Message from the Scrolls – Unlocking the Silence

Bar/Bat Mitzvah module – Supporting Images for Teachers
Unit One Resources

Message from the scrolls: unlocking the silence
Scrolls on their arrival in UK
David Brand
Czech scroll scribe
Synagogue damaged by Nazis
Online Resources

- The Wiener Library (London UK)
  - Online photo archive
  
- University of Southern California. The Shoah Foundation (i-witness testimony) (LA, California USA)
  - The i-witness program enables you to build your own exhibition with extracts of testimony of your choice.
  
- Yad Vashem (Jerusalem, Israel)
  - Israel’s National Holocaust Museum
  
- The Prague Jewish Museum (Prague)
  - Find out about the history of Jews in Prague from their online exhibitions and photo archives and documents.
  
- The Memorial Scrolls Trust (London)
  - Email the museum with any enquiry about your community’s Czech scroll.

- United States Holocaust Museum and Memorialisation (USHMM, Washington DC)
  - Maps, documents and summaries of the experience of Czech Jews from this excellent online resource and learning centre.
Biographical document relating to a young Czech person approaching Bat Mitzvah age in 1942
Unit Two Resources

The scrolls and Jewish life prior to 1939
Where the scrolls came from
Alice Sommer Herz
concert pianist
Alice Sommer Herz
In old age
Unit Three Resources

The scrolls under the Nazis
Gertrude Zelenkova and Martin 1
Gertrude Zelenkova and Martin 2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land</th>
<th>Zahl</th>
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<td>A. Altreich</td>
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<td>Rumänien einschl. Bessarabien</td>
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| Ukraina | 2.994.684 |
| Weißenland aus- schl. Białystok | 446.484 |

Zusammen: Über 11.000.000

Wannsee conference
Letter 13

Prague, May 20, 1943

— Here remains only a small part [of the Jewish population that lived in Czechoslovakia]. In the entire country there are 10,000 Jews. There are six times more in Theresienstadt (60,000). Of them over half are from Austria and the German Reich and also children and a few elderly from Holland.

According to regulations [in Czechoslovakia, regarding the Jews] it is forbidden to buy meat, milk, white flour, cakes, eggs, fruit, vegetables, fish, cheese, sweets and jam. We must also get used to not smoking. Our children don’t attend school. It is forbidden to convene for prayer in a quorum (minyan). Despite this, our situation is better than that of the majority who were transferred to Poland. We can’t receive any news from them. However, what we hear saddens us very, very much. In Theresienstadt only a small part remain of those that were deported over there from here [Prague]. The majority was deported further. The death rate in Theresienstadt is high, especially among the elderly.

[Heinz Valazar]
The Last Butterfly

The last, the very last,
So richly, brightly, dazzlingly yellow.
Perhaps if the sun’s tears would sing
against a white stone…
Such, such a yellow
Is carried lightly ‘way up high.
It went away I’m sure because it wished to
kiss the world goodbye.
For seven weeks I’ve lived in here,
Penned up inside this ghetto
But I have found my people here.
The dandelions call to me
And the white chestnut candles in the court.
Only I never saw another butterfly.
That butterfly was the last one.
Butterflies don’t live in here,
In the ghetto.

Pavel Friedmann 4.6.1942
The poem is preserved in typewritten copy on thin paper in the collection of poetry by
Pavel Friedmann. It is dated June 4, 1942 in the left corner.
Pavel Friedmann was born January 7, 1921, in Prague and deported to Terezín on
April 26, 1942. He died in Auschwitz on September 29, 1944.
Unit Four Resources

The scrolls recovered: rescue and renewal
Scrolls at the Memorial Scrolls Trust exhibition 2014
Rescuing the scrolls
most plausible
next most plausible
possibly plausible

REJECT BIN
How the scrolls were brought to London

Eric Estorick

Ralph Yablon
Rabbi Dr. Harold Reinhart
Professor Chimen Abramsky
Ruth Shaffer
Unit Five Resources

The scrolls, my Bar/Bat Mitzvah and me
One of the Czech scrolls
Unit Six Resources

The scroll project
Option 1
Create a Torah scroll a 5 panel portfolio of what has been learned in units 1-5

Option 2
Create an online animated timeline of the story of the scrolls. This could be animated by the faces from the unknown exhibition

Option 3
Devise a guide book/audio guide for young people for a tour of their community's Czech scroll exhibition

Czech Scrolls Bar/Bat Mitzvah Project