

Kingston, Surbiton and District Synagogue

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Londýnský kroužek Ostraváků Der Londoner-Ostrauerkreis Our Ostrava Group

Pesach 2007

Our research continues (although not as fast as we would wish) and results and interesting people and facts keep coming to light.

People

1. We have met and interviewed Lydia Tischlerova (née Folkartova.). Lydia was born in Ostrava before the War and came to the UK with her elder sister after the liberation. She lives in N London
We have also met and interviewed Dr George (Jiri) Ader who came to England aged 16 just as the War started – he remembers the German tanks rolling into Ostrava on 14th March 1939. He lives in S London with his wife, Ursula.
2. We have made contact with, but not yet interviewed, Judy Weleminski and Robert Reichmann.
3. Philip Heitlinger has given us a copy of his father story. Henry (Jindrich) was born in Ostrava in 1921.
4. George Ader's mother is related to the Heitlinger and Huppert families. Our wonderful Ostrava genealogist, Libuše Salomonovicova, is not sure if there is any connection between Philip Heitlinger's and George's family; or between Leo Wiener's (Philip's cousin) Huppert family and George's. Any information from anyone would be most welcome.
5. We would be delighted to receive the names of any more Ostravaks that you know of. Our list is attached.

Exhibition

6. The Jewish Museum in Prague had an exhibition "The Second Life of Czech Torah Scrolls" which ran until 28th January 2007. It is coming to Westminster Synagogue (Kent House, Rutland Gardens, Knightsbridge) from 24 April until 5 June and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at other times by arrangement. Kingston and its Ostrava Scroll receives a major acknowledgement in the catalogue and features quite prominently in the video that accompanies the exhibition. Although not large, it is a really interesting exhibition and recommended.

Artefacts

7. During our pre-Pesach clean out in shul, we discovered the Torah binder that came with our Ostrava Scroll when it arrived in 1964! It had been carefully put away at the back of the cupboard and had not been seen since!
It is 3.2m long and about 12 cms wide and looks as if it is of the same age as the Scroll (about 1920)



So far, the translation of the embroidered dedication has foxed us. Please let us have your ideas.

We are going to take the binder to the Royal School of Needlework for cleaning and repair. Then we hope to display it, at least for a short while

8. Evelyn Friedlander, of the Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust, has another sefer binder from Ostrava, dedicated at the Bar Mitzvah of Ludvig Rosenzweig:



Ludvik Rosenzweig was born on 17th October 1905 in Pribor (Freiberg). He lived and had a shop there until 1938, when the Germans annexed the Sudetenland. He was expelled and lived in Moravska Ostrava , Podebradova Street 96, together with his wife Helena (born 25th June 1906) and their daughter Mili , born on 22nd November 1935.

In May 1939 he tried to emigrate to San Domingo (organized by the Zionist Organisation in Ostrava) but did not succeed.

In October 1939 he was deported to Nisko. After his return to Ostrava he, together with his whole family, were sent by the third transport to Terezín in September 1942 and from there in transport "By" to Auschwitz, where they were all killed on 26 October 1942.

9. The Jewish Museum in Prague has a collection of artifacts that came from Ostrava in 1942, with the scrolls. We have photographs of a Torah mantle, two *Kavannahs*, and a photo of what appears to be the Jewish School in ca 1920.





Klezmer Group

- 10. Tomas Novotny brought a fabulous Klezmer Group (Adash Klezmer Ostrava) to the *Klezfest* (an opportunity to learn, play and meet other Klezmer musicians) organized by the Jewish Music Institute. He will bring a group again this year and the probable dates are the week of 12th August.
Naturally, cash is in short supply and the musicians would appreciate any offers of accommodation. Please let David Lawson know if you can help.
- 11. We are thinking of organizing a special concert by the Ostrava Group. If we do, would you be interested in attending?
- 12. We are also thinking of arranging a get-together of all the Ostravaks we know, in London. That could be at the same time as the concert (if we organize one).
Would you be interested in coming to a get-together?
- 13. Please let us know.

Ostravaks

14. We have made contact with several more Ostravaks and their close families:

Hanna	Adar	
George and Ursula	Ader	
Guido and Berenice	Alis	
Yehuda	Bakon	
Tanya & Neil	Bintcliffe	Grandfather was K K Smulovic
Peter	Briess	
Victoria	Bursa	
Zuzana	Caplova	
Mihal	Efrat	

Peter	Erban	
Andrew H	Federer	
Otto and Kate	Fischl	
Bertie	Goldberg	
Alice	Goldenfeld	Family Alis
John and Irene	Gould	
Katya	Gould	Family Loew, born in Fridek Mystek
Philip	Heitlinger	
Hana	Hornung	Widow of Ing Arch. Berthold Hornung
Otto and Kate	Hornung	
Vera	Idan	
Bob & Bernice	Kingsley	Robert Kohn
Carol & John	Lewis	
Alena and Pavel	Loew	
Evelyn	McGilloway	Family Luftschtitz, of the RIX store
Miriam Friedmann	Morris	Daughter of David Friedmann
Zipora	Nir	
Hana (and Brian)	Oppenheim (now Connors)	
Annette	Percy	
Ruth	Portnoy	Family Forscher
Lucas	Pribyl	
Robert and Anne	Reichmann	
George and June	Roden	Jiří Rosenstayn
Eva	Ross	
Susan	Saady	Family Schroetter
Radan and Katerina	Salamonovic	
Josef & Elisabeth	Salomonovic	
Michal & Libuse	Salomonovic	
Pavel	Seifter	
Hanus	Snabl,	
Eric and Margaret	Strach	Eric was born in Olomouc, his brother Hugo was an Ostravak
Lydia	Tischler	Family Folkart
Sigi	Toman	
George	Tyrell	Jiří Tramer Family Ost, mother's family name was Schlachet. Cousin was Shlomo Rosen
Leah	Weber	
Daniel	Wechsberg	
Judy	Weleminski	
Leo and Sue	Wiener	

The Ostravak is given in **bold** where there is any doubt.

We have recorded interviews with many people on this list and plan several more.

Now we need your help and suggestions!

1. Do you know any other Ostravaks not on this list? If so, please let us know so that we can extend our network.

2. Libuše Salomonovičová. (wife of Michal) is a wonderful lady and the source of much information about family histories of the Jewish community in Ostrava. She has records of births, marriages, deaths etc; census returns, and much more besides and is thrilled to receive more information to help her complete her records. In return, she has provided many of the people on the list with photographs and copies of family documents of great interest and sentimental value. **If you have any photographs, documents or other records that can be copied please let us know.** We can copy them carefully and return the originals to you (or you could let us have copies) which we can pass on to Libuše. She, in turn, will be able to fill in gaps in your knowledge. We are always looking for more information and detail to help make our story more complete.

Please send your names, suggestions, comments etc to:

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