

Newsletter

3 2016

“Come My Beloved...” - Illustrations for the Song of Songs

A new exhibition at the Jewish Museum in Prague, organized in cooperation with the Museum of Czech Literature, presents the biblical book *Song of Songs*, shedding light on its origin, place in Jewish liturgy, historical publications, and translations into Czech. The main focus, however, is on the book's ornamentation, illustrations, and the works it has inspired from the early 20th century until the present day.

The exhibition draws on the collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague and the Museum of Czech Literature. A selection of printed books can be viewed in their entirety on interactive screens. The exhibition is a loose continuation of previous exhibitions on the history of the museum's book collections (2007) and Pesach Haggadot in the museum's library (2010).

Open from 6 October 2016

Robert Guttmann Gallery

U Staré školy 3, Prague 1

Open daily, 9 a.m. – 4.30 p.m., except Saturdays and other Jewish holidays

We are pleased to invite you to a guided tour and a lecture about the new exhibition: **Wednesday, 21 December, 3 p.m.: guided tour of the exhibition “Come My Beloved ...” – Illustrations for the Song of Songs**, presented by the curator Michal Bušek. *Basic entry fee – CZK 40.*



JMP director Leo Pavlát and curator Michal Bušek at the exhibition opening



PREPARING

Tuesday, 13 December, 6 p.m. at the Department for Education and Culture, Maiselova 15, Prague 1: a lecture by the curator **Michal Bušek** about the biblical book *Song of Songs* for the current exhibition at the Robert Guttmann Gallery. The main focus of the lecture will be on the most famous artistic interpretations of the *Song of Songs* and its most important bibliophilic editions. In addition to the exhibits, it will also draw attention to works and printed books that are not on view. *Free admission.*

Wednesday, 21 December, 3 p.m.: guided tour of the exhibition “**Come My Beloved ...**” – *Illustrations for the Song of Songs*, presented by the curator Michal Bušek. *Basic entry fee – CZK 40*



Die Bücher der Bibel – Die Liederichtung, Berlin & Wien 1923. Graphic layout and illustrations by Ephraim Moses Lilien. © JMP



Mark Podwal – *Song of Songs (5:7)*, 2016. © Mark Podwal

CULTURAL EVENTS AND LECTURES AT THE MUSEUM

On 8 September the Maisel Synagogue hosted a concert by the **Prague Guitar Quartet**, which has been active on the Czech classical music scene for more than 30 years. Among other things, it performed M. Tesař's *Intro and Sonnet for G*; Rodrigo's *Zarabanda lejana y villancico*, *Zarabanda lejana (a la vihuela de Luis de Milán)* and *Villancico (a Joan Salvat)*, and Gershwin's *Three Preludes (Allegro ben ritmato e deciso, Andante con moto e poco rubato, Allegro ben ritmato e deciso)*.

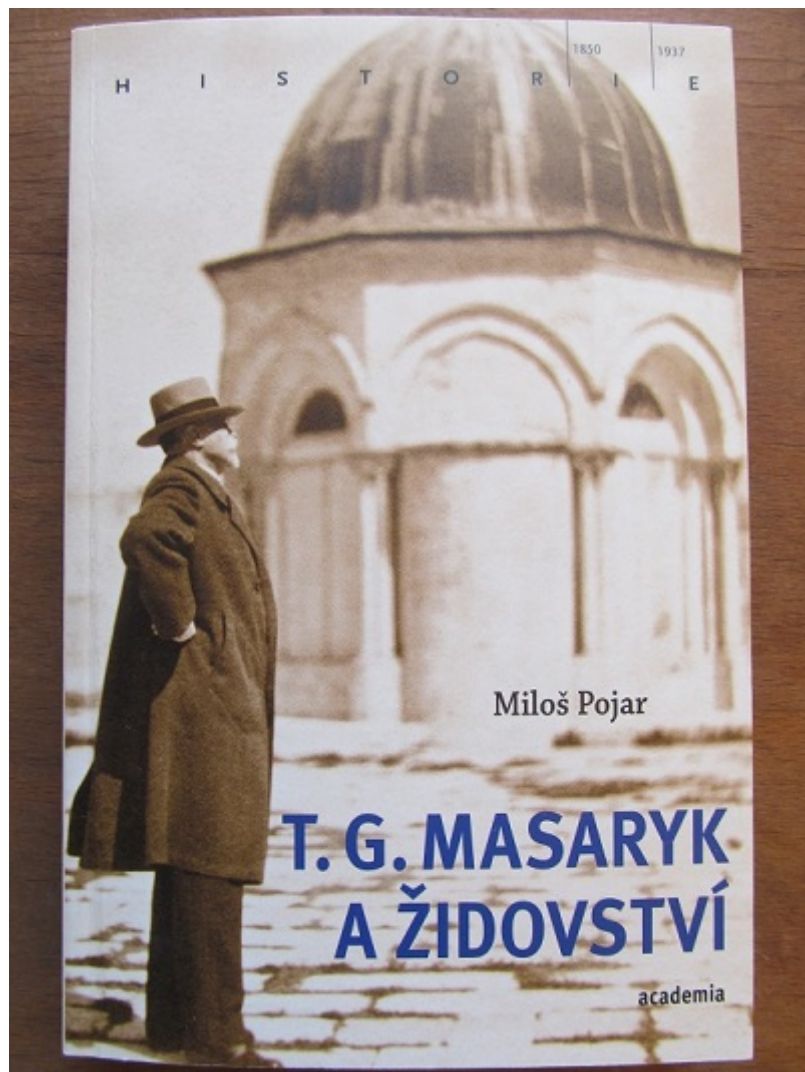


Ten unique concerts and theatre shows were held in Prague, Pilsen and Terezín on 18–25 September as part of the “**Out of the Shadows**” festival, a major international event that spans four continents. This festival draws attention to Jewish writers and composers whose work was forgotten or lost as a direct or indirect result of the Holocaust. It showcases the results of an ambitious research project, “Performing the Jewish Archive”, which is motivated by a desire to recover and engage anew with cultural artefacts from the large and diverse Jewish 'archive' that is scattered across the globe – thanks to which the “Out of the Shadows” festival came to Prague. Next year the festival will be in Sydney and Cape Town.

On 21 September, as part of the accompanying festival programme, the Maisel Synagogue hosted a chamber concert, titled “The Czech Musical Tradition: Persecution and Inspiration”. At this event, the Fama Quartet performed works by two Czech composers who were persecuted during the Second World War (Egon Ledec̨ and Gideon Klein), as well as works by composers who had inspired them (including Josef Suk's *Meditation*). The concert also featured the world premiere of Daniel Chudovský's *Mikva – ‘A collection’, for String Quartet*.



On 27 September the Jewish Museum in Prague hosted a **presentation of Miloš Pojar's book T. G. Masaryk a židovství [T. G. Masaryk and Judaism]** in the Maisel Synagogue. Already before the Velvet Revolution of 1989, Miloš Pojar (the co-founder of the Jewish Museum's Educational and Cultural Centre) explored the attitude of the philosopher, sociologist and statesman Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk towards Judaism and the Jews. Pojar's interest in this topic was further heightened by his mission as the first Czechoslovak – and Czech – Ambassador to Israel after the fall of Communism in Czechoslovakia. The main outcome of his long-term research is a book about the relationship between Masaryk and the Jewish people, which has just been published from his personal papers by the Academia Publishing House four years after his death. At its presentation, the book and its broader contexts were discussed by the political scientist Tomáš Pojar (the author's son and later successor as Czech ambassador to Israel), the historians Alexander Fried and Michal Frankl and the Brno-born Israeli pilot and entrepreneur Hugo Marom. The debate was moderated by the journalist Petr Brod.



SUMMER PROGRAMES IN BRNO

On 8 and 9 August the International School of Brno hosted a two-day seminar, titled **How to Use the Multimedia Digital Platform IWitness in a Czech**

School?, to which the Brno office of the Jewish Museum's Department for Culture and Education contributed. This meeting drew attention to the work done on the website of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education. It also described the entire scope of IWitness activities in education and showed the participants how to use and present their own activities and to create videos using an integrated online editing facility.



On 25 September a sukkah was built in the beautiful garden of the Löw-Beer Villa in Brno, where a themed programme was put on for people of all ages. The idea of drawing public attention to the celebration of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot came about as a result of a cooperation between the Brno office of the Jewish Museum's Department for Culture and Education and the property manager of the Löw-Beer Villa. In the morning, an art workshop was held for children and their parents, at which they decorated the interior of the sukkah with their artistic creations. In the afternoon, the popular actor and writer Arnošt Goldflam gave a recital of his wonderful texts for everybody who was there, regardless of age. For those who wanted to know more about the actual holiday of Sukkot, a lecture was given by Kristýna Kuboňová in the adjoining space of the villa, known as the Custom's House.



INVITATION TO THE MAISEL SYNAGOGUE

3 November, 7.p.m.: **Apollon Quartet.** One of the leading Czech string quartets in concert. Programme: František Xaver Richter – String Quartet in C Major, Op. 5; Erwin Schulhoff – String Quartet No. 1; Maurice Ravel – String Quartet in F Major. Performers: Pavel Kudelásek, Radek Křižanovský (violin), Pavel Ciprys (viola), Pavel Verner (cello).

1 December, 7.p.m.: **Fiorello Ensemble: GALANICA Y LA FLOR / Girl and Flower.** A concert by the Baroque chamber group Fiorello Ensemble. **Programme:** Salamone Rossi Hebreo – Sinfonia grave a 5; Cipriano de Rore/ Giovanni Battista Bovicelli – Ancor che col partire; Salamone Rossi Hebreo – Sonata in dialogo, Detta in Vienna; Sephardic song – Durme, durme; Marco Uccellini – Aria Quinta: Sopra la Bergamasca; Sephardic song - Esta muntanya d'enfrente; Biagio Marini – Sonata sopra la Monica; Salamone Rossi Hebreo – Sonata prima detta la Moderna; Sephardic song – Avrix mi, galanica; Tarquinio Merula – Ciaccona; Jiří Laburda – Barocco Suite.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Maisel Synagogue, at the Jewish Museum's Information and Reservation Centre (Maiselova 15, Prague 1), via the Ticket Art network, or via the Jewish Museum's website. *Admission CZK 230 / (discounted) CZK 150.*

SUNDAY PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS

13 November, 2 p.m.: What was it like to live in biblical times?

Where and how did people live in biblical times? How did they travel? What kind of plants were grown and used in Israel at the time? Aryeh the Lion Cub will give the answers to all these and more questions. In return, the children can help him with the herbs, flowers and trees in his garden and they can create their own biblical herbarium. Tour: Old-New Synagogue.

11 December, 2 p.m.: Aryeh the Lion Cub celebrates Hanukkah

Why does the Hanukkah lamp have eight branches? Why do people eat doughnuts and potato pancakes on Hanukkah? Who were the Maccabees? The answers to these and many other questions will be provided at our Sunday workshop. Tour: Spanish Synagogue.

Venue: Jewish Museum in Prague – Department for Education and Culture, Maiselova 15, Prague 1 (ground floor). Admission CZK 50.

ACQUISITIONS

Although the exhibition **Stranded in Shanghai: The Hongkew Ghetto Through the Eyes of Refugees and the Lens of Arthur Rothstein** at the Robert Guttmann Gallery came to a close in September, the story of the stranded refugees is far from over. As a result of the interest that the exhibition aroused among the surviving émigrés and their family members, we have managed to acquire a number of exceptionally valuable items from the personal estates of Erich Singer and Morris Feder. Both sets of material will be digitized in the immediate future and made available in our online database of collection objects and archive documents. In connection with this, we would like to ask members of the public to let us know of any other relevant documents or objects that could help us further increase awareness of the still little-known experience of Czechoslovak Jews in the Far East during the Second World War.

Contact for donating original documents and objects or for loaning them for digitization:

Jewish Museum in Prague – Shoah History

Department holocaust@jewishmuseum.cz

Daniela Bartáková – daniela.bartakova@jewishmuseum.cz / tel.:

+420222749237



Pass enabling Erich Singer to leave the 'demarcated area', Shanghai, 1944

A portrait of the cabaret artist and singer Anny Lederer-Frey has recently been donated to the Jewish Museum in Prague by Lucie Lederer from Vienna. In the Terezín ghetto, Anna Lederer Frey was known as Anny Frey or the “Terezín Nightingale”. She performed in the cabarets of Hans Hofer (Revue Hofer) and the film director Kurt Gerron and in various other music shows. She also sang and performed the role of Adele in the Terezín production of *Die Fledermaus*. After the war she performed in theatres in Teplice and Most.

This is the second gift we have received from Lucie Lederer. In 2011 she kindly donated a bust of Otakar Guth, who was a leading representative of the Czech-Jewish Movement. We highly appreciate and are very grateful for such gifts, as they enrich our collections in a very significant way.



Leo Haas (1901-1983): *Portrait of the cabaret artist and singer Anny Lederer-Frey (1906-2000) in front of a microphone, Terezín, no date, 1942-1944*

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

Stranded in Shanghai: The Hongkew Ghetto Through the Eyes of Refugees and the Lens of Arthur Rothstein

The exhibition *Stranded in Shanghai: The Hongkew Ghetto Through the Eyes of Refugees and the Lens of Arthur Rothstein* was on view at the Robert Guttmann Gallery until 11 September 2016. Rothstein's series of photographs of the living conditions of Jewish refugees in the Chinese city of Shanghai is a unique visual testimony to the sanctuary given to around twenty thousand Central European Jews during the period of World War II and the Shoah. On 7 September a third guided tour of the exhibition was provided by the curator Michaela Sidenberg. In total, the exhibition was seen by 9,774 visitors over the course of four months.



Recording interviews with Shoah survivors and witnesses

Eleven testimonies were added to the Jewish Museum's Oral History Collection over the course of the summer. Through our co-operation with Jitka Radkovičová from the Czech Scout Institute, we have also acquired another six interviews with Shoah survivors and witnesses from the former Czechoslovakia, which were recorded in Israel at the end of August and the beginning of September. In addition to the recordings, Jitka Radkovičová has also provided us with unique material in the form of photographs and documents from the family archives of Shoah survivors and witnesses.

For more on the interviews with Shoah survivors and witnesses, see:

<http://www.jewishmuseum.cz/en/collection-research/collections-funds/oral-history-collection/>

Labyrinth of Normalization Colloquium

On 15 September the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes hosted a colloquium ("Labyrinth of Normalization") about the Jewish community in Bohemia and Moravia between 1969 and 1989. The Jewish Museum in Prague was actively represented by the director Leo Pavlát and Pavla Hermína Neuner, who gave a paper on the research opportunities of the museum's Oral History Collection. The colloquium was part of a project within whose scope an exhibition of the same name will be held at the museum's Robert Guttmann Gallery next year. The exhibition has been conceived by the film documentarist and publicist Martin Šmok, and it will be curated by Leo Pavlát, the director of the Jewish Museum in Prague. A recording (in Czech) from the day-long colloquium is available on the website on the institute's website

(www.ustrcr.cz/cs/audio-archiv) and on its official Youtube channel.



Patrimonium pro Futuro

On 21 September the Patrimonium pro Futuro award ceremony was held in the town of Náměšť nad Oslavou. The Jewish Museum's restoration project for the Maisel Synagogue was short-listed for the prize and received a memorial certificate. The annual Patrimonium pro Futuro prize is awarded by the Czech National Heritage Institute, a Ministry of Culture organization whose task is to preserve and develop the heritage of the Czech Republic.

For more on the nomination of the Maisel restoration project, see (in Czech): <https://www.npu.cz/cs/opravujete-pamatku/inspirujte-se/11854-rekonstrukce-a-nova-expozice-maiselovy-synagogy-v-praze>



PROMINENT VISITS

August

On 4 August the Jewish Museum was visited by Their Highnesses Prince Guillaume and Princess Sibilla of Luxembourg with their children. They were received in the Jewish Town Hall by Tomáš Kraus, the Secretary of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, who then showed them round the Pinkas Synagogue, the Old Jewish Cemetery and the Old-New Synagogue.



On 22 August the Jewish Museum was visited by Danka Savić, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who was accompanied by the journalist Petr Brod.



September

On 18 September the Jewish Museum was visited by the prominent American congresswoman Janice "Jan" Schakowsky, who was accompanied by Robert Řehák from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Schakowsky has been the U.S. Representative for Illinois's 9th congressional district since 1999. She serves as co-chair of the Czech Caucus in the House of Representatives and often expresses support for Israel. Ms. Schakowsky came to Prague on the invitation of U.S. Ambassador Andrew Schapiro and the American Friends of the Czech Republic.



Photo © MZV ČR



Photo © MZV ČR



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

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

Editing: Kateřina Honskusová, Jiří Tejkal

Photo: ŽMP