

## Londýnský kroužek Ostraváků Der Londoner-Ostrauerkreis Our Ostrava Group

### Number 27: 5773 New Year Edition, September 2012

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### 5773 New Year Greetings

We wish all our readers a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year



## ***Jewish Ostrava in London***

The Jewish Museum in Prague launches the on-line catalogue of the Ostrava material and the on-line exhibition of the Goldberg Letter Collection



**Jewish OSTRAVA**

September  
10  
2012

6pm  
Maiselova 15  
3rd floor

**in LONDON**

What made London connected to Jews in Ostrava and their rich history? The story of the Ostrava Group at the Kingston Synagogue in South West London began with the Torah Scroll from Ostrava and developed into a large documentation project: since 2006 the Group has collected thousands of photos, documents, letters, interviews and of other material. More than that: it created a virtual community of former Jewish Ostravaks. Over the last two years, the Jewish Museum in Prague helped to catalogue, digitise and publish this unique collection. A new online collections catalogue will be launched including a new online exhibition based on the letter collection of the Goldberg family from Ostrava.

The round-table discussion also marks the 70th anniversary of the large scale deportation of Ostrava Jews to Terezín.

NORBERT GOLDBERG  
LIBUŠE SALOMONOVÍČOVÁ  
DAVID LAWSON  
MICHAL FRANKL  
moderated by PETR BROD

JEWISH  
MUSEUM  
IN PRAGUE

This presentation organised by the Jewish Museum in Prague (JMP) had two objectives:

- To celebrate the launch of the on-line catalogue allowing access to their archive of material relating to Ostrava and its Jewish community,
- The launch of the on-line exhibition (the first ever by the JMP) of the story of the Goldberg family and their remarkable collection of wartime letters.

The material collected over more than 6 years by the Ostrava Group has been collated, organised and entered into the data base of the JMP. It is now available for anyone to access, study and cross-reference. It is the culmination of long-term collaboration between the Ostrava Group, the JMP, the City of Ostrava and, of course, Libuše Salomonovičová and all the Salomonovič family. You can easily access this archive via: <http://www.jewishmuseum.cz/en/aaktualita20120910.htm>

Part of this archive is the very moving poignant story of the Goldberg family. In March 1939, Oskar Goldberg, after much drama, was allowed into England and was able to arrange for his two brothers to join him. Before they could get papers for the rest of the family, war broke out and they were trapped and subsequently murdered by the Nazis. From 1939-1942 they were able to send letters to the brothers in London and these letters form the background to the story. It can be accessed via: at <http://collections.jewishmuseum.cz/>

The discussion on 10<sup>th</sup> September concentrated on how the whole Ostrava project started in Kingston and, more importantly, how it has evolved from a study of what happened in the past to building a living “virtual community” whose members are connected, albeit electronically, with each other, with their past history and with the places that their families knew and loved; and on the remarkable Goldberg story. 9 members of the family came to Prague, from London and Israel, for the occasion where they were joined by an audience of over 60, including the Ambassadors of the UK and France.



Libuše Salomonovičová

Before he left London for Prague, Bertie wrote:

And I am happy. Not only to bring my wife, two of my four sons with their wife's my daughter all the way from Israel and my granddaughter who works in a similar job to yours in London.

For me this trip is not as easy as for the others. Being 93 years old my best place is home but I could not resist meeting you all and to say thank you for all you have done and the interest you took in my collection of letters.

I am looking forward to a new experience at my old age and hope that you will be as pleased with meeting me, and some of my family.

LET ME ADD THAT ALTHOUGH HAVING LIVED IN ENGLAND FROM MY AGE OF 19 AND HAVING CREATED A LOVING FAMILY OF CHILDREN GRAND CHILDREN AND GREAT-GRAND CHILDREN TOTALING NOW 120 MEMBERS OF THE GOLDBERG CLAN I STILL HAVE A PLACE IN MY HEART FOR THE COUNTRY WHERE I GREW UP AND RECEIVED MY BASIC EDUCATION WHICH STOOD ME IN GOOD STEAD ALL MY LOFE.

Although being educated in Czech schools my Czech is not what it used to be but rest assured that I shall understand every word being said.

Looking forward to a most interesting trip (the fourth time in Praha) and meeting nice new people. Sorry I can not include Ostrava due to the Jewish New Year but I did take most of my children to Ostrava not so long ago.

Bertie

## Comments on Newsletter #25

### Thanks

PhDr. Blažena Przybylová, the City Archivist in Ostrava, writes: "Thank you for all your hard work for Ostravaks, With best regards, Blažena"

Paul Rice (Pavel Reiss) writes: „Many many thanks for this most interesting report which must have taken you many hours to compile and type. I very vaguely remember some mention of the San Domingo dream. Thank you also for including my notes about the Manchester concert.

I hope to meet you again on 4th November. I have just celebrated my 90th birthday! I am planning a visit to Ostrava in August or September. Best regards and Shalom"

Erich Huppert also writes to thank us for the Newsletter.

### Chanukah in Holešov

Tom Auber responds to the Newsletter with a photograph of Chanukah in Holleschau in 1935/6(?), in the Maccabi House, with some names:



Very few of these lovely children survived the holocaust. Rabbi Dr Freimann is standing on the right. [Dr Alfred (Abraham Chajim) Freimann (1899 - 1948 Jerusalem). However I am not sure I have got the right Rabbi FREIMANN]

Alfred Nash is on the left - he emigrated to Israel and died many years ago

Ina Weinberger {left} is holding the menorah - Walter Stamberger is standing behind her with his hand on her shoulder. The tall boy in the back row in the centre is Walter SÜSS who was murdered in Dachau in 1945.

There is a STEINER child in the front row.

There are pages of testimony for four GANGER children - father Norbert and two SUSS:

Gaenger Greta HOLESOV HOLESOV MORAVIA-SILESIA  
 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1925 Page of Testimony  
 Ganger Ruth HOLESOV HOLESOV MORAVIA-SILESIA  
 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1927 Page of Testimony  
 Ganger Kurt HOLESOV HOLESOV MORAVIA-SILESIA  
 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1926 Page of Testimony  
 Ganger Edith HOLESOV HOLESOV MORAVIA-SILESIA  
 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1926 Page of Testimony

Suess Walter HOLESOV HOLESOV MORAVIA-SILESIA  
 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1921 Page of Testimony

and also many MICHALOVSKY victims - and here we have little Boris Michalovsky in the front row who died aged only 14 {probably the grandson of the cantor who I believe he was Russian}

Can you identify anyone else? If so, please let Monica or David know.

### **Erich Brauner**

Miriam Friedman Morris recognized the name Erich Brauner from our last Newsletter and thought he might be in one of her father's drawings (see below).

### **Dr Hella Nadel**

Dan Honey writes about his father's time in Terezín and Auschwitz:

You may recall my father, Michael Honey, was at Terezin and survived Auschwitz - Birkenau. His older brother, Leo Honigwachs was one of the doctors in Terezin, but did not survive after Auschwitz. After my father died last year, I received a communication from a lady in Czech who had kept a postcard written by my paternal grandmother from Auschwitz to this lady's first husband, Georg Ganz, who was a dentist in Terezin and a close friend of Leo. My grandmother wrote the card to her son's best friend (i.e. Ganz) who had not yet been transported to Auschwitz. The card (only 33 words long) was written 3 weeks before she was gassed and was then sent by the Nazi's to Georg Ganz. These cards were written under duress and sent to people to give the impression that life was OK in Auschwitz – although my grandmother had included the phrase *I hope you won't forget me* within the card. Georg Ganz perished too. The lady in Czech is called [Helena Krouska](#). She told me she was celebrating her 90th birthday last year with many relatives coming from Israel. Maybe she can help with more information about the other doctors of Terezin.

We have so far not been able to find any record of Dr Nadel in Terezín. Can you help?

### **Appeal for Funds**

For the past six years, we have been collecting material and information about Ostrava and its Jewish community and have given our archive to the Jewish Museum in Prague (JMP) who have catalogued it and will make it available to future researchers. We have also been able to build up a "virtual community" of worldwide Ostravaks and those interested in and connected to Ostrava. In this way, the memory of the lost community will, at least to some extent, be preserved.

**"And to them will I give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name that shall not be cut off"**

For the past two years, Dr Jiří Jung has been working with us to enter all our information into the JMP data base. This involves organising and checking the data then giving it a unique reference number, title and a brief description in English and Czech so that the information can be cross-referenced and accessed. This is painstaking and time-consuming work.

Our activities have so far been funded by:

- A small grant from the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
- A grant from the National Lottery which enables us to buy a lap top, scanner, projector, screen and several books
- A donation from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington
- A donation to the JMP from Peter Gordy and family
- Some small donations from Ostravaks
- A carefully arranged excess of income over expenditure for the *Stolperstein* project and the trip to Ostrava in 2010.
- A donation from the Goldberg family to cover the direct costs of the on-line exhibition.

Which have covered not only Jiří's work but also out of pocket expenses such as printing, postage etc. and we are very grateful to all of them. The JMP has also covered Jiří's costs for some months, also.

However, our funds are now exhausted and unless we receive further donations, we will have to stop Jiří's work and some of our other activities. That would be a terrible shame, particularly in light of the obvious success we have achieved so far. So we are making an urgent and serious appeal for funding.

**We estimate that we will need a further GBP 1500.00 to complete all the cataloguing and data entry as well as enabling us to continue our activities for at least another 2 years.**

Please make cheques payable to Kingston Surbiton and District Synagogue Trust or make a direct payment to:

KSDS Cultural and Education Committee, Account Number 70853909

Barclays Bank plc

2, Kingston Business Centre

6 Clarence Street

KINGSTON UPON THAMES

Surrey KT1 1NY

UK

Sort Code 20-46-76

**IBAN:** IBANGB56BARC20467670853909

**BIC or SWIFT:** BARCGB22

**Routing Code** (For US only) 026002574

## **Donations of Material to the JMP**

### **Dorit Grant (Kastnerová)**

Dorit is not an Ostravak but is a friend of Lydia and Ruth Folkartová. Dorit and her family were in Terezín and survived and Dorit has a fascinating collection of pictures, documents and artefacts from there. She has agreed to donate this collection to the JMP. In early August, Pavla Neuner (Curator of the Collection of Interviews with Witnesses, JMP) came from Prague and collected the material from Dorit.

### **Marian Fielding (Lichtenstern)**

You will have read about the archive of letters from Dr Viktor Lichtenstern before and during the First World War. Marian Fielding, his grand-daughter has donated the 400 letters to the JMP. The package was too large for Pavla to take back to Prague, so David will take them in September at the time of the “Jewish Ostrava in London” meeting.

### **Shoshanah Dub - Erich Brauner**

Shosh Dub, the niece of Erich Brauner has been in touch with us (see Erich Brauner, below). She has 500 pages of her father's memoirs and other documents and photographs which she will donate to the JMP. Pavla Neuner is planning to go to Israel in November and should be able to collect the material then.

### **Appeal for further material**

The Jewish Museum in Prague documents lives of Bohemian and Moravian Jews before, during and after the Holocaust. The museum is one of the major institutions that aims to save Jewish memory in the Bohemian Lands (today's Czech Republic) and collects a variety of items, from testimonies, through documents to artefacts. All items entrusted to the museum are professionally stored, catalogued and made available to researchers, and – if possible – used for exhibition purposes. The museum plays an important role in the education about Judaism, Jewish history and anti-Semitism in the Czech Republic; every year more than 10 thousand children attend our on-site programmes and thousands more use our educational materials. Starting with 2012, the museum will step by step publish its collections online.

The museum appeals for your assistance in the documentation of Jewish legacy in Bohemia and Moravia. Do you have photos, documents, letters, diaries, testimonies, literary work or artefacts that testify about the plurality of pre-WWII life of Jews, encounters with anti-Semitism, fates during the Holocaust, as well as about resistance, flight or emigration? Can you help them with documenting the post-WWII life of Bohemian and Moravian Jews in Czechoslovakia or in emigration? They are interested not only in major



political events or the Holocaust, but also in putting together a rich mosaic of the daily life of the Jewish families and communities.

Would you consider donating such objects, or providing digital copies (such as scans) to the museum? Don't let them get lost or thrown away!

Contact: Pavla Neuner ([pavla.neuner@jewishmuseum.cz](mailto:pavla.neuner@jewishmuseum.cz)) , Monica or David

## Restoration of Czech Jewish Vital Records

Daniella Torsh from Australia sends us information about conservation of records:

I received an email a few days ago from Dr Michal Ďurovič the head of the Conservation laboratory at the Czech National Archives. In his email Michal gave me some information which I think and hope you too will find interesting.

With the donations raised from many of us over the last few years the Archives have been able to restore 8 of the oldest and most damaged Matriky- that is registers of births, deaths and marriages. That was in 2011.

HBMa 1961 - Strážnice  
HBMa 57 - Israelitische Geburts Matrik  
HBMa 597  
HBMa 669 - Jesenice 1866  
HBMa 1958 - Strážnice 1784  
HBMa 1960  
HBMa 648  
HBMa 678

A further four registers are currently undergoing restoration work and one other is planned to be restored after those are completed. In addition the archives are going to make 150 special acid free archival quality boxes to store 150 of the registers in.

They have employed three external conservators to do all of this work - Zdeňka Mužíková, Bohumil Šimeček and Milana Vanišová. Without our funding they would not have been able to employ Zdeňka, Bohumil or Milana.

The four registers undergoing conservation this year are :

HBMa 937 - Toten Matrik, Gaya 1784-1830  
HBMa 527 - Traunngs Matrik, Mahr-Weisskirchen, 1789-1847 HBMa 935  
HBMa 938

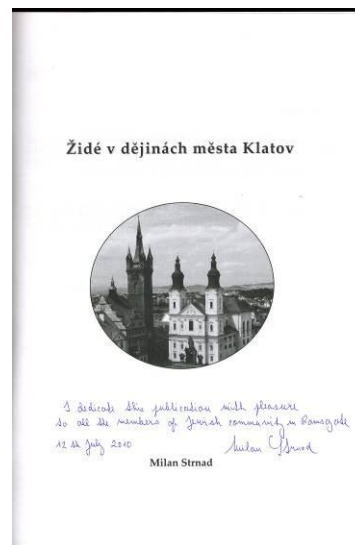
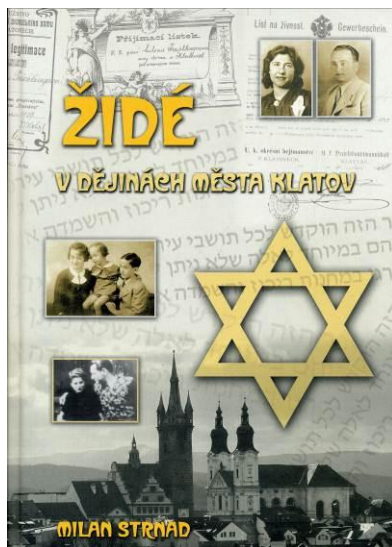
Michal writes, "We are planning to restore also HBMa 1463 - Olomouc". Any further donations will again be used to progress this important work.

Please consider future donations so these documents will remain available to future generations to see as the record of our amazing history.

Best regards, Daniela Torsh

## Klatovy

Yes, we are (slightly and only occasionally) extending our geographical range! Heinz Vogel has moved to Canterbury and has involved himself with the Ramsgate Synagogue which has not only a *sefer* from Klatovy, but also a book, in Czech, on Klatovy and its Jewish community, signed by the author. Dr Jan Bettelheim has very kindly produced a summary/extract in English, which David and Heinz have.



## News of Ostravaks

### Erich Brauner

Miriam Friedman Morris has a drawing, by her father, David Friedmann, of four musicians, one of whom is identified as Erich Brauner and she wondered if the Erich Brauner mentioned in our Newsletter #25 is the same person. His niece, Shoshanah Dub, confirms that her Uncle Erich played in a quartet in Prague in the early 1940's and that the drawing is almost certainly of her uncle:



### *“Das Krafft Quartett”, 1941*

The Prague “Krafft Quartet” was founded in 1940-41, by Jewish members of the Prague Philharmonic and the Prague State Opera Orchestra, who had lost their jobs abruptly on Hitler’s orders and his Minister of Culture, Joseph Goebbels, because they were Jews.<sup>1</sup>

At this time it was prohibited for Jews to attend theatres, cinemas, concerts, or to visit parks, or Christian restaurants. Therefore, it was a good idea to establish at least one Jewish quartet, so that the few remaining music loving Jewish people could listen to good classical music.

A well-to-do Jewish family gladly placed their large rooms at our disposal and we had a truly pleasant time together. How long this pleasure lasted, I can no longer remember exactly, because more transports were being arranged by the Nazis in order to send them to Theresienstadt or Auschwitz extermination camp.

<sup>1</sup> The “Krafft Quartet” musicians pictured from left to right: Concertmaster Anton Krafft, a violinist whose signature is illegible, Fredy Mark on the cello, and another violinist, possibly, Brauner.

**Krafft, Anton** a.k.a **Kraft** (1900-1944?) Prague violin virtuoso and conductor born in Jablonec n./N.

He changed his name from Kohn to Krafft on December 12, 1929. He was connected with the FOK (Film-Opera-Konzert), which in its early years played mainly in the Czech programs of Prague radio.

Krafft’s permanent residence was in Berlin before fleeing to Prague in 1933. He was deported to the Lodz Ghetto on Transport B, October 21, 1941. Krafft perished.

**Mark, Friedrich** (1918-1945) Fredy Mark was one of the virtuoso musicians (cello) performing numerous concerts in Theresienstadt, including the opera, Brundibár. He was deported March 28, 1942 from Prague to Theresienstadt on Transport Ao and then October 01, 1944 to Auschwitz on Transport Em. Mark perished in Dachau, March 19, 1945.

### **Harry Mandel**

Our story about Harry Mandel was picked up on the web and produced the following:

Warm greetings from Prague,  
In the course of my research into Czech Jewish physicians during the Shoah I have come across the name of MUDr. Jindřich Harry. It is not much information, but for whatever it is worth. Dr. Mandel was born on July 25, 1908 in Brno; he graduated from the Medical Faculty of the University of Brno in 1933 and from 1934 to at least 1937 worked as an externist in the City Hospital, Moravská Ostrava (Zdravotnicka rocenka československa 1934- 1938, Vestnik československých lékařů 1937, 1482). In September 1937 he vanished from the evidence of Moravian Chamber of Physicians (moving to “unknown where”), on September 24, 1939 in Paris he was drafted into the Czech army abroad . Apparently from there he continued to the US.

With the best wishes  
Simon Krysl

### School 1933

George Löwy sends us wonderful school photographs:

Second grade of the Jewish Elementary School in Ostrava, 1933/34

I have the names of most of the pupils. Vera Velden is sitting in the front row on the left side. I am in the second row behind her, on the right side. The teacher was Eliška Neigerová.



Re: Ernst Velden’s inquiry: Vera Velden standing on the right. Standing in the first bench on the left is Grete Matzner and I am sitting next to her with raised hand. The girl staring at the camera next to me is Ditta Borger from Juwelia Borger and right behind her (partial face) is Zipora Loewinger-Nir. In the centre under the wall map, is Rafi Kahn.



**Fifth grade of the Juedische Volksschule, Ostrava, 1936/7**

### **Dr Ernest Felix Velden (Vorzimmer)**

In an earlier Newsletter we mentioned Dr Felix Velden (Vorzimmer) who developed the ice-cream desert, *Arctic Roll*. There were Veldens (formerly Vorzimmer) in Ostrava and we assumed Felix was also an Ostravak, although we could not prove it. We have just found that he is NOT an Ostravak, as his obituary in the Jewish Chronicle makes clear. He was born in Strobnitz in 1909, studied law in Prague and practiced in Bruex. He died in Eastbourne in April 1990.

### **Sergio Rosarios**

Our worldwide reach continues to grow! Madeleine Isenberg introduced us to Sergio Rosarios who lives in Ecuador. His family has rather distant connection with Ostrava and Sergio is looking for any family connections.

The story starts with Joachim Lobl Spitzer, born in 1812 in Rajec, Slovakia, who had 8 children. The second son, Philip (Feivel), married Minna Kohn. Their daughter, Hermine (born 31 July 1871) married Samuel Rosenberg and their son, Felipe – now Rosarios -, is Sergio's grandfather.

Rather more relevantly for Ostravaks, Joachim Lobl's 4<sup>th</sup> child, Markus (Marek) Spitzer (born Sept 20, 1840) married another Spitzer; Fany daughter of Jakob Spitzer and Luisa Steinhardt. Fany was born in 1838 in Ostrava.

They had 7 children:

- i. Ignatz (born Sept 26 1867)
- ii. Simon (1869)
- iii. Moritz Markus (1871)
- iv. Arthur ((1874)
- v. Evelina (1875)
- vi. Felix (1880)
- vii. Viktor (1882).

Moritz married Ida Schramek (born 1897 in Karvina) and they had 4 children: Max, Else, Fritz, and Ernst.

Evelina married Sigmund Haas in Ostrava in 1892. They had 2 children, Erna and Malvina.

If you think you are related or can help, please let David or Monica know and they will pass the information on to Sergio who will, we are sure, be delighted to contact you.

## **Ostravak Reunion: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

Please let Monica know as soon as possible if you will join us at the Czech Embassy on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November, together with the number in your party. This is necessary both for the Embassy, for security, and also to enable us to cater adequately. Please let Monica have your payment of £5/head to cover the costs of (kosher) catering.

We look forward to seeing you then.

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***H.E. The Czech Ambassador, Mr Michael Žantovský***

Cordially invites you to join the Kingston Ostrava Group  
for the Ostravak Re-Union on

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2012 from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m.**

In the

**Embassy of the Czech Republic, 26 Kensington Palace Gardens, LONDON  
W8 7QY**

**In the presence of**

***Mr Jan Fischer, former Prime Minister of the Czech Republic***

There will be a presentation of some recent results from the Group with an  
exhibition of photographs and other documents.

Afternoon Tea will be served and there will be time to meet and chat

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1QJ  
Tel: +44 (0)20 8891 3508      email: [monsonn@talktalk.net](mailto:monsonn@talktalk.net)