

Kingston, Surbiton and District Synagogue

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Londýnský kroužek Ostraváků Der Londoner-Ostrauerkreis Our Ostrava Group

December 2006

Quite a lot has happened over the past 6 months and our research continues.

1. In early November, Czech TV broadcast an hour long programme describing the history of the Jewish Museum in Prague, to celebrate its Centenary (founded in 1906 and operated continuously since then, even during the war). Kingston Synagogue and its Ostrava Scroll featured quite prominently in that programme, which included a brief interview with David Lawson and scenes from a "service" in the synagogue involving the Scroll. We have a recording of the programme
2. The Jewish Museum in Prague has an exhibition "The Second Life of Czech Torah Scrolls" running until 28th January 2007. Kingston and its Ostrava Scroll receives a major acknowledgement in the catalogue and features quite prominently in the video that accompanies the exhibition. We have copies of the catalogue and video.
3. On 12th November Kingston Synagogue held a Service of Rededication for the Scroll, attended by the Mayor of Kingston, The Czech Ambassador, Rabbi Ginsbury (representing the Chief Rabbi) and many Ostravaks and their families. It was a most moving event. Memorial candles were lit by:
 - Evelyn Friedlander, Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust
 - Leo Pavlat (former Czech Ambassador to UK)
 - Heinz Vogel
 - George Tyrell (Jiří Tramer)
 - Leo Wiener
 - Leah Weber (formerly Leah Ostova)

Kaddish was recited by Bertie Goldberg

Except for Evelyn, all of them are Ostravaks

4. In July, Bertie had taken over 20 of his children and grandchildren to visit Ostrava and to show them his old hometown. In November, Tanya Bintcliffe (granddaughter of Kurt Karrol Smulovic) visited Ostrava with her husband Neil to see where at least part of her family came from and to make contact with some distant family members who still live in Ostrava.

5. We gave a lecture in October to the Jewish Association of Cultural Societies (JACS) entitled: *Schnapps to Simchat Torah* - The Development and Destruction of the Jewish Community of Moravská Ostrava
6. 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	Goldenberg	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 Luftschtiz, 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	
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

Leah	Weber	Family Ost, mother's family name was Schlachet. Cousin was Shlomo Rosen
Daniel	Wechsberg	
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.
3. Following the success of the Rededication Service, we want to know if and how we should develop our Ostrava Circle?
 - a. Should we send out a quarterly or half-yearly newsletter? If so, would you like to write some articles about yourself and your background for the newsletter?
 - b. Should we arrange a six-monthly or yearly meeting when you can all get together and exchange memories and plan the future?
 - c. Should we arrange a Klezmer concert with players from Ostrava?
 - d. What other ideas do you have? What would you like to happen?
 - e. We hope to write a book based on all the research that we have done and all the memories that you have shared with us. Do you know of anyone who could help us collate all the information we have got and enter it into a data base; and then help in writing the book?

Please send your names, suggestions, comments etc to:

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