* project encourages school pupils and students to trace the fate of Jews who disappeared from their neighbourhoods during the Second World War. The project is a source of methodological inspiration for studying the Holocaust period in accordance with the Czech Ministry of Education's general educational programme, and also an opportunity to meet with the last generation of Holocaust survivors and witnesses.

The touring exhibition *The Second Life of Czech Torah Scrolls* opened at the Bohemian National Hall in New York on 3 December. This show covers the fate of about 1,500 scrolls from Bohemia and Moravia during and after the Shoah. The scrolls belonged to Jewish communities in Bohemia and Moravia before the Nazi occupation. They were saved during the war by being incorporated into the collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague. The scrolls were shipped to London in 1964, since when they have been overseen by the Memorial Scrolls Trust, which has made many of them available on loan to Jewish congregations across the world (in North and South America, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand). Representing the JMP at the opening show, the art curator Michaela Sidenberg spoke about the past and present of this institution. The exhibition ran until 4 January 2019. It was initiated and supported by the Society for the History of Czechoslovak Jews, the Bohemian Benevolent Literary Association, and the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in New York.

As in previous years, the JMP held touring exhibitions in collaboration with various partners in 2018. The Prague office of the Department for Education and Culture provided 13 such exhibitions, seven of which dealt with the topic of the Shoah: *Don't Lose Faith in Mankind: The Protectorate Through the Eyes of Jewish Children*; *A Ghetto Called Baluty/Report on Lodz*; *Neighbours Who Disappeared – Tribute to the Child Holocaust Victims*; *Jewish Testimony on the Czech Century*; *The Girls from Room 28, L 410, Terezín* and *The Children's Story – Children's Drawings from the Terezín/Theresienstadt Ghetto*; *I have not seen a butterfly around here: Children's Drawings from the Terezín/Theresienstadt Ghetto*. Six other touring exhibitions dealt with topics of general interest: *Baroque Synagogues in the Czech Lands*; *The Second Life of Czech Torah Scrolls*; *The History of the Jews in Bohemia and Moravia*; *Symbols of Emancipation – Nineteenth-Century Synagogues in the Bohemian Lands*; *Jewish Customs and Traditions*; *Jewish Education*.

In 2018 these exhibitions were on display at 41 schools, museums and former synagogues in 23 towns across the Czech Republic.



# 6

## Collections and their documentation

### a) Care of the collections

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

The JMP commissioned external conservators/restorers to treat only objects that were in immediate risk of deterioration due to their poor state of repair, and only where this work could not be done in the JMP's own workshops for capacity reasons. In 2018 external specialists were also commissioned to conserve or restore a large number of collections objects for the JMP's new permanent exhibition at the Spanish Synagogue, which is under preparation. The following items underwent conservation or restoration: eleven Torah mantles, two Torah curtains and three shoes from the textile collection, 29 manuscripts from the collection of manuscripts and genizah papers, and four drawings and one frame from the visual art collection. In addition, the JMP externally commissioned the production of five textile copies and 34 copies of paper and parchment objects for display in the new Spanish Synagogue exhibition

In 2018 the Textile Conservation and Restoration Studio conserved or restored 59 textiles. In collaboration with the Collections Management Department, the textile conservators/restorers undertook an inventory of textiles in the JMP's depository outside Prague. Great attention was devoted to the preparation of 60 large prayer shawls (tallitot) for digitization. In total, 23 textiles from genizah finds underwent primary conservation treatment.

*Silver items from the collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague*



The JMP's paper conservators/restorers contributed to the preparation of one exhibition at the Robert Guttmann Gallery in 2018. Their work for the JMP's individual departments included the restoration treatment of one item from the visual art collection, in addition to matting and framing, for an external

loan. For the collection of manuscripts and genizah papers, two items were restored and documents from the Zalužany genizah were mechanically fully cleaned. In August 2018, as part of project preparations for the comprehensive processing of genizah finds, the co-ordinator of the Paper Conservation and Restoration Studio became involved in detailed research into the genizah collection for the purpose of determining how time-consuming and costly its comprehensive processing will be. For the JMP Library, six printed books were restored, and 22 books and journals underwent conservation treatment. For the JMP Archives, ten bound archival documents were restored, and 52 large-format items were mechanically cleaned. In collaboration with the JMP Photography Department, the Paper Conservation and Restoration Studio made 57 facsimile copies of collection and non-collection items for the new permanent exhibition in the Spanish Synagogue.

The Metal Conservation and Restoration Studio conserved or restored 42 silver, brass, wooden and iron objects. It also conserved/restored collection objects for exhibitions, for loans and for the systematic digitization of the silver collection.

The JMP's textile depository outside Prague maintained its climate-control and security conditions, which have been improved as a result of recent building alterations. On the basis of an assessment of the overall situation, including the building's structure, the JMP management has adhered to its decision to relocate the textiles to a new depository in Prague.

Under the supervision of JMP archivist Vlastimila Hamáčková, five tombstones from the Old Jewish Cemetery were restored and 14 upended tombstones were set back up. Twenty tombstones alongside the cemetery wall near the Museum of Decorative Arts were restored with the support of the Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH).

## **b) Collections management**

In 2018, the Collections Management Department made out a total of 142 issue slips for 2,231 collection objects (to be taken out of the depository and subsequently placed back in storage). Most of the items were taken out of storage to be digitized, restored, conserved or cleaned. In total, 2,002 items remained out of storage – mainly in exhibitions or on loan for exhibition purposes – as of 8 February 2018.

Intensive work continued on the digitization of the JMP's collection of manuscripts and genizah papers. Smaller groups of items from the textile collection were also gradually digitized. Items to be used in the new exhibition in the Spanish Synagogue were added to the auxiliary collection, which contains copies, replicas and facsimiles of collection objects, as well as authentic Judaica of informative value but without specific importance to the JMP's collections. The auxiliary collection now contains 613 items.

The ongoing inventory of the JMP's holdings continued in 2018. This included part of the textile collection (garments, head coverings, flags, banners, Torah curtains, valances and mantles from the 16th-18th centuries, marionettes) and part of the collection of three-dimensional objects (Torah crowns, eternal lights, synagogue facilities and furnishings, objects relating to Jewish holidays, ritual items, household furnishings, kitchen and dining tableware and utensils), comprising 2,549 items, i.e. 6.2% of the JMP's holdings – Judaica sub-collection.

Four online reports for the Judaica sub-collection with regard to changes to the Central Register of Collections were submitted to the Czech Ministry of Culture in 2018. In accordance with the relevant legal regulations, documents were prepared for the cataloguing of acquisitions for the year 2018, and 168 new registration numbers for the Judaica sub-collection were reported. In addition, five superfluous items were discarded from this sub-collection.

Intensive work continued on the processing of data on collection objects in the JMP's CollectiveAccess database. Information relating to inventoried collection objects was updated, and work resumed on a project identifying the donors of collection objects.

The JMP received and granted one request for an authorisation certificate for the permanent export of an object of cultural value from the Czech Republic in accordance with Act No. 71/1994, Coll.

The Photography Department digitized 15,060 images of collection objects – Torah scrolls (1,414 images), genizah finds (2,220 images), drawings and prints (726 images), textiles (291 images), records, documents and albums from the Shoah History Department (3,644 images), books and printed materials (5,355 images), manuscripts (1,410 images).

Throughout 2018, photographic documentation was carried out to record the JMP's opening shows, VIP visits, other important events, building exteriors/interiors and exhibitions (1,748 images).

For the requirements of the new exhibition in the Spanish Synagogue, scans were made of 275 paper models for the preparation of facsimile copies, 54 of which were printed into the final form.

A substantial portion of the Photo Archive's work involved dealing with requests (a total of 171) submitted by researchers from the Czech Republic and other countries, and providing the necessary materials, mostly in electronic form.

### c) Archives

The physical condition of archival records was checked on an ongoing basis by archival staff. Work continued on the mechanical removal of dust from records and on minor repairs with the help of external staff. In total, 142 archival books and 52 large-format materials were cleaned, and 14 books were restored in 2018. In addition, newly acquired documents were mechanically cleaned prior to their archival processing.

Indexing work focused on the new processing of materials in the JMP Archives and on the processing of newly acquired personal papers. The Jiří Fiedler Papers continued to be processed. Correspondence relating to the individual entries in Fiedler's electronic *Encyclopaedia of Jewish Communities in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia* was gradually sorted and filed, and the relevant materials were gradually placed in archival storage boxes; 28 boxes were processed, and an inventory of these papers is being

*Jewish Museum in Prague archives*





carried out. In addition, the Irena Lomová and Jiří Lom Papers (23 boxes) were arranged and a descriptive list was made of this material. The provisional inventory list of the archival holdings of the Smíchov Jewish Religious Community was checked and is being gradually transcribed into digital form. Work continued on a review of the recorded materials in the archival holdings of the Supreme Council of the Associations of Jewish Religious Communities (35 boxes). A review of the Varia Collection was launched with focus on a description of archival records relating to the Prague Jewish Religious Community. This material is being gradually re-sorted and stored again. Material was also added to the provisional inventory list.

During the discard process, the JMP Archives received records dating from 1978–2015 (16 boxes) from the JMP's Collections Department, Development and Public Relations Department, and Department for Education and Culture, as well as records dating from 1991–2015 (6 packets) from the Czech branch of the Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO). Records from the Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH) that are kept in the JMP Archives on the basis of a deposit agreement were expanded to include another set of documents on projects that were supported and implemented in connection with NFOH grant programmes ("Care", "Remembrance", "Renovation" and "The Future") in 2013, as well as a supplementation of archived documents from the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 (28 binders in 5 boxes).

In collaboration with the JMP's Photography Workshop, work continued on the digitizing of selected archival records with the aim of providing study and back-up copies of historically valuable materials that are in great demand from researchers. Selected archival records that are used mainly for genealogical research are being gradually digitized. Thirteen books (3,007 images) were digitized in 2018.

#### d) Library

Library staff continued to focus on the cataloguing of books, journals, articles and essays. The Library added 1,933 records to its electronic catalogue, which contained 64 406 records by the end of the year; 77 245 pieces of information about Library units were added. Journals were processed in the periodical depository in the Pinkas Synagogue and 30 titles with information on the individual issues were added to the Library catalogue.

In connection with ongoing retrospective cataloguing of the Library fonds, 174 publications were discarded and deleted in the prescribed manner, as they were worn-out, available in multiple copies or not in line with the Library's thematic focus.

The Library continued its collaboration with the national Article Bibliography Cooperation System (the ANL database) and with the Czech Union Catalogue. In 2018 it sent 161 records of articles from the *Judaica Bohemiae* and *Roš chodeš* journals to the ANL database and 1,693 bibliographic records of books and 49 periodical records to the Czech Union Catalogue.

The Library also digitized 11 monographs and four periodicals from the late 19th and first half of the 20th centuries (19,843 pages). The documents were made available online in the open-source digital library system "Kramérius", which now provides access to 24 periodicals (162,825 pages) and 128 monographs (8,942 pages) (<http://kramerius4.jewishmuseum.cz>). This project received support from the Czech Ministry of Culture's VSK 7 Kramérius grant programme – a national programme for the protection and digitization of documents that are endangered by the degradation of acidic paper.

Bibliographic descriptions were added to 753 entries in the Library's database of original book owners (by comparing book accession numbers in the online catalogue records from retrospective cataloguing with book accession numbers in DVL-based records).

The Aleph automated library system was upgraded to a higher version at the end of the year. In collaboration with the IT department, the Library undertook a trial conversion, testing and editing of records. The new version Aleph 23 was launched in early January 2019.

During 2018, checks were carried out on part of the fonds (call number series 49.000 and 48.000), six staff references libraries, the reference library of the Shoah History Department and the Library Department.

Building work was carried out in the periodical depository at the Pinkas Synagogue to provide suitable climate-control facilities for the documents stored there.

In the historical part of the Library fonds, ongoing checks were carried out on 408 books that are included in the Central Register of Collections. The 'Books' sub-collection contained 3,600 titles by the end of 2018. Condition checks were carried out on 1,729 volumes, and book dimension details were supplemented. Photographs of title pages were gradually added to the book records in the electronic catalogue. More than 820 rare printed books have been documented so far in collaboration with the Photography Department.



The ongoing care of the collection of rare printed books continued with the conservation of 14 such works. Four books were fully repaired by paper conservators at the JMP and ten books were fully repaired by external conservators with the help of funding from the Prague Jewish Community Foundation. The curator of the collection of rare printed books (S. Singerová) carried out regular checks on the condition of printed books from Bohemia and Moravia for subsequent conservation/restoration. Early printed books in the Library collection were catalogued on an ongoing basis and other titles were selected for inclusion in the Central Register of Collections.

#### e) Shoah History Department

The Shoah History Department oversees the JMP's archival collections that relate to the period of Nazi persecution. The most important collections are the "Persecution Documents", "Terezín/Theresienstadt", "Neighbours Who Disappeared", "Photo Collection", and the personal papers of the composer Gideon Klein, the violin virtuoso Egon Ledec, and the teacher Bruno Zwicker. Other important personal papers include the archives of Anna and Pavel Eckstein, Kurt Wehle, the Flusser family, the Weinstein family, Karel Poláček, the Synek brothers and Petr Erben.

In 2018 the collections were enriched by the addition of 1,100 folios from family archives – for the most part, historically valuable documents of an official and personal nature, correspondence and photographs. Petr Kubálek donated a unique set of materials relating to the fate of Yella Kubálková; this included not only personal materials (e.g., portrait and family photographs, private correspondence), but also document of an official nature (e.g., marriage certificate, police registration forms and various receipts). Other extremely important acquisitions included original materials from the archives of the Lachs family, the Adler family and the Landsberger family from Prague. Also extraordinarily valuable was the acquisition of material from the family archive of Anna Lorencová, a long-term associate of the JMP. The collections were also enriched by material from the archive of the Kalich family, which was donated by Ina Sádlová. No less important was the acquisition of digital copies of documents from the archives of the Repper family from Olomouc and the Münzer and Klepetář families from Hradec Králové. All of the newly acquired archival materials will be carefully catalogued and gradually made available to the research community.

Work continued on the cataloguing and reviewing of the Persecution Documents collection, specifically Inv. Nos 43a–63 (8 archival boxes). In the Terezín collection, work was completed on the digitization of large-format documents (Inv. Nos. 345–350), which comprises mainly construction plans of buildings and sites in the Terezín ghetto, as well as various signs from the period of Nazi occupation. Sixteen large-format folios from this set were professionally restored. In addition, specialist descriptions (including copyright designations) were completed for 285 images from the photography collection.

The Shoah History Department continued to process its extensive archival collections and gradually provided access to them via its online CollectiveAccess catalogue (<http://collections.jewishmuseum.cz/>). Detailed descriptions were provided for more than 650 items in the digital database.

The Shoah History Department also oversees the JMP's Oral History Collection, which contains interviews with Shoah survivors that have been recorded since 1990. This collection comprises the sub-collections "Interviews with Shoah Survivors", "Interviews with Witnesses of the Postwar Period", "Interviews with Witnesses from Ostrava", "Interviews Conducted Outside the Jewish Museum in Prague", "Centropa" and "Maisel Street Children". Through the method of oral history, the main aim is to document the life of the Jews of Bohemia and Moravia, and of the former First Czechoslovak Republic. The collection contains primarily interviews with Shoah survivors, but also includes interviews with members of the second generation. The aim is to bring together multi-generational family-based testimonies about the Shoah and post-war period. Many of the recordings of the narrators' stories are supplemented by valuable photographic and documentary materials from family archives that have been donated to the JMP in digital or analogue form and are included in a collection called "Materials Collected in Connection with the Recording of Interviews with Survivors and Witnesses". All of the selected materials are being added to the JMP's CollectiveAccess database (<http://collections.jewishmuseum.cz/>). A number of unique documents and photographs were acquired in connection with the recording of interviews in 2018. Among the many people who donated such material from their family archives were Vladimír Myslík, Hana Dvořáková, Edith Kraus and Peter Bruell. The number of sound recordings in the collection of interviews with members of the first and second generations reached 1,579. Over the course of the year, 58 new interviews with survivors/witnesses – mostly from the Czech Republic, but also from Israel and the USA – were filmed for the Oral History Collection. The recording of testimonies was done partly with financial support from the Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH), but also thanks to the support of private donors.



# 7

## Academic and research work

The JMP is intensively developing its own academic and research activities, in many respects following on from its predecessors who laid the foundations in the 1960s. Until 2018, the JMP was the recipient of substantial support for its research and development projects in the form of appropriations from public funds. As of 1 July 2018 – when the hitherto list of research organizations maintained by the Czech Government Council for Research, Development and Innovation was cancelled under Act No. 130/2002 Coll – the JMP no longer meets the conditions for inclusion in the list of research organizations now maintained by the Czech Ministry of Education. Research and development-related activities are among the JMP's objectives but are not the sole or primary goal. The JMP will, therefore, continue to collaborate on project support for its research projects with non-state actors promoting science and research. In addition, it will continue to develop and support research within its own institutionally-supported research project. The focus of the JMP's academic and research work is on the history and culture of Jews in Bohemia and Moravia within the broad context of development in Central and Eastern Europe. The scope of the JMP's specialist work is very broad and is covered in detail for each department in the following sections of this report.

### a) Collections Department

The Collections Department staff focused on the following specialist and research activities in 2018:

The metalwork curator Jaroslav Kuntoš focused on supplementing and specifying catalogue data relating to the JMP's collection of bells for attachment to Torah Ark curtains. In total, 732 items were processed in this way during 2018, thus completing the comprehensive cataloguing of the collection of bells for Torah Ark curtains, including photo documentation for the translations of dedicatory inscriptions. In addition, J. Kuntoš completed the processing of 50 catalogue records on Torah crowns and produced 30 catalogue records on genizah items. He also contributed to the processing of technical descriptions of items selected for the new exhibition in the Spanish Synagogue and was involved in

*An item from a recent acquisition of ten works by painter Adolf Kohn*



determining how to present and mount the exhibits, and in setting out the technical parameters of the display cases. At the end of the year, he focused on processing and specifying catalogue data relating to the JMP's collection of Kiddush cups (78 items catalogued).

The visual arts curator, Michaela Sidenberg, carried out research on the collections in her care and was involved in acquisitions. Her research specifically related, inter alia, to the following: the pre-war literary figure from Prague, Walter Fürth (1891-1942), the art critic Oskar Schürer (1892-1949), the painter Charlotte Schrötter-Radnitz (Lotte Frumi, 1899-1986), the painter Grete Schmied-Passer (Grete Mikeska, 1899-1998) and the painter Ernst Neuschul (1895-1968), as well as topographical details in the pre-clearance Jewish Town of Prague as depicted in newly acquired paintings by Adolf Kohn (1868-1953). The results of this research are being used on an ongoing basis in connection with supplementing the digital catalogue of the JMP's collections, putting together new exhibitions, and dealing with restitution claims. As in previous years, M. Sidenberg paid special attention to the topic of children's life and education in the Terezín/Theresienstadt ghetto – in connection both with the preparation of a new permanent exhibition, titled *Friedl's Cabinet: Children's Drawings from Theresienstadt* and with other projects. M. Sidenberg contributed an essay, titled "Ein Experiment im Kunstunterricht: Kinderzeichnungen aus dem Ghetto Theresienstadt" [An Experiment in Art Education: Children's Drawings from the Theresienstadt Ghetto] to a publication project (*Politische Kinderzeichnung: Graphische Gewaltdokumentation und ihre Erforschung in Theorie und Praxis vom Spanischen Bürgerkrieg bis zur 'Flüchtlingskrise'*) that is being prepared by the University of Marburg. For the Austrian Cultural Institute in Prague, M. Sidenberg prepared a touring exhibition (*Die Gabe ist Sehnsucht*) on the teaching legacy of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis (1898-1944), which was co-organized by the Jewish Museum in Prague. For the opening of the touring exhibition *The Second Life of Czech Torah Scrolls* at the Bohemian National Hall in New York on 3 December 2018, M. Sidenberg gave a talk about the past and present of the Jewish Museum in Prague, titled "Against the Tide: The Museum as Modern Ark". Focusing on the popularization of the topic of restitution in an article titled "Přes řeku Jabok a Atlantický oceán" [Over the River Yabok and the Atlantic Ocean], which was published in the *Lidové noviny* newspaper supplement *Orientace* [Orientation] on 29 September 2018, M. Sidenberg described a restitution claim made by the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic for the return of a rare Hebrew illuminated manuscript, *Kitzur Ma'avar Yabok*, originally owned by the former Jewish Religious Community of Mikulov, which has been missing for many decades and which appeared in the USA in 2010.

In connection with preparations for a project focusing on the comprehensive processing of genizah finds, the curator of the collection of manuscripts and genizah papers, Lenka Uličná, contributed to a detailed research of the JMP's genizah collection with the aim of determining the time and financial costs of this project. L. Uličná collaborated on the preparation of captions for the new permanent exhibition in the Spanish Synagogue. In addition, she represented the JMP at an international interdisciplinary research workshop in Warsaw, titled "Representations of Jewish-Slavic Relations in Museums and Internet Databases" (13–15 June 2018) with a paper titled "Presenting the dynamic of Czech-Jewish relations: The challenges behind the new expositions of the Jewish Museum in Prague". L. Uličná also gave a paper ("Presenting the Materiality of Bohemian and Moravian Genizot") at the 11th Congress of the European Association of Jewish Studies in Krakov (14–19 July 2018). The current state of research on genizah finds was the focus of a paper by L. Uličná, titled "Modern Genizot: 'Sacred Trash' Reconsidered", which was accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal *Muzeológia a kulturné dedičstvo* [Museology and Cultural Heritage].

Dana Veselská contributed to preparations for the new permanent exhibition in the Spanish Synagogue; in particular, she co-operated with external curators on the selection of exhibits and was involved in determining how to present and mount the exhibits.

The coordinator of the Textile Conservation and Restoration Studio, Veronika Ríchnr Nauschová, took part in lectures held by the Textile Working Group of the Commission of Conservators-Restorers of the Association of Museums and Galleries in the Czech Republic. She also attended the “Textiles in the Museum” conference in Brno and the “Conference of Conservators and Restorers” in Mikulov. As part of a volunteer programme, a conservator-restorer worked in the Textile Conservation and Restoration Studio under the supervision of the workshop co-ordinator. The conservators-restorers Hana Fišerová and Eva Dryáková from the Paper Conservation and Restoration Studio attended the “Methodology for Assessment of the Physical Condition of Modern Library Collections” conference at the National Library in Prague.

On 29–30 May 2018, the co-ordinator of the Metal Conservation and Restoration Studio, Pavel Veselý, took part in “The Art of Enamelling / The Technique of Enamelling” conference, which was held by the Brno Technical Museum’s Science and Technology Documentation Department and Methodological Centre for Conservation in collaboration with working groups of the Metal and Glass Commission of Conservators-Restorers at the Association of Museums and Galleries in the Czech Republic.

## **b) Shoah History Department**

In 2018, the Shoah History Department continued its involvement in the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI), which is financially supported by the European Commission as part of the Horizon 2020 programme.

The Shoah History Department prepared a number of supporting documents for the Czech Red Cross and as evidential material for issuing certificates at the request of the Czech Defence Ministry’s Department for Veterans.

The department’s daily agenda includes responding to questions with regard to Shoah victims. In 2018 it dealt with more than 650 requests from researchers. The most frequently asked questions concerned the following topics: the fate of Jewish residents of particular houses in Prague; the fate of Jews sent to deportation assembly points; forced-labour assignments during incarceration in the Terezín/Theresienstadt ghetto and after deportation to the East; Jews placed on transports to the East; the Terezín/Theresienstadt Family Camp at Auschwitz; the extermination centres in Maly Trostenets and Treblinka; culture and everyday life in Terezín; filming of propaganda films in Terezín.

The process of recording, correcting and adding the names of Shoah victims on the walls of the Pinkas Synagogue memorial is also among the department’s important work. This challenging research task is currently focused mainly on tracing the personal data of children who were born in the ghettoes of Terezín/Theresienstadt and Łódź/Litzmannstadt, in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camp, or during the death marches. Sixteen names of Shoah victims on the memorial walls were corrected and added at the end of 2018.

Throughout the year, intensive work was done on preparations for the new exhibition in the Spanish Synagogue. This involved selecting suitable archival materials from the JMP collections and from other institutions, as well as putting together introductory texts, captions and audio-visual elements. The Shoah History Department is working on the following thematic areas for the new exhibition: “Munich and the Second Czechoslovak Republic”, “Persecution of the Jewish Population”, “The Start of Deportations”, “The Terezín/Theresienstadt Ghetto”, “Culture in Terezín/Theresienstadt” and “Transports to the East”.

Another important component of the department’s activities involves popularizing the results of its academic and research work in the media, as well as providing expert consultations for a number of



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specialist, journalistic and film projects. Jana Šplíchalová was responsible for this sphere of activity, as well for holding lectures, discussions and guided tours for the general public as part of the JMP's educational programmes. On the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January, J. Šplíchalová gave a lecture on "The Abandoned Jewish Town: The Deportation and Fate of the Jewish Population from the Uherský Brod Assembly Point" at the John Amos Comenius Museum in Uherský Brod. On 2 August, for the Shamayim Jewish Culture Festival in Třebíč, J. Šplíchalová gave a lecture in combination with a Q&A session on the topic "The Deportation and Fate of Jews from the Assembly Point in Třebíč". On 20 February, in the framework of international co-operation, J. Šplíchalová took part in a workshop at the Stiftung Topographie des Terrors (Topography of Terror Foundation) in Berlin for a presentation of Steffen Hängslen's book *Das Transitghetto Izbica im System des Holocaust* [The Izbica Transit Ghetto in the Holocaust System].

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

The department head Iveta Cermanová, with the assistance of Alexandr Putík, edited two issues of the JMP's peer-reviewed journal *Judaica Bohemiae* (Volume 53/2018) and began editorial work on the first issue of next year's volume (Volume 54/2019). Two meetings of the journal's editorial board took place in 2018.

The department staff continued work on long-term research tasks, including research in archives and specialist libraries. The results were presented in scholarly work and conference lectures and were added to the JMP's internal databases.

Alexandr Putík and Daniel Polakovič, in collaboration with L. B. Petrusová, completed work on the publication of the e-book *Židovský hřbitov v Brandýse nad Labem* [The Jewish Cemetery in Brandýs nad Labem] (published by the Jewish Museum in Prague, 2018, 379 pages). Daniel Polakovič submitted catalogue entries on Jewish cemeteries in Osek/Ossek, Prudice/Pruditz, Tučapy/Tutschap, Volyně/Wolin, Dolní Bolíkov/Wölking, Kardašova Řečice/Kardasch Retschitz, Písečné/Pisetschna and Staré Město pod Landštejnem/Altstadt for *Židovské hřbitovy jižních Čech* [Jewish Cemeteries of Southern Bohemia], a book under preparation by the České Budějovice Regional Office of the National Heritage Institute. In addition, D. Polakovič wrote a review of Frowald Gil Hüttenmeister and Lukáš Svoboda's book *Židovský hřbitov Drmoul / Jüdischer Friedhof Dürrmaul* [The Jewish Cemetery in Drmoul/Dürrmaul] (published by the Municipal Museum of Mariánské Lázně, 2017) for the Proceedings of the Museum of the Karlovy Vary Region. He also wrote brief biographical outlines of Jewish authors and scholars for Jan Petr Cerroni's book *Spisovatelé Království českého (Scriptores Regni Bohemiae)* [Writers of the Kingdom of Bohemia] (ed. Michal Svatoš et al., Vol 3: E-F, published by the Centre for Classical Studies at the Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, 2018). D. Polakovič and Pavel Kocman submitted a paper titled "Židé v hradbách, Židé na hradbách, Židé před branami – Vztah židovského obyvatelstva v českých zemích k městskému opevnění ve středověku a v raném novověku" [Jews Within the Walls, Jews On the Walls, Jews Before the Gates – The Relationship of the Jewish Population in the Bohemian Lands to the City Fortifications in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period] for the journal *Documenta Pragensia*. P. Kocman wrote a study titled "Traces of the Moravian Jewish Political Communities in Archival Sources and in Expert Literature" and a review of Georg Gaugusch's book *Wer einmal war. Das jüdische Grossbürgertum Wiens 1800–1938. L–R* for *Judaica Bohemiae* 53 (2018), 1. In addition, he contributed to the preparation of, and participated in, a working seminar on the topic "Bibliography relating to the History of the Jews in the Bohemian Lands", which took place in Brno on 27 March and was organized by the Society for the History of Jews in the Czech Republic, the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and the Jewish Museum in Prague. Daniel Polakovič and Daniel Baránek submitted papers titled "Starší a starý židovský hřbitov v Prostějově" [The Older and the Old Jewish Cemetery in Prostějov] and "Pluralization of the Jewish Society in Olomouc, 1890–1914" for the Proceedings of the conference

"Reframing Jewish Life: Moravian Jewry at the Turn of the 19th and the 20th Centuries", which was held in Olomouc in October 2017. They also gave papers titled "Židovský hřbitov ve Slavkově u Brna" [The Jewish Cemetery in Slavkov near Brno] and "Židé a liberálové v Olomouci" [Jews and Liberals in Olomouc] at the 25th "Jews and Moravia" conference (Kroměříž, 7 November 2018). D. Baránek wrote a study titled "Die religiöse Funktion Politischer Israelitengemeinden" [The Religious Function of Political Jewish Communities] for *Judaica Bohemiae* 53 (2018), 1 and a report titled "Visual Antisemitica" for *Judaica Bohemiae* 53 (2018), 2. In addition, D. Baránek gave a paper titled "Chaos jako důsledek emancipace: Organizace židovstva v Čechách 1848–1893" [Chaos as a Consequence of Emancipation: The Organization of Jewry in Bohemia 1848–1893] at the "Jews and Moravia" conference (Třeboň, 24 October) and a paper titled "Nacionální konverze židů po roce 1918" [The National Conversion of Jews after 1918] at the "Ethnic Minorities in Czechoslovakia, 1918–1938" conference (Prague, 22 November 2018).

Staff of the Department of Jewish History and Jewish Studies, in collaboration with the JMP's Development and Public Relations Department, contributed to the preparation of the new exhibition in the Spanish Synagogue. Iveta Cermanová prepared the main texts and captions for three thematic areas ("Josephinian Reforms and the Beginnings of Jewish Emancipation"; "Jewish Enlightenment and a New System of Education"; "Religious Reform in Prague"; "Temple in Dušní Street") and captions for a display case on the topic of "Textiles and Silver from the Old Shul and the Temple in Dušní Street". Daniel Baránek prepared the main texts and captions for four thematic areas ("From Emancipation to Integration"; "Searching for Identity"; "Religion and Education at a Time of Progress"; "The Jewish Elite: Representatives and Philanthropists"). A. Putík and D. Polakovič prepared texts and pictorial materials for the exhibition's audio-visual elements ("Jewish Communities in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia" database; "Important Figures in the Jewish Emancipation – Rabbis, Teachers, Scholars and Physicians" database).

An important part of the department's work involved popularizing the results of its academic research work through lectures and co-operation with the media. From February to May 2018, Pavel Kocman led the seminar "Archival Sources on the History of the Jews in the Bohemian Lands" for Jewish studies scholar at the Prague Centre for Jewish Studies at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague. On 25 April, Iveta Cermanová gave a lecture titled "Židovská komunita v raném novověku" [The Jewish Community in the Early Modern Period] as part of the series "Základní problémy studia starších českých dějin I." [Basic Issues Concerning the Study of Early Bohemian History, I] for history students in the follow-up master's study programme at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague. On 23 November, I. Cermanová gave a guided tour of the exhibition in the Maisel Synagogue for first-year students of Gymnázium PORG Libeň, Prague. On 12 May, Alexandr Putík gave a lecture on the history of the Hebrew inscription on the crucifix on Charles Bridge for those taking part in a meeting of the Children of Maisel Street at the Jewish community building in Prague. In addition, A. Putík collaborated on an article by Klára A. Fischleiová about the Old-New Synagogue for the magazine *Instinkt* (published on 21 September 2018) and provided comments on the script of the documentary film *Exodus? Eine Geschichte der Juden in Europa* [Exodus? A History of the Jews in Europe] produced by Interscience Film (Heidelberg). On 9 November, Daniel Baránek spoke about the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht [the Night of Broken Glass] in a live broadcast of the Czech Radio programme *Ranní Plus* [Morning Plus].

Alexandr Putík carried out genealogical research on Prague Jewish families and added a further 100 names to a genealogical database, which – at the end of 2018 – contained entries on 15,450 people (out of a total planned number of approx. 16,500). Daniel Polakovič continued his work on the documentation of Jewish cemeteries in Prague and in six rural communities.



As well as engaging in routine communication with the professional and lay public and providing responses to queries from researchers, P. Kocman, D. Polakovič, A. Putík and D. Baránek provided seven appraisals of scholarly studies.

#### d) Archives

The specialist work of the JMP Archives staff concentrated mainly on the particular issues relating to the archival materials being processed. The main focus of interest was on the history of Jews in the occupied border region of the Czech lands and on the administrative development of Jewish organizations during the First Czechoslovak Republic.

The JMP Archives continued its collaboration with other museums and archives, particularly in the Czech border regions, with regard to organizing seminars on the modern history of Jews in Bohemia. The 7th Seminar on the Jews in Bohemia was held on 24 and 25 October in association with the State Regional Archives in Třeboň, and it was attended by more than 40 historians and archivists. The seminar featured 24 papers relating to the history of the Jews in Bohemia from the early modern era through to the post-Second World War period. Tomáš Krákora gave a paper titled "Legislativa pozůstalostní praxe židů v 1. pol. 19. století" [Legislation on the Inheritance Practice of Jews in the First Half of the 19th Century]. On the basis of the processed fonds, Vlastimila Hamáčková gave a paper titled "Několik poznámek k činnosti Nejvyšší rady Svazů židovských náboženských obcí" [Some Remarks on the Activities of the Supreme Council of the Federation of Jewish Religious Communities].

In collaboration with the local authority of the small town of Davle, T. Krákora compiled sources on the history of the local Jewish community for the planned unveiling of a memorial on the site of a former synagogue.

In April 2018 the JMP Archives launched the second Yerusha database project in the Czech Republic with support from the Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe. The aim of the Yerusha project in the Czech Republic is to collect descriptions of archival fonds in Czech archives with relevant information relating to the Jewish history of the Bohemian lands. The second project seeks to follow on from the successful first undertaking, which was completed in 2016, and to add sources and archives that had been geographically or thematically excluded (the previous research focused on the topic of Jews in the Sudetenland and the issue of Moravian Jewish political communities). The current project focuses on archival fonds in Central Bohemia and on archives in Prague. The archival collection descriptions from across Europe, including the Czech Republic, will be brought together into a single online platform hosted by the National Library of Israel, which will help researchers find information in extant sources and will support research into the European Jewish cultural heritage. Overall, we expect to produce 250 archival collection descriptions, which will be included in a Europe-wide archive database called Yerusha. More than 100 descriptions were produced in 2018; these are currently being edited and translated into English. The Czech Yerusha project will be completed in September 2019.

As part of preparations for the new exhibition in the Spanish Synagogue, the content of the display case relating to Jewish entrepreneurs and industrialists was expanded and the captions were prepared. In addition, the captions of archival materials processed by the individual curators were checked and supplemented, and original items were selected for restoration/conservation and for copies to be made.

In collaboration with the Department of Jewish History and Jewish Studies, the JMP Archives contributed to the documentation of Jewish cemeteries and to an assessment of the newly acquired epigraphic materials. The JMP purchased a manuscript from the 1880s, which contains transcripts of 17 epitaphs of people buried in the Jewish cemetery of Golčův Jeníkov. This manuscript is of great

documentary value, as the old tombstones in this cemetery are in a poor state of repair. As in previous years, technical supervision was provided for reconstruction and restoration work at Prague's Old Jewish Cemetery.

Archives staff attended conferences on topics relating to their specialization: a seminar for the 100th anniversary of the founding of Waldes Museum of Buttons and Clothes Fasteners (held by the Kotěra Museum of Architecture and the Museum of Glass and Jewellery in Jablonec nad Nisou, 25 September), "Care for the Jewish Cultural Heritage" (held by the Omnium Association, 3 October), and the 17th conference on the topic of sepulchral monuments (held by the Institute of Art History at the Czech Academy of Sciences, 26 October)

The JMP Archives received 120 visits from researchers in 2018; 68 researchers came to study here – 51 from the Czech Republic, 17 from other countries. In total, 877 register units from 87 fonds were provided for study purposes. As in previous years, the main focus of researchers' interest was on genealogy, the history of individual Jewish communities and the documentation of heritage sites (cemeteries, synagogues). The Archives staff undertook 11 literature searches and provided about 140 consultations and replies to written queries. Staff processed a total of 138 scans for research purposes and in preparation for the new exhibition in the Spanish Synagogue. In addition, 16 scans of material from the Documentation–Slovakia collection were provided for the exhibition *Eugen Bárkány: Between Prešov and Bratislava*, which was on view at the Jewish Community Museum in Bratislava between 25 May and 7 October.

#### e) Library

The JMP Library had a total of 314 registered members in 2018. The Library and the Multimedia Centre received 955 research visits; other technical queries were dealt with in writing. In total, the Library provided 2,564 documents on loan, of which 1,327 were taken out. As in previous years, the Library also provided inter-library loans. In total, 43 documents were loaned to other libraries, and 33 loans or copies of articles and essays were provided for JMP staff.

Library staff contributed to the exhibition *"My Cup of Kafka..." Drawings, Prints and Paintings by Jiří Slíva* at the Robert Guttmann Gallery. Thirteen books from the Library collection were on display at the exhibition.

Multimedia Centre,  
part of the Jewish Museum's library



A book titled *Treuhänderische Übernahme und Verwahrung : International und interdisziplinär betrachtet* (Göttingen, Vienna University Press, 2018) contained a paper by Michal Bušek ("Provenance Research in the Book Collection of the Jewish Museum in Prague". This paper was given at the conference Accepting and Holding Objects "in Trust" – an International and Interdisciplinary Perspective, which was held on 2–4 May 2017 in Vienna and was organized by Vienna University Library.

Library staff collaborated on preparations for the new exhibition in the Spanish Synagogue – facsimile copies of books from the Library's fonds were made; Michal Bušek and Silvia Singerová created 50 profiles of literary figures and traced and selected accompanying pictorial material for the audio-visual elements. The loan of material for an exhibition in Norway was extended.

Since 2012 the JMP Library has been involved in the Cooperative Creation and Utilisation of National Authority Files project. The co-ordinator and technical guarantor of this project is the Department of National Name Authority Files at the Czech National Library. As a local supervisor, the JMP Library is adding new entries to the database of national authority files and is contributing to the correction of existing authority files. M. Kotyzová processed 397 new authority files in 2018.

The Library's Multimedia Centre in the JMP's administrative building continued to provide access not only to the JMP's databases (database of Shoah victims, database of collection objects, library catalogue, collections catalogue) as well as to the USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive, which contains recorded interviews with Shoah survivors and witnesses. The JMP is one of the access points to the collection of recorded interviews in the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, which is overseen by Yale University. Recordings of talks and lectures held at the JMP's Department for Education and Culture are also available for viewing at the Multimedia Centre, provided that consent has been given by the lecturers. The Reference Library is open to researchers and also offers JMP publications for sale to visitors.

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

In 2018, Jiří Tejkal, a staff member of the Development and Public Relations Department, represented the JMP at the annual conference of the Association of European Jewish Museums, which was held in Budapest. On behalf of the JMP, Dana Veselská attended the regular meetings of the Association of Museums and Galleries in the Czech Republic and the annual meeting of the Czech Committee of the International Council of Museums.

In July 2018, Lenka Uličná represented the JMP at the 11th Congress of the European Association of Jewish Studies (EAJS). Along with Iveta Cermanová, the head of the JMP's Department of Jewish History and Jewish Studies, L. Uličná is a member of this association.

The JMP Library is a member of the Czech Association of Library and Information Professionals (SKIP) and the Czech Association of Libraries (SDRUK). The JMP is represented by Zuzana Pavlovská in the Czech delegation of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance – IHRA (formerly the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research – ITF). Michal Frankl continued to represent the JMP in the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI). As in previous years, the JMP director Leo Pavlát served on the editorial board of the Academia Publishing House, and Pavel Kocman remained active in the Society for the History of Jews in the Czech Republic.



# 8

## Preparation of new exhibitions and modernization

In 2018, work continued on the modernization of the Pinkas Synagogue Memorial to the Victims of the Shoah from the Czech Lands. The architectural design was done by Petr Franta Architekti, the chief designer of the project. The main contractor was KONSIT a.s., a company experienced in delivering comprehensive construction services for all systems and types of construction, including particularly complex buildings, such as heritage sites. Outside the Pinkas Synagogue, repairs were done to the facades, paving, sewer connection, rainfall inlets, railings and supporting walls, and the stone features and windows were restored. The CCTV and security system was extended and the courtyard area was covered with a WiFi signal. Inside, lighting alterations were made, the windows, doors and stone features were restored, and the paving and painted decorations were repaired. Most noticeable are the alterations to the entrance hall, where the painted decorations were restored. With regards to technical facilities and equipment, the air-conditioning system was improved, the camera system was extended, internet cabling was installed and WiFi was set up. For safety reasons, the museum has also undertaken to implement a new system for calculating its occupancy figures. Radiant panels were installed in the museum building to improve the temperature stability and the lighting was optimized.

The building alteration works were carried out under the supervision of experts from the Czech National Heritage Institute between September 2017 and April 2018 while the museum was fully operational. The completed works were officially approved on 16 April and the main contractor handed back the site to the JMP on 26 April.

A new permanent outdoor exhibition *Journeys with No Return: The Deportation of Jews from the Czech Lands, 1939–1945* (curated by Jana Šplíchalová) was installed in the newly opened former Pinkas Street site in the rear section of the synagogue. This exhibition is directly linked to the inscriptions of the names of Shoah victims on the walls of the memorial. It helps to give visitors a specific idea of the timescale and territorial scope of the deportation of Jews from the Czech lands, and also provides information about the places where they died during the Second World War. The basic

New permanent exhibition *Journeys with No Return. The Deportation of Jews from the Czech Lands, 1939–1945, Pinkas Synagogue*



information on the display panels is supplemented by documents that can be viewed at an interactive kiosk inside the Pinkas Synagogue or via a web interface. The digital resources also facilitate name searches in the database of Shoah victims and make it easier for visitors to find names on the synagogue walls.

Over the course of November and December 2018, the specialized restoration firm R.E., s.r.o. carried out repairs to damp walls and to selected inscriptions of the names of Shoah victims in the Pinkas Synagogue. Afterwards, corrections were made to sixteen inscriptions on the synagogue walls with inaccurate information about the dates of birth and death of Shoah victims.

Work continued on the curatorial and, to a lesser extent, technical preparations for the new version of the permanent exhibition in the Spanish Synagogue, provisionally titled *The Jewish Emancipation, Shoah and Postwar Czechoslovakia (From 1780 to the Present)*. Thematically based on the current exhibition, the concept for the version was authored by Arno Pařík. Changes are being made primarily to the means, style and technical features (including multimedia and interactive elements) of the presentation. The contract for the architectural design and supervision of works was won by the architectural firm Petr Franta architekti & asoc., spol. s r.o. In collaboration with the latter firm, an architectural study and building permit plans were drawn up and, at the end of the year, the implementation and tender documents were prepared for a tender to appoint the chief contractor. Tender documents were prepared in advance for the supply of an aggregated set of display cases and audiovisual elements and formed the basis for selecting the supplier of these items. On the basis of selecting the chief building contractor in the first and second quarters of 2019, it is expected that work will begin on the implementation of the project in July 2019.

Loans of collection objects and licence agreements for the use of such items and for reproduction rights for pictorial sources provided to the JMP by third parties were dealt with on an ongoing basis. Curatorial work also continued at the JMP. At the end of the year, the definitive form of the display cases was finalized, the introductory texts (including selected archival materials and collection objects with captions) were submitted, and preparatory work began on the underlying materials for the audiovisual elements. The architectural study and subsequent project documents were subject to a comment procedure and were then finalized. Tenders were held for the supply of display cases, audiovisual equipment, and a measurement and regulation system. In addition, a tender was held for the selection of the main building contractor and the building permit was issued for the project.

Work continued on marketing preparations for a new permanent exhibition, titled *Friedl's Cabinet: Children's Drawings from Theresienstadt*, which will be located in the venue that currently houses the Robert Guttman Gallery. The exhibition concept, content and design development is by Michaela Sidenberg. The architectural design is by the Marek Topič Architectural Studio. The visualization was prepared for PR and fundraising purposes, and a small collection of souvenirs was made for donors.

One of the aims of the JMP's transformation is to involve the public more actively in its activities. An important role in this is played by the JMP's Society of Friends, which had 55 paying and five honorary members in 2018, and by people who are active in the ever-expanding JMP Volunteer Programme (launched in 2011). In 2018, twenty-two volunteers – mostly students – got involved mainly by helping out at cultural events held by the JMP. In addition, they provided assistance to the JMP's various departments, for example by scanning documents, transcribing interviews with Shoah survivors, archiving documents and processing video recordings.





# 9

## Acquisitions

In 2018 there were two ordinary and ten extraordinary (per rollam) meetings of the JMP's Acquisitions Committee, which were also attended by external associates. Most of the acquisitions in 2018 came from the JMP's own research, specifically from the gradual processing of finds from genizot in Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Luže, Zalužany and Holešov – in total, 157 items, which were assigned 130 registration numbers.

The second major group of acquisitions comprised gifts from individuals from the Czech Republic and other countries – in total, 32 items, which were assigned 26 registration numbers. Among the most important gifts in 2018 were those of the paintings *Portrait of the Art Historian and Critic Oskar Schürer* and *Corner of the Town with a View of Church* by Charlotte Schroeter-Radnitz, and a set of military equipment belonging to Jiří Adler, which will enrich the new exhibition in the Spanish Synagogue.

Another, no less important, group of acquisitions comprised purchases – in total, 15 items, which were assigned six registration numbers. Among the most valuable purchases of the year were the drawing *Sephardi Wedding* by Georges Kars (purchased at an auction held by Galerie Kodl) and *Portrait of Walter Fürth* by Egon Adler (purchased from a private individual).

The smallest group of acquisitions comprised items that were transferred between the JMP's departments (five registration numbers) and one item from the JMP's depository, which was found to have an incorrect registration number.

In total, 885 volumes were added to the JMP Library in 2018, with about 40% acquired by donation or replacement. Ninety-eight books were included in the sub-collection of books in the Central Register of Collections; most of these items were transferred from the Library funds. Two early printed books – *Haggadah le-Chag ha-Pesach* (Brünn, 1790) and Abraham ben Mordecai Galante's *Kol Bokhim* (Prague,

(Left to right) Leo Pavlát, Wesley A. Fisher (Claims Conference) and Daniel E. Kestenbaum during the handover of a rare print, January 2018



1621) – were purchased. Among the noteworthy gifts was that of the uniquely bound print *Sichath Jizchak* (Prague, 1878).

January 2018 saw the completion of successful negotiations between the JMP Library and the NYC-based auction house Kestenbaum & Co. for the restitution of a rare printed book – Abraham de Balmes' *Mikne Avram-Peculium Abrae* (Venice, 1523) – which had been offered for auction sale in March 2017. The JMP filed a restitution claim for the book after it had been identified as missing from the original fonds of the Prague Jewish Community Library – now the Historical Collection of the JMP Library. The director of Kestenbaum & Company, Daniel E. Kestenbaum, later withdrew the book from the auction and arranged with the vendor for it to be returned to the JMP. Mr. Kestenbaum handed over the book in person to the JMP director Leo Pavlát on 16 January 2018.

Another early printed book – *Mahberet Tophet ve-Eden u-Mahberet Purim* (Berlin, 1778), also from the pre-war library of the Prague Jewish Community – appeared in a sale held by Winner's Auctions in Jerusalem. The auction house agreed to withdraw the item from its sale, and the book was returned to the JMP Library in November 2018.

Among the major acquisitions by the JMP's Shoah History Department in 2018 was undoubtedly the purchase of a set of unique postcards sent my members of the Friedl family from the Terezín/Theresienstadt ghetto, the Piaski transit ghetto, and the forced labour camp in Siedliszczce in 1942.

The JMP Archives purchased three rare Judaica-related documents from Bohemia at an auction – "Important Judaica, including a Distinguished Private Collection" – held by Sotheby's in New York on 19 December 2018: a privilege granted to the Jewish Community of Mikulov/Nikolsburg in 1591, a power of attorney granted to the leaders of the Prague Jewish Community to negotiate on behalf of the estate of Mordechai Meisel in 1687, and a certificate granted to Simon ben Moses Löbl of Holleschau in 1739, attesting to his skill as a barber-surgeon.



# 10

## Educational activities

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

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

As part of a 2018 city-wide programme of support for education in Prague, the department's Prague office further developed a project for supporting pupils and teachers in vocational schools with regard to questions concerning the prevention of socially dangerous phenomena. The aim of the project is to have a positive effect in the area of preventing extremism, racism and antisemitism. In total, 1,362 pupils from vocational schools took part in the project in 2018.

In total, 6,765 pupils and students from Czech schools took part in the department's programmes in Prague. Programmes and seminars were also held for foreign students. In 2018, there were 547 participants from Germany, the USA, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, and the Republic of South Africa.

*Pupils of Alois Klár Primary School in Ústěň planting crocus bulbs in the shape of the Star of David*





At the beginning of the 2018/19 school year, the JMP became involved – for the eighth time – in the “Crocus” project, which has been organized for several years by the Holocaust Education Trust of Ireland and involves the participation of schools around the world each year. Via the JMP, the organizers provided the students and pupils taking part with yellow crocus bulbs which they will plant in the autumn as a reminder of the million and a half Jewish children who were murdered during the Shoah. In total, more than 10,000 children from 200 kindergartens, elementary schools and secondary schools took part in the project in the Czech Republic in 2018.

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

The JMP held four two-day seminars for teachers, titled “Jews – History and Culture”, which were attended by 44 teachers. Two three-week seminars for 100 teachers were held on the topic “How to Teach about the Holocaust”; the latter seminars were held by the JMP in association with the Terezín Memorial, which has been an important partner in the further training of teaching staff for several years. The first additional seminar “Jews – History and Culture” with focus on the topic of Czechoslovakia and Israel was held in September 2018 (attended by 20 teachers).

The educational activities of the Brno office of the JMP’s Department for Education and Culture were also the result of collaborations with other institutions. Particularly successful was its long-term association with the Museum of Roma Culture with regard to the teaching of educational programmes. In 2018, this collaboration included a screening of the Czech documentary film *Návrat do Osvětimi* [Return to Auschwitz] with a meeting with the Shoah survivor Erika Bezdíčková (16 January) for International Holocaust Remembrance Day, as well as a theatre show *Hygiena krve* [Blood Hygiene] (22 January) and a lecture by Lenka Geidt, titled *Vychovatelé a opatrovníci v terezínském ghettu* [Tutors and Carers in the Terezín/Theresienstadt Ghetto] (29 January). These programmes were attended by 156 visitors.

In co-operation with the Regional Museum in Mikulov, five of the Brno office’s interactive workshops (“Hana’s Suitcase”, “Reflections – Perpetrators, Rescuers and the Others”, “The Holocaust in Documents”, “The Lodz Ghetto” and “Adventurers Against Their Will”) were held in the Mikulov Synagogue; the workshops were attended by 82 pupils. In co-operation with the Museum of the Boskovice Region, lectures were held in March and April on the topics of Jewish traditions and customs, the Hebrew language, and the fate of the Jewish inhabitants of Boskovice; the lectures were attended by 94 persons. In co-operation with Dům kultury Kroměříž (Kroměříž House of Culture), educational programmes with focus on Jewish holidays and the Hebrew language were held for pupils of local elementary and secondary schools as part of the educational project “Kroměříž bez hranic” (Kroměříž without Borders); the programmes were attended by 98 participants.

The Brno office hosted two four-day seminars on the topic “Jews – History and Culture”, which were attended by 60 teachers. In August 2018, it hosted the first additional seminar on this topic with focus on the Jewish minority in Czechoslovakia in 1945–1989, which was attended by 25 teachers.

In collaboration with the Terezín Initiative Institute, the Brno office arranged for the display of the Czech-language version of the touring exhibition *Let Me Be Myself – The Life Story of Anne Frank*, which tells the life story of Anne Frank in the context of Nazi persecution and the Second World War. The exhibition has been put together by the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. As an accompanying programme for the exhibition, the Brno office team organized a workshop titled “Diaries”, which was held 15 times and was attended by 311 students.

In total, 3,260 pupils and students took part in the educational programmes of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture in Brno.

The Brno office also provided guided tours of the Jewish cemetery and synagogue in Brno, which involved attended by 895 students and members of various interest groups.

Work on the JMP's educational project "Neighbours Who Disappeared" continued in 2018 for the 18th year running. Intended for elementary and high school pupils, this unique project charts the fate of Shoah survivors and witnesses in the neighbourhoods of those taking part. The aim of the project, however, is not only to document the fate of Jews during the Second World War; it also places emphasis on changing people's attitudes and opinions of ethnic and religious minorities. The Prague office of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture has been working separately on the project as of 2017.

The "Neighbours Who Disappeared" project continued to be presented at schools in the form of a seminar where a small group of trained students, equipped with worksheets and texts relating to each panel, guided their fellow students through the exhibition. In 2018, the project involved the active participation of about 300 student guides. The exhibition was also displayed on the corridor walls of schools, where it was seen by as many as 2,500 pupils and students.

Thanks to the involvement of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, the "Neighbours Who Disappeared" project and touring exhibition was presented at six elementary schools in the Ústí nad Labem Region. Copies of the exhibition are on permanent view at the Terezín Memorial. At many venues – as a result of the active involvement of teachers and school children – the exhibition has encouraged people's interest in the accounts of Shoah survivors and witnesses, as well as in the preservation of Jewish monuments. The exhibition also draws the attention of individual communities and schools to contemporary manifestations of antisemitism.

In collaboration with the Czech Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, the English-language version of the *Neighbours Who Disappeared* touring exhibition was shown at the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre. It was later placed on display at other centres in Durban and Cape Town. The exhibition was seen by about 500 visitors.

*The English-language version of the touring exhibition Neighbours Who Disappeared was shown for the first time in the Republic of South Africa in 2018. Photo © Anna Syková.*





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

As in previous years, the Prague and Brno offices of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture hosted numerous cultural events for the general public in 2018.

The Prague office regularly hosted seven evening programmes each month. The total number of programmes for the year was 71, which were attended by 2,970 visitors. In addition, the Maisel Synagogue hosted a variety of events, including classical musical concerts on Jewish topics, discussions and themed programmes. Lectures, screenings and exhibitions, in particular, were also held in the department's auditorium.

As in the previous year, the Maisel Synagogue hosted a selection of chamber music concerts by leading Czech performers. A monthly series of concerts featured the following ensembles and performers: Verba Chordis, Duo Jarmila Vlachová and Miroslav Vilímec, DUO MANERA, Ensemble Frizzante, Bennewitz Quartet, Ave Musica, Ančerl Quartet, Štěpán Rak and Petr Wagner, Ensemble Tourbillon. Outside the regular concert series, the Belfiato Quintet gave a concert on the occasion of Yom ha-Shoah, which was a truly exceptional artistic experience. Another concert that went down very well was the one given by the acclaimed Iranian-American harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani – one of the last pupils of the late Zuzana Růžicková, who was one of the world's most celebrated harpsichordists and an outstanding music teacher at the Prague Academy of Performing Arts. This concert was part of a celebration held by the JMP to mark the anniversary of the birth of Zuzana Růžicková. In June, a concert was given by the American klezmer violinist and singer Yael Strom, who – together with the leading Czech double bassist Petr Dvorský and the accordionist Aliaksandr Yasinski – performed klezmer melodies with shades of Ruthenian, Romanian, Hungarian, Slovak and Ukrainian music.

*The Bennewitz Quartet.  
Foto © Kamil Ghais.*



Once again, there was high visitor attendance for discussions on contemporary and historical Jewish topics with guests from the Czech Republic and abroad, which were held in the Maisel Synagogue. Topics of particular interest were brought up in the discussions through which the JMP again became involved in the Festival of Democracy within the 22nd Forum 2000 Conference. Two debates were held as part of the Festival of Democracy. The first debate (titled "Should we Get Packing? The Decline of Liberal Democracy and the Rise of Antisemitism in Central Europe") was moderated by the journalist Jan Fingerland and featured Irena Kalhousová (London School of Economics, UK), the Polish journalist Konstanty Gebert, and the Slovak politician Martin Poliačik. The second debate (titled "Democratizing Religions, Democratizing Society") was moderated by the theologian and religious studies scholar Pavel Hošek and featured the academics Paul Cliteur (Leiden University, Netherlands) and William Cook (State University of New York, USA). The following were among those who presented books or programmes on specific historical and current topics and anniversaries: the historian Kateřina Čapková, Rabbi Ronald Hoffberg, Rabbi Karol E. Sidon, the actress Eva Salzmánová, the historians Adam Hradilek and Jan Dvořák from the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, the headmaster of Gymnázium Přírodní škola (Prague Nature School) František Tichý, the film documentarist Martin Šmok, and the journalist Petr Brod.

On 16 April 2018, the Maisel Synagogue hosted one of the evening events of the 7th annual Small Jewish Festival, which is organized by the Muzika Judaica association.

The Auditorium of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture was used mainly as a venue for specialist lectures and film screenings with talks by the film historian Alice Aronová, this time with focus on the films of Woody Allen. Throughout 2018, the "Israel 70" series of lectures, debates and screenings provided what were often unusual perspectives of the history and culture of modern-day Israel. Among the lecturers were Ruth Hufnagel Ben Hadar (a media and film studies graduate from Tel Aviv University), the political scientist and publisher Alexandr Tomský and the architect Daniel Ziss. In September, on the occasion of the opening of the new outdoor exhibition *Journeys with No Return: The Deportation of Jews from the Czech Lands, 1939-1945* in the rear section of the Pinkas Synagogue, a new series of lectures by the curator Jana Šplíchalová and her guests was launched, which will continue until June 2019. The last quarter of 2018 was devoted to the 50th anniversary of the death of the Brno architect Alfred Neumann. In December, a commemorative evening for the author Max Brod was held in co-operation with the Prague Literary House. Among other commemorative events, the Prague office of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture hosted a special discussion evening for the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransports, as well as two lectures – titled "Ve víru čtyřicátých let" [In the Vortex of the 1940s] on the death of the diplomat and politician Jan Masaryk, and "Czechoslovakia and the Establishment of the State of Israel" on Czechoslovak diplomatic and military support for the new state.

Five exhibitions were held at the department's Prague office in 2018: *The Shocking Story of the Terrible Murder of Simon Abeles*, an exhibition by the Prague writer Marek Toman, based on his book of the same name; *Purim: The Story of Queen Esther*, an exhibition of photographs by Jindřich Buxbaum; *ISRAEL 70*, an exhibition of photographs from the Museum of the Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot in Tel Aviv; *A Tribute to Dagmar Lieblová*, an exhibition of artworks by elementary and secondary school children who had participated in the "I Know What Happened: A Tribute to Dagmar Lieblová" project; *Po-lin / Jews in the Republic of Many Nations*, an exhibition co-organized by the Polish Institute in Prague and the Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews, which charts the fate of the Jewish community in the "Republic of Many Nations".

Some projects were prepared in association with other organizations and initiatives – including the "Discussions in the Maisel Synagogue" project, the Prague Centre for Jewish Studies (at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague), the Prague Literary House of German-Writing Authors, the Polish



Institute in Prague, the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, Czech Academy of Sciences, the Festival of Democracy and Forum 2000.

The afternoon workshops for parents and their children continued to enjoy great popularity in 2018. They took place on the second Sunday of each month and were attended by 264 people. The workshops were held with support from the Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH).

The Brno office of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture hosted 47 evening programmes for the general public, which were attended by 2,184 visitors. Three lecture series were held in 2018. The lecture series given by Bohumír Smutný (Moravian Provincial Archives) focused on successful Moravian Jewish entrepreneurs from Brno and the surrounding area in the period from the start of the Industrial Revolution through to the Second World War. The lecture series given by Prof. Ingeborg Fialová (Department of Germanic Studies, Palacký University, Olomouc) focused on German Jewish literature. The lecture series given by the journalist and photographer Helena Bretfeldová, titled "Houses of Eternity", focused on Jewish cemeteries in Moravia.

As in previous years, Q&A sessions attracted a great deal of public interest in 2018. Discussion guests included the writer Alena Mornštajnová, the writer and film director Jindřich Mann, the writer and journalist Pavel Kosatík, and the Shoah survivors Erika Bezdíčková, Pavel Fried and Josef Salomonovič.

With support from the Statutory City of Brno, the Brno office launched a new lecture series, titled "The Crossroads of Destinies: The Jewish Community in Czechoslovakia from 1918 to 1968". This series involved ten lectures focusing on the year 1918, the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic and the events of 1968 with specific regard to the life of the Brno Jewish community. Historians and contemporaries contributed to the series.

Although the evening programmes focus mainly on lectures, there were also various cultural and educational events. In January the Brno-based Líšeň Theatre put on the theatre show *Hygiena krve* [Blood Hygiene], which is inspired by the testimonies and recollections of Shoah survivors, as well as by period documents, speeches made by Nazi leaders, and texts found on current neo-Nazi websites. An author reading by Vlasta Rut Sidonová from her book *Jídelna Šalom a jiné židovské povídky z dnešní Prahy* [Shalom Canteen and Other Jewish Stories from Present-Day Prague] and the following Q&A session drew attention to the everyday life of the Prague Jewish community. In September, there was a meeting with the actress and singer Hana Frejková, at which she presented her autobiographical book *Divný kořeny* [Strange Roots]. In December, the department arranged a tour of a local coffee roasting room where visitors were shown how coffee is roasted and how kosher coffee is processed. At the presentation of *This Is My Song*, a novel about the lives of survivors of the Terezín ghetto by the Australian author Richard Yaxley, selected excerpts from the book were read by the writer, actor and current rector of the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts, Petr Oslzlý.

The Brno office hosted six opening shows: *Jak to vidím* [How I See It], an exhibition of documentary photographs by Jiří Kovanic, a graduate of the Prague Film Academy, from the 1970s and 1980s; *Po-lin / Jews in the Republic of Many Nations*, an exhibition on the fate of the Jewish community in the Polish-Lithuanian territory in the 16th-18th centuries, co-organized by the Polish Institute in Prague and the Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews; *Before Everything Changed*, an exhibition of photographs by Kurt Bardoš (1914–1945), an amateur photographer of Jewish descent from Brno who perished in the German concentration camp Dachau; *Let Me Be Myself: The Life Story of Anne Frank*, an exhibition created by the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam; *Andre Steiner: Not only a Brno Architect*, an exhibition of photographs by Kateřina Rusňáková.



As part of the JMP's Sunday workshops for children, there were ten programmes with focus on Jewish holidays and stories from the Tanakh, which were visited by 131 children. The workshops were held with support from the Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH).

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

The JMP organized and contributed to the organization of a number of concerts and other cultural events in the Spanish Synagogue in Prague.

On 25 January, the JMP hosted its annual gala concert in the Spanish Synagogue to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day. It was held in association with the Prague Jewish Community and the Czech Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH). The opening words were given by Jan Munk (chairman of the Prague Jewish Community) and Leo Pavlát (director of the JMP). Works by Henry Purcell, Joaquin Rodrigo, Maurice Ravel, Manuel de Falla and George Gershwin were performed by the Prague Guitar Quartet.

On 20 March, the Polish-Israeli singer Olga Avigail Mieleńczuk gave a concert in commemoration of the inspirational culture of Polish Jews that disappeared during the Second World War. Entitled "The Lost Sounds of Yiddish Tango", this event was also a tribute to the Polish recipients of "The Righteous among the Nations" award, which is an honour bestowed by Israel's Holocaust memorial institution, Yad Vashem.

On 24 November a concert by the European Cantors Association (ECA) was held by the Society of Jewish Women in the Czech Republic.

As in previous years, the Spanish Synagogue was also the venue for regular concerts organized by the BM ART agency, mainly for visitors from other countries. In total, 239 such concerts were held.

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

In total, there were 248 concerts in the Spanish Synagogue in 2018.



# 12

## Publications

In 2018 the JMP published one book, a collection of academic papers, and a number of printed materials promoting its events and activities.

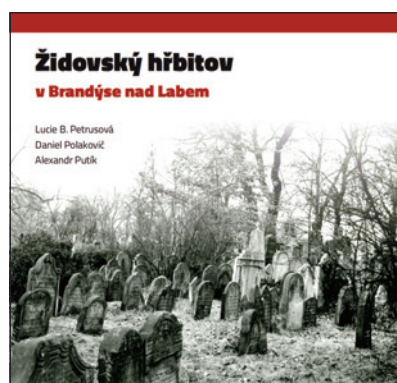
Czech and English-language leaflets were published for the JMP's exhibition *Jiří Slíva: My Cup of Kafka* – 3,000 copies in Czech, 12,000 copies in English.

The JMP's peer-reviewed journal *Judaica Bohemiae* came out as usual in 2018. Published since 1965, it 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 published in English and German. The journal also regularly contains papers from contributors outside the Czech Republic. Originally published twice a year, *Judaica Bohemiae* became an annual journal in 1994 and has come out biannually since 2009.

A monothematic issue of *Judaica Bohemiae* (Vol. 53/2018, 1) was published at the beginning of July. It is focused on a topic from the history of Moravian Jews in the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries, which has previously not been sufficiently explored – Jewish political communities in Moravia. The volume includes a selection of extended papers from the workshop “Remnants of the Past or Laboratories of Modernity? The Political Jewish Communities in Moravia after 1848 and their Archival Sources”. This academic event was organized by the Jewish Museum in Prague and the Masaryk Institute and Archive at the Academy of Sciences in co-operation with the Kurt and Ursula Schubert Centre for Jewish Studies at the Faculty of Arts, Palacký University Olomouc in May 2016. The first three papers, by Ines Koeltzsch (*Migration als Herausforderung. Die politischen Judengemeinden in Mähren und ihr ‘Niedergang’ um 1900*), Peter Urbanitsch (*Die Politischen Israelitengemeinden in Mähren: Entstehung und legistische Grundlagen, ihre politische Rolle im Nationalitätenstreit, Trennung ihrer säkularen und religiösen Aufgabenbereiche*) and Daniel Baránek (*Die religiöse Funktion politischer Israelitengemeinden*) provide new insights on important questions relating to these themes – namely, Jewish mass migration and its contemporary discourse, the mixed administrative and religious functions of the Jewish political communities, and the final split between the latter and the religious communities (*Kultusgemeinden*). The fourth paper, by Milan Řepa (*Assailants on the Bench for the Accused: Cases of Violence against Jews at the Turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries at the Regional Criminal Courts in Brno and Uherské Hradiště*), examines the Jewish political communities within the broader historical context of the widespread acts of individual and collective violence that were committed against Jews in Moravia after 1900. In the ‘Documents’ section, Pavel Kocman provides a valuable contribution to the methodology and results of the Yerusha project with an overview of archival sources and literature relating to the topic of Jewish political communities in Moravia. In addition, David Nehyba shows the potential and limits of future research by focusing on the example of the fragmented archival collections relating to the history of the Jewish political communities in Schaffa (Šafov) and Mišlitz (Miroslav) in the State District Archives in Znojmo. In the ‘Reports’ section, Marie Chrová provides information about the conference *Reframing Jewish Life: Moravian Jewry at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries*, which was held in Olomouc in October 2017, and Pavel Sládek and Eva Doležalová informs about a discussion panel on the history of Jews in the Bohemian lands at the 11th Congress of Czech Historians, which was held in Olomouc in September 2017.

The next issue of *Judaica Bohemiae* (Vol. 53/2018, 2) was published at the end of December 2018. The opening study by Pavel Kocman (*Zu den Umständen der Erteilung des Privilegiums für die mährischen*

*Juden im Jahr 1629*) explores the circumstances surrounding the granting of a charter for Moravian Jews in 1629 – an important document that redefined the legal status of Jews in Moravia after two centuries. On the basis of Slovak oral history projects, the next study by Monika Vrzgulová (*The Memory of the Return of Slovak Holocaust Survivors in Jewish and Non-Jewish Testimonies*) examines how Shoah survivors and eye-witnesses remember their return home after the Second World War. In the 'Documents' section, a study by Pavel Sládek (*Moses ben Aaron Morawczyk and his Treatise on the System of Education, 1634/1635*) looks at the life and work of the Jewish pedagogue Moses ben Aaron Morawczyk. This study provides the first English translation of Morawczyk's treatise 'On the System of Education' (*Ketzad seder mishnah*), placing it in the context of early modern Ashkenazi scholarship and learning. In the 'Reports' section, Lenka Uličná provides information about the 11th Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies (EAJS), which took place in Krakov in July 2018, and Daniel Baránek informs about the Visual Antisemitica workshop that was held by the Institute of Art History of the Czech Academy of Sciences in September 2018 as part of the project "Visual Manifestations of Anti-Semitism in the Czech Lands from the Middle Ages to the Present Day."



E-book Jewish Cemetery in Brandýs nad Labem

At the end of 2018, the JMP published an e-publication, titled *Židovský hřbitov v Brandýse nad Labem* [The Jewish Cemetery in Brandýs nad Labem], which is intended for all those interested in the history of Jewish settlement, Jewish monuments and art, as well as for all those involved in genealogical research. The Jewish Cemetery in Brandýs nad Labem was founded in 1568 and its area was expanded several times, the last time being at the end of the 19th century. The cemetery contains a mortuary from the mid-19th century and 915 tombstones from the period between 1572 and 1942. There are Renaissance and Baroque tombstones from the 16th through 18th centuries, Neo-Classical and Art Nouveau tombstones from the 19th century, and modern granite memorials from the first half of the 20th century. One of the chapters of the e-publication deals with the history of Jewish settlement in Brandýs nad Labem and its surroundings. The e-publication also contains studies by the JMP's specialists Alexandr Putík, Lucie B. Petrusová and Daniel Polakovič. There is also a chronological index, a name index, an index of Hebrew names, a place index, a list of stonemasons and stone-cutting workshops, and a list of Hebrew abbreviations, all of which are useful for locating information in the catalogue of tombstones. It also contains a schematic plan of the Jewish cemetery, which is useful for finding specific tombstones in the cemetery. The e-publication was published with financial support from the Prague Jewish Community Foundation.

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

A double-sided flyer in Czech and English was printed for the 15th Prague Museum Night (5,000 copies).

Where necessary, the JMP reprinted its leaflets for distribution with entry tickets with information provided in six languages and with a different graphic look.





### a) Loans

As in previous years, the JMP collaborated with a large number of political, administrative, cultural, academic and educational institutions in the Czech Republic and abroad in 2018. It was involved with 219 local and 104 foreign entities in various spheres of activity.

The JMP continued its contracting system for one- to three-year contracts with long-term Czech borrowers – nine Jewish communities and 12 cultural operators. Eleven contracts were extended after prior physical checks and assessments of the conditions of collection objects by JMP staff. In other countries, the JMP provided long-term loans for two exhibitions.

The JMP also loaned material to temporary exhibitions held by other organizations in the Czech Republic. As usual, most of the items on loan were from the visual art collection. Artworks from the JMP's collections were also displayed in the following successful exhibitions: *Hugo Steiner – Prag* (Gallery of Fine Art in Cheb) and *Years of Disarray / Between Anxiety and Delight: The Birth of the Modern Central European Citizen, 1908–1928* (Olomouc Museum of Art). The JMP loaned a work by Eugen von Kahler for the latter exhibition, which will be later also be presented in Krakow, Bratislava and Pécs.

One of the most interesting exhibitions abroad for which the JMP provided short-term loans was *Before the Fall: German and Austrian Art of the 1930s* at Neue Galerie, New York. The exhibition *Comrade Jew! The Dream of a Better World* continued until the middle of 2018 at Jüdisches Museum Wien. The JMP resumed its collaboration with the House of European History in Brussels, lending an item for its permanent exhibition. The long-term loan of liturgical objects for the permanent exhibition of the Memorial Scrolls Trust in London also continued.

In 2018 the JMP issued 31 permissions for the use of JMP materials in books and magazines and for publicity and study purposes, as well as for taking photos and filming at sites overseen by the JMP.

The JMP's Library Department collaborated on the loan of two books for the exhibition *Books Discovered Once Again* (Stiftelsen Arkivet, Kristiansand, Norway).

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

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

The JMP's expert staff provided necessary information and consultation (in person and in writing) for the work of other institutions and specialists in various areas, for the restoration of heritage sites and for the preparation of exhibitions across the Czech Republic.

As in previous years, the JMP director Leo Pavlát provided expert opinions for textbooks applying for an endorsement from the Czech Ministry of Education. In addition, he commented on issues relating to Judaism, Jewish history, antisemitism and the Middle East conflict for the media (including an interview for Czech Television's ČT24 station on 26 January in relation to International Holocaust

Remembrance Day, participation in the *Pro a proti* [For and Against] debate programme for the Czech Radio Plus station on 10 May, interviews about antisemitism in Europe for the *Hlídací pes* [Watchdog] web portal and for the Czech Radio Plus station on 27 August and 9 November. Leo Pavlát also co-presented and contributed to the weekly Czech Radio programme *Šalom alejchem* [Shalom Aleichem], which he co-conceived.

### c) Involvement in other projects

The JMP took part in several events that were held in collaboration with other institutions in 2018.

As usual, the JMP also focused its attention on the public commemoration of the Shoah. On 25 January, it hosted a gala concert in the Spanish Synagogue for International Holocaust Remembrance Day (see Section 11b).

On 2–4 February, the JMP once again took part in the charity event “Ledová Praha” [Icy Prague] – now in its 18th year. This event gives children and their families the opportunity to explore heritage sites and interesting places in the Czech capital, all free of charge.

March 2018 marked the 74th anniversary of the mass murder of the inmates of the Terezín/Theresienstadt Family Camp in the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau. In association with the Terezín Initiative, the JMP prepared a commemorative programme to mark this tragic event. On the morning of 8 March, a memorial ceremony was held in the Pinkas Synagogue memorial for the victims of the Shoah from Bohemia and Moravia.

Once again, the JMP was a partner to the annual public meeting against antisemitism on Holocaust Remembrance Day. A Good Will March through the centre of Prague was held by the Czech branch of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) on Sunday 22 April. The march ended in the Wallenstein Gardens, where the marchers joined a gathering against antisemitism.

As usual, the JMP took part in the annual public reading of the names of Shoah victims on the occasion of Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day). This year’s reading took place in Brno on 12 April and was held in co-operation with the Brno office of the JMP’s Department for Education and Culture, the

The Faces of the Victims of the Shoah.  
*A projection of photographs of Shoah victims onto the gable wall of the mikveh building on the grounds of the Pinkas Synagogue*



Terezín Initiative Institute, the Brno Jewish Community, the Museum of Romani Culture, the Brno-Centre Municipal District, and the public-benefit corporation Káveeska.

On 9 May, the Czech Senate hosted a conference on the topic of Israel after 70 years and its relations with the Czech Republic. The aim of the event was to assess how Czech-Israeli relations have developed over the last 70 years. Among those taking part were the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Israeli Ambassador to the Czech Republic, as well as diplomats, economists, academics and experts from the cultural sector. The JMP director Leo Pavlát also took part in a panel debate.

Also on 9 May, the JMP became involved in the European Literature Night in Prague. Every year, this project is held on the eve of the largest book fair in the country – Book World Prague. Since 2006, it has been organized by the Czech Centres in collaboration with the EUNIC (European Union National Institutes for Culture) network, foreign embassies, the Representation of the European Commission in Prague and the Labyrint publishing house. This year the European Literature Night took place in the Old and New towns of Prague, and one of the venues that opened its doors to the event was the Maisel Synagogue. The Czech actor Ivan Řezáč read excerpts from the Flemish novelist Jeroen Olyslaegers' book *Wil [Will]*, which is set in Antwerp during the Second World War and deals with the Resistance, efforts to help the Jews, and antisemitism. Several hundred people attended this event at the Maisel Synagogue, which took place between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m.

On 20 May, the Spanish Synagogue hosted a concert by the vocal ensemble Martinů Voices under the baton of the choirmaster Lukáš Vasilka with the Bennewitz String Quartet. The event was organized by the Prague Spring Festival in collaboration with the Jewish Museum in Prague and the Terezín Music Foundation. The programme was tailored to the venue, and all of the compositions were inspired by Jewish culture – such as the origin of the composer or librettist of the works performed, or other non-musical sources. Concert goers who had tickets to the event were given a 50% discount on the entry fee to the Jewish Museum's exhibitions between 1 May and 30 June 2018.

The 8th annual JudaFest, a festival of Jewish organizations and communities, was held on 3 June in the traditional place – Prague's Náměstí Míru (Peace Square). The event was prepared by the Czech Union of Jewish Students with the support of the Jewish Museum in Prague, the Czech Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH), the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, the Lauder Schools of Prague, and the Prague 2 Municipal District. The aim of the festival is to open up and present Jewish communities to the public through music, dance, food and entertainment.

In the late hours of Saturday 9 June, the JMP once again participated in Prague Museum Night, now in its 15th year. The Maisel Synagogue (with its exhibition on the history of Jews in the Bohemian lands from the 10th to the 18th centuries) and the Spanish Synagogue (with its exhibition on the fate of Jews in Bohemia and Moravia in the 19th and 20th centuries) opened their doors to this year's throng of visitors. A special programme in the Maisel Synagogue was organized for the hard-of-hearing visitors. As in previous years, the public interest in visiting the museum at night was enormous, with people waiting in line for dozens of minutes. In total, 2,566 visitors came to see the two exhibitions between 10:30 p.m. and 1:00 a.m.

On 19 May, the Brno office of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture became involved for the first time in Brno's Museum Night. It held a workshop on the topic of the Hebrew alphabet and an interactive lecture on the basics of Judaism, as well as a guided tour of an exhibition of photographic works by Kurt Bardoš (1914–1945), an amateur photographer of Jewish descent from Brno. In total, the event attracted about 580 visitors to the venue.

In October, the Maisel Synagogue hosted two discussions as part of the Festival of Democracy for the 22nd Forum 2000 conference in collaboration with the JMP. The debate on 7 October was titled "Should we Get Packing? The Decline of Liberal Democracy and the Rise of Antisemitism in Central Europe". The debate on 9 October was titled "Democratizing Religions, Democratizing Society". Both events met with great interest and were attended by more than 130 people (See chapter 11a).

On 10 October, the staff of the JMP's Collection Department – in cooperation with the Search Department at the Criminal Police Service and Investigation Office of the Czech Police Presidium – organized a special tour of the JMP and a seminar at its Department for Education and Culture. Taking part in the event were thirty specialists from the ranks of the Czech Police, who were shown around the JMP by the textile curator Dana Veselská and by the curator of metal and other three-dimensional objects Jaroslav Kuntoš. The event was judged to be highly beneficial by the Police Presidium.

*In November 2018, the Maisel Synagogue hosted a special event for the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransports. This memorial occasion was organized in co-operation between the Institute of Contemporary History (Czech Academy of Sciences), the USC Shoah Foundation, and the Jewish Museum in Prague. Speaking at the event was also the former director of the American Jewish Distribution Committee, Yechiel Bar-Chaim.*



On the evening of 19 November, the Maisel Synagogue hosted a special event for the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransports. This memorial occasion was organized in co-operation between the Institute of Contemporary History (Czech Academy of Sciences), the USC Shoah Foundation, and the JMP. Speaking at the event were the historian Laura Brade, the documentarist Martin Šmok, and the former director of the American Jewish Distribution Committee, Yechiel Bar-Chaim. The host of the evening was Kateřina Čapková from the Institute of Contemporary History. The event was accompanied by a screening of interviews with Shoah survivors from the USC Shoah Foundation's database.

On 12 December, the Auditorium of the JMP's Department for Education and Culture hosted the opening of an exhibition titled *Po-lin / Jews in the Republic of Many Nations*, co-organized by the Polish Institute in Prague and the Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews. The first part of the event included a screening of the film *The Last Klezmer* and was presented by the deputy director of the Polish Institute, Laura Trebel-Gniazdowska. The guests were then invited to look round the exhibition.



# 14

## Maintenance and reconstruction

The JMP's Technical Operations Department oversaw the management and maintenance of all of its sites, including the operation of various integrated technical facilities. This work involved maintenance, repairs and reconstruction work on its buildings and technical facilities, arranging necessary service and inspection work, maintaining and developing the integrated security system, maintaining all greenery in the Old Jewish Cemetery and in the area in front of the Maisel Synagogue, and running the reception area of the JMP's administrative building. In addition, it undertook checks on compliance with obligations relating to fire protection and security regulations, safety and health at work, and corporate environmental responsibility.

Active work was undertaken with regard to third-party subletting, including the conclusion of new contracts and the updating and amending of current contracts.

The JMP terminated its security system service contract with Aranea s.r.o. on 30 April and entered into a new security system service contract with Comproject s.r.o. on 1 May.

- Ongoing care was provided for the trees in the Old Jewish Cemetery. On the basis of inspections to assess tree condition and on the basis of an expert appraisal, the tree bracing was inspected, and the trees were pruned (reduction pruning, cultural pruning, safety pruning and health pruning) in the autumn months.
- The necessary inspections and checks were conducted on the JMP's technical and electrical facilities, elevators, wheelchair ramps, and security and fire protection systems. This included the removal of technical failures and defects.
- All necessary repairs were made to the properties overseen by the JMP.

Occupational health doctors provided first-aid training for the JMP's employees, and fire safety managers underwent regular training. No accidents occurred at the JMP's workplace in 2018.

*Interior of the Klausen Synagogue*



In the first quarter of 2018, Wi-Fi coverage was provided in the Pinkas Synagogue area in connection with reconstruction work. In the second quarter, Dial Telecom installed new fibre optic links as a replacement for the radio data connections between the JMP's six main sites. In the third quarter, network elements that were no longer suitable were replaced after switching the access provider. In addition, the access provider set up the basic network configuration in order to meet the required security and operating standards. Also in the third quarter, CompuNet supplied new servers and disk drives to which the JMP's key applications and all its data were successfully transferred. In addition, a backup plan was created, and automatic daily backups of all data were set up. In the last quarter, network configuration continued, and necessary applications were prepared for the operation of IT infrastructure. In December, part of the original data repositories was transferred to the JMP site in Prague–Smíchov for remote backup copies.

After the transfer of data to the new infrastructure, the folder and file names were analyzed in accordance with the new logical structure of the data repository, and the data was subsequently optimized.

In connection with the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the JMP replaced its payroll system from Okmzdy to Okbase, a comprehensive system that meets the security requirements. The implementation of the Okbase system also included the introduction of a Human Resources module for electronic personnel management. As employee attendance records are also subject to GDPR requirements, these were also included in the project for the implementation of the Okbase system. At the end of the 2018, work began on its introduction for next year.





# 15

## Security

In 2018, the JMP continued to concentrate on improving the quality of the work of its security staff. This was reflected in the ongoing stabilization of the team and in the attention paid to training. Specifically, this involved ongoing analysis of the current security situation, identifying threats, and taking adequate security measures in real time. With this in mind, the JMP continued to place emphasis on the professional training of security staff with focus on current security threats.

Over the course of the year, the security staff dealt with several emergency situations in accordance with internal directives. This was done with operational co-operation from the Police of the Czech Republic.

On the basis of the memorandum of co-operation that was concluded on 5 April 2016 at the Czech Ministry of the Interior to boost security at Jewish institutions, which are considered to be soft targets, the JMP worked closely with other Jewish entities and with the Police of the Czech Republic in connection with ensuring the safety and security of the JMP's properties and visitors. The JMP's Security Department also consulted with foreign security experts, particularly in the area of crisis planning and internal communication management.



# 16

## Investments

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The JMP's most significant investments of 2018 included work relating to its projects for transforming the exhibitions in the Pinkas and Spanish synagogues (see chapter 8).

An extensive modernization of the central cooling system was carried out in the JMP's administrative building, consisting in the replacement of the cooling units and all the mains, and the modification of the control system. The work was undertaken according to plans by SYB s.r.o. between April and June. The air-conditioning system in the security staff office was replaced and the air-cooling unit in the café next to the Spanish Synagogue (overseen by the JMP) was modernized. A new air-conditioning system was also installed in the library depository in the attic of the Pinkas Synagogue.

In the fourth quarter of 2018, the security/reception office in the administrative building was modernized in line with the development of security technology and staff numbers. The service at this site was limited during the refurbishment.

Significant investments were also made in the IT area (see chapter 14).



# 17

## Grants and donations

In 2018 the JMP filed sixteen grant/subsidy applications, of which fifteen were accepted and one was rejected.

In 2018 the JMP received grant/subsidy support of CZK 8,601,262 for an extended period of time. Funds from 2017 that were not fully completed or fully drawn – in the amount of CZK 6,360,109 – were carried over to 2018. Grant/subsidy funds in the amount of CZK 4,602,651 were used in 2018. Under-spends amounting to CZK 3,998,611 will be carried forward to 2019 and the following years.

The following institutions in the Czech Republic provided considerable support for the JMP's activities in 2018:

- Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports: seminars for teachers ("Jews, History and Culture")
- Czech Ministry of Culture: providing access to endangered periodicals, providing library services via digital technology (VISK 7 subsidy programme), ISO-D restoration project
- City of Prague: *My Cup of Kafka* exhibition, Maisel Synagogue concerts, apprenticeship support project
- Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH): restoration of tombstones, recording of interviews with Shoah survivors, Sunday workshops for children, student education project, cultural events, revitalization of the Pinkas Synagogue
- Prague Jewish Community Foundation: restoration of two rare printed books
- Brno City Hall: cultural events

The following institutions abroad provided considerable support for the JMP's projects in 2018:

- Rothschild Foundation Europe: Yerusha 3 project
- European Commission Framework Programme 7, Horizon 2020: European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI 2 project)

Many individual donors also provided support for the JMP's activities.



# 18

## Finances

The JMP received 4,275 more visitors in 2018 than the previous year – an increase of 0.59%. As a result, receipts from ticket sales were up year-on-year by CZK 7,666,304 (3.92%). Total revenues were up by CZK 8,877,263 (4.13%), mainly due to the increase in ticket sales. Income from rentals, the sale of goods and other services was also higher than the previous year, but there was a slight drop in income from grants and subsidies.

Expenses were up by CZK 10,640,449 (6.55%) compared to 2017, mainly due to higher costs relating to Material, Repairs/Maintenance, Promotion, Personnel, and Other costs.

On balance, the JMP's financial results for 2018 were favourable, with gross profit of CZK 61,882,406 and net profit of CZK 50,683,146 (after paying CZK 11,199,260 in tax). Net profit was down by CZK 1,763,185 year-on-year. Even so, this was the JMP's second largest profit since its re-establishment in October 1994.

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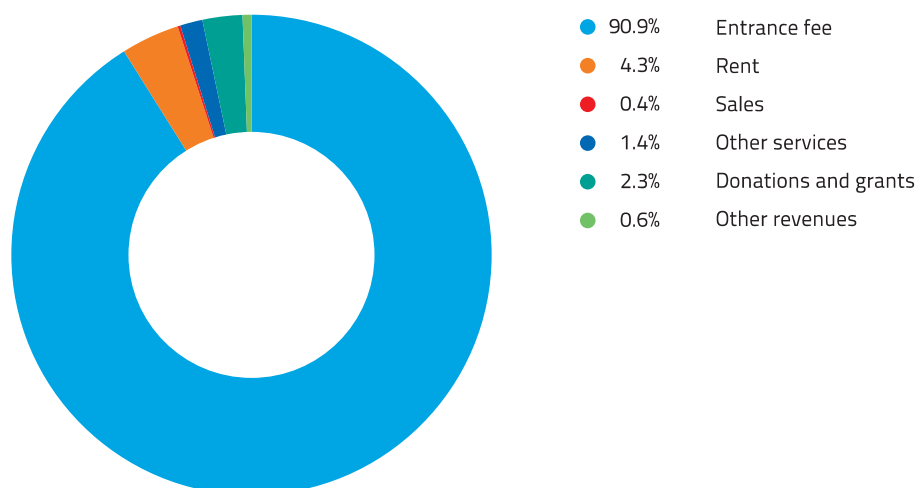
Prague, 28 March 2019

Leo Pavlát  
Director, Jewish Museum in Prague

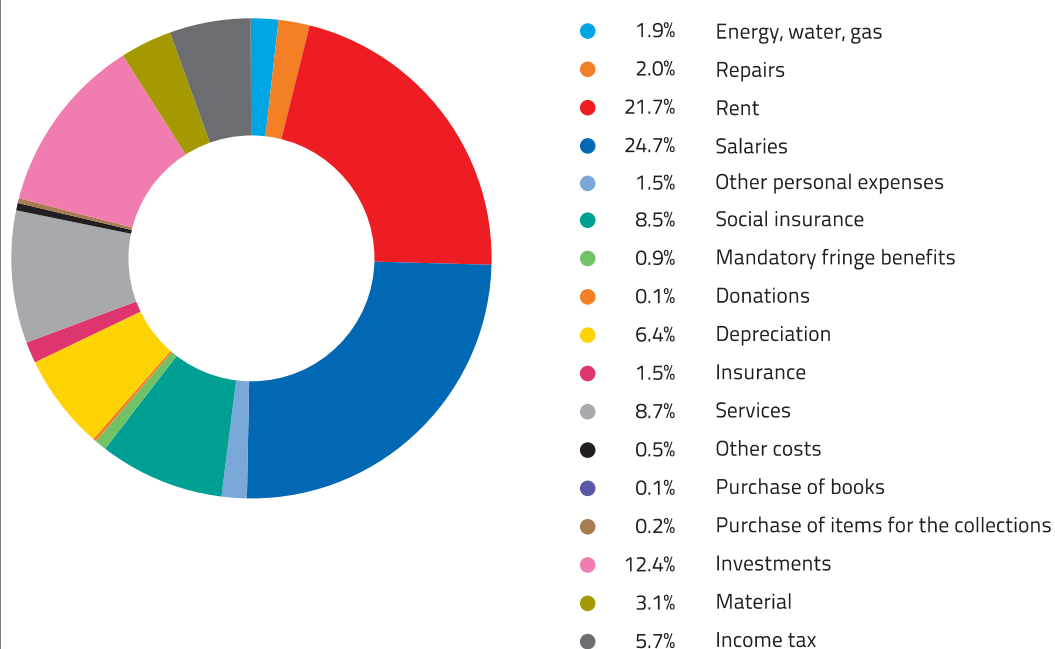


## Appendix 1 – 2018 budget implementation

*Revenues of the Jewish Museum in Prague (2018)*



*Expenses of The Jewish Museum in Prague (2018)*



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

	As of 31 Dec 2017	As of 31 Dec 2018
REVENUES	214 854	223 730
Sales of goods and services	12 040	13 796
Entrance fees	195 765	203 431
Subsidies	5 916	5 145
Recognition of provisions	0	0
Other revenues	1 133	1 358
OPERATING COSTS	150 449	161 848
Expenditures on realized sales	68 999	74 296
Personnel costs	63 312	70 497
Depreciation	12 493	12 865
Other operating costs and provisions	5 645	4 190
INCOME TAX	11 959	11 199
RESULT	52 446	50 683



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

	As of 31 Dec 2017	As of 31 Dec 2018
PERMANENT ASSETS	124 944	134 254
Intangible fixed assets	1 117	1 552
Tangible fixed assets	123 827	132 702
Financial investments	0	0
CURRENT ASSETS	321 117	352 636
Inventories	8 258	7 892
Receivables	12 535	10 422
Financial assets	297 803	331 755
OTHER ASSETS	2 521	2 567
TOTAL ASSETS	446 061	486 890
OWN SOURCES	416 216	461 246
Funds	363 770	410 563
Financial results in current accounting period	52 446	50 683
EXTERNAL RESOURCES	29 845	25 644
Short-term commitments	22 882	20 314
Provisions	0	0
OTHER LIABILITIES	6 963	5 330
TOTAL LIABILITIES	446 061	486 890

## Appendix 4 – Staff structure

In accordance with its organisation manual, the JMP comprised eight departments in 2018. As of the end of 2018, it had an average of 143.3 employees, including those on maternity and parental leave and those whose salaries are fully or partially covered by grants. The number of individuals employed by the JMP in 2018 was 143 and the number of full time equivalent employees was 136.2.

Director	1
Research and specialist staff, including restoration staff	49
Education and culture staff	8
Staff in charge of the maintenance, repairs, refurbishment and administration of buildings and cemeteries	3
Publicity and exhibition staff	5
Reservation Centre staff	3
IT staff	3
Administrative staff	6
Economic staff, including exhibition ticket sellers	13
Security staff and custodians	52

Average monthly salary for JMP staff in 2018: CZK 28.054.

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

Building	1995–2018
Spanish Synagogue	34 704
Administration building in Jáchymova st.	3 215
Maisel Synagogue	43 142
Pinkas Synagogue	22 911
Ceremonial Hall	3 278
Klausen Synagogue	10 164
Depository of textiles	4 514
New Administration and Research Centre	104 237
Department for Education and Culture, Information and Reservation centre	18 684
Smíchov Synagogue	77 534
Brandýs Synagogue	855
Depository of books Spořilov	215
Jewish Cemetery - Fibichova Pgue 3	11 980
Old Jewish Cemetery	13 383
Total	348 816



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