



BRNO

JEWISH



**ŽIDOVSKÁ OBEC
BRNO**

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION

Situated on several trade routes, Brno has always been a multicultural city. Since ancient times Czech, Jewish, German and Italian communities have lived here side by side. All of them influenced the city's history, leaving traces of their culture in its face. Nevertheless almost all traces of the medieval Jewish settlement of the city disappeared – but for a few minor exceptions – after the Jews were

banished from here in the 15th century. They were not allowed to settle in Brno again until more than four centuries later.

The newly established community influenced the city's life in major ways in the course of the 19th and in the first half of the 20th century, contributing to the growth spurt in textile industry, but in the cultural and social domain as well. The Jewish architects left their significant mark in Brno. However, fascism and WWII turned this up-and-coming community development literally into dust. For long years, the architectural accomplishments achieved during the short span of prosperity were out of the focus of public both here and abroad.

This is hardly anything to be surprised at as the period of hostility towards the Jews community still continued. The situation changed after 1989; much was restored, much is still awaiting the restoration. Thanks to successful efforts the historical landmarks both of the more and less remote past are largely in such a state and condition again that they are starting to draw the tourists' attraction.

In order to promote the historical landmarks within its competence and to assist the incoming visitors, the Jewish Community of Brno set up its own Tourist and Information Centre (TIC ŽOB) in the entrance building to the Brno Jewish Cemetery at 27 Nezamyslova Street, Brno-Židenice. All the information you might need to facilitate your tours to the Jewish landmarks in Brno and its vicinity is available here. The TIC ŽOB also offers its visitors free-of-charge access to the Internet. All the available information can be used to visitors' liking, or they can take advantage of the service offered by TIC ŽOB. The thousand-year-long presence of the Jewish community in the region is truly worth your attention.

Ing. Pavel Fried

The History Starting

The first written record of the city of Brno occurred in Cosmas Chronica Boemorum, dating back to 1091. Only two centuries later, the city panorama got dominated by the castle of Špilberk and the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral. The castle surmounting the historical centre of Brno was founded on a prominent rocky hill in the 13th century. Today the castle offers its visitors a variety of exhibitions and cultural events. No visitor should miss the famous Špilberk Casemates housing the exposition covering the baroque art of fortress building and prison service during the rule of Francis Joseph. The foundations of the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, shortly called Petrov, were built in the 12th century. Its famous towers, which are perceived as one of the essential attributes of the Brno cityscape and offer such a wonderful panoramic outlook of the city and its vicinity, were however built as late as in 1905.

The first records of the Jewish settlement in Brno, which was situated in the south part of the city, near the lower part of what we now know as Masaryk Street, date back to the 13th century. Approximately 1,000 Jewish residents occupied the then-Jewish quarter. The Jewish community was autonomous, administered by its rabbinate. The synagogue had probably been located at the site where the St. Magdalene church was later built. The Jewish quarter had a council hall and a school too. The historical records of the period mention two local noted rabbis: Eizek Tirna, the author of Sefer Minhagim (the Book of Customs), who came to Brno in 1421, having been banished from Vienna as many other Jews, and Israel Bruna, who was born in Brno around 1400 and returned to the city again after finishing his studies in the 1530s. Bruna held the function of the town rabbi until 1445, when he moved to Regensburg.

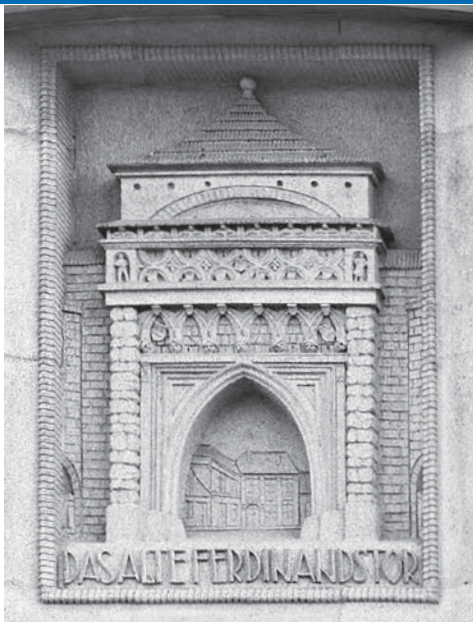
The Banishment

The medieval Jewish quarter perished with the banishment of the Jews from the city in 1454, when king Ladislaus V (Ladislaus the Posthumous) banished the Jews from royal cities and confiscated their property. The subsequent almost four-hundred-year-long absence of the Jewish population in Brno is to blame for the fact that almost no relics of the medieval Jewish quarter were preserved – except for several tombstones from the original Jewish cemetery, which used to be located where the present-day city's central railway station is now. Which is also why there are no remnants of a Jewish ghetto in Brno. The old Jewish Gate, one of the five gates leading into the fortified city, is nowadays commemorated only by a relief in the facade of the corner house of Benešova and Masa-

rykova streets, across from the Padowetz Hotel.

A Gradual Return

Smaller exceptions from the strict prohibition of entry were granted during the 17th century, such as the possibility for the Jews to enter the city on payment in order to sell their goods on the markets. However during two-day fairs the Jews were not allowed to enter the



city before eleven o'clock of the first day and had to leave before two o'clock in the afternoon on the second day. They were allowed to enter the city through the Jewish Gate only and they were not permitted to sleep over within the city walls, only in a herberk (a coaching inn) in the suburb located in what we know as Křenová Street.

The Familiant Law came into effect in the 18th century, under which only the eldest son of a Jewish family was allowed to marry. Many Jews therefore started to leave for countries where no such law was enforced, mainly Poland and Hungary.

The Patent of Tolerance issued by Joseph II allowed Jews to farm and run Hebraic schools and opened universities to them. In 1787, every Jew was obliged to choose a German surname from a list of 109 male and 35 female authorized surnames, based for example on names of animals, flowers and personality traits. The Jewish population living in the outer Brno was approximately 50 at that time. The 19th century was marked by a rapid growth in the textile industry. The factory-owners Jakub Häller, Leopold Löw-Beer, Samson Franckel and Israel Popper were among the leading textilists. Another impulse was the construction of the North Railroad from Vienna to Brno and further to Bochnia in the then-Galicia (in Central-Eastern Europe).

But no sooner than in the revolutionary year of 1848 did the essential change occur. The Jews were allowed to settle wherever they wanted;



they were allowed to marry without limitations (1849), and carry on any trade or profession and enjoy the freedom of belief. But the first step required to establish a new religious community in Brno was to obtain the right of domicile.

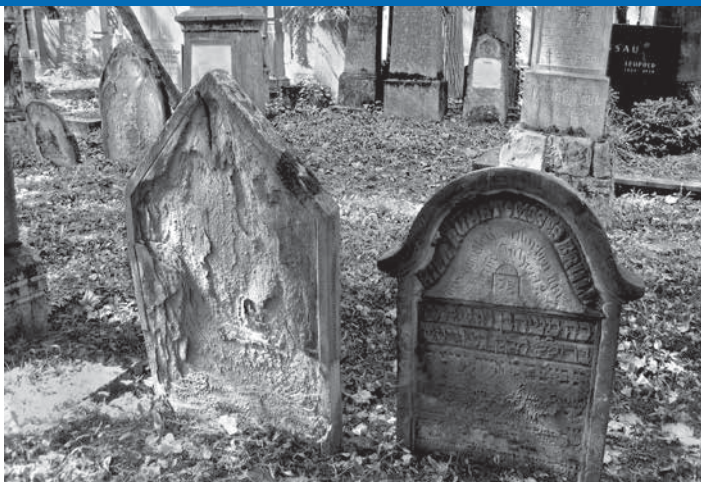
This was achieved in 1849, when the first 47 people of the Jewish religion obtained the right of domicile in Brno. Jews started to leave the Jewish communities in small towns for the bigger cities and the importance of the smaller Jewish settlements gradually declined. The Jews moved to urban centres experiencing economic boom, where it was easier for them to make a living, especially Brno as far as Moravia was concerned.

The Jewish Cemetery

One of the first steps the newly established community took was acquiring a strip of land for a new Jewish cemetery. The cemetery was founded in Brno-Židenice in 1852. Its 7.4-acre premises comprise nearly 6,500 recent tombstones of various types, from simple steles to splendid family tombs. The tombstones are artefacts designed by renowned artists and architects and made by masters of the stone-masonry trade. They included names such as Adolf Loos Snr, Norbert Troller, J. E. Tomola, V. Oppenheimer and the Löwenstamm & Spitz Stonemasonry.

The cemetery is dominated by three historicist-style buildings designed by Josef Nebelhosteny and constructed at the beginning of the 20th century. The cemetery hall of mourning features a unique decoration of ornaments and Hebraic prayers. The spacious interior of the hall is lit by an attractive wooden chandelier hanging from the flat wooden ceiling. There are also fragments of mediaeval tombstones dating back to the

THE JEWISH CEMETERY



14th century set in the masonry of the vestibule perimeter walls. The fragments were brought from the original mediaeval Jewish cemetery, which was ruined and destroyed after the banishment of the Jews from Brno in the 15th century.

The cemetery is entered through the Tourist and Information Centre (TIC). There is a large marl contribution box standing in the vestibule, a reminder of the Chevra kadisha burial society. The TIC building used to serve as a mortuary until a new, modern mortuary was built, with adequate capacity and facilities. Of the three dominant structures, the new mortuary is the newest one, constructed probably in 1910.

Behind the TIC building there is a large memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, unveiled in 1949. The memorial stone is surrounded by late-baroque tombstones brought here from cemeteries of the neighbouring Jewish communities, where the Jews deported through Brno to concentration camps lived.

The enormity of the ultimate pogrom among the many in the history of the Jewish nation is underlined by more than two hundreds small tombstones scattered over the whole cemetery. Carved from the Šluknov syenite, these tombstones featuring inscriptions saying either Šoa (Shoah) or Holokaust were installed by the Jewish Community of Brno, with the help of financial support by the general public, Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH) and Židenice municipality. The cemetery is a place where you can visit the graves of a number of notable personalities who distinguished themselves in politics, culture, science and economics.

Baruch Jacob Placzek, Moravian Landesrabbiner (1834–1922)

Placzek graduated from the universities of Vienna and Hamburg. He was entrusted with the office of the Moravian Landesrabbiner in 1884 and during his service he played an important role in building the second synagogue in Brno at Ponávka Street. Dr. Baruch Placzek, a Knight of the Order of Francis Joseph, was the founder of the Israelite Theological Seminary in Vienna. An accomplished scholar, Placzek also devoted his time to research in natural sciences. As his treatise on preservation and biology of avifauna shows, he belongs among the credited ornithologists of Europe. Placzek exchanged many letters with Charles Darwin and was among close friends of J. G. Mendel. He also made his mark as an author of lyric poetry under the penname Benno Planek. He stirred love for science and knowledge in his descendants. It was him to rouse interest in natural science and research in his grandson Georg, who was later to become an excellent physician.

Richard Feder, Chief Landesrabbiner (1875–1970)

Richard Feder spent the longest period of service as a rabbi in Kolín, from where he was deported to Terezín in 1942. As a rabbi, he cultivated religious life in the camp, performed the rituals and taught. The only one among his whole family to live through the war, rabbi Feder returned to the decimated Jewish community in Kolín. In 1953, he was induced into a new office headquartered in Brno, where he stayed for the next 17 years; he was appointed the chief landesrabbiner in 1961, but did not leave Brno.

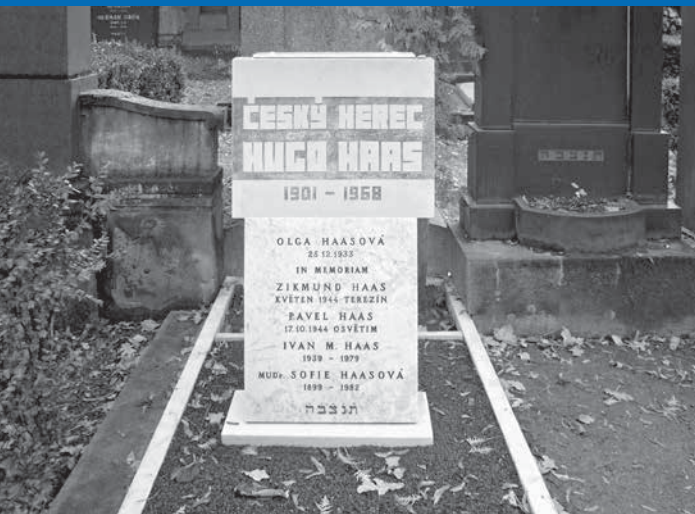
His best-known works include among others: *Jews and Christians* (Židé a křesťané, 1919), *Hebrew Textbook* (Hebrejská učebnice, a textbook of modern Hebrew, 1923), *Sinai* (Sinaj, a textbook of Jewish religion, 1955), *Jewish Tragedy* (Židovská tragedie, one of the first Czech books on the Holocaust, 1947), *Jewish Chats* (Židovské besídky, an educational book for children). Feder was granted the Order of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk by the president of the Czech Republic Václav Havel in memoriam in 2002 and he was consequently declared an Honorary Citizen of the city of Brno.

Heinrich Landesmann aka Hieronymus Lorm, author of the finger alphabet for deaf-blind (1821–1902)

As a journalist, Landesmann was harassed by the Austrian police for his libertarianistic writing after the revolution of 1848, which made him use the cover name Hieronymus Lorm. The philosophical works are the most important in his oeuvre. Life did not spare him hard blows of fate – he lost hearing when he was 16 and also his sight greatly deteriorated, which he later lost for good. He communicated with his family and friends via a special touch alphabet he created. The same, only slightly adapted, touch communication system known as the Lorm Alphabet has still been in use among deaf blind people around the world. Landesmann spent the end of his life in Brno.

Hugo Haas, actor, director, script writer and producer (1901–1968)

One of the best Czech actors of all times, Haas acted in the National Theatres in Brno, Ostrava, Olomouc and Prague. In the 1930s, he was performing at the National Drama Theatre in Prague. Haas appeared in a number of movies and he is also well-known as a script-writer and director. Haas was obliged to leave the National Theatre on racial grounds at the beginning of 1939; he managed to escape to the United States. He succeeded in establishing himself in the overseas film industry and



worked for renowned motion-picture studios and cooperated with world-famous writers and actors, e.g. with Gregory Peck. The probably best of his overseas movies, *Pickup*, by Columbia Pictures, was a resounding success. Haas moved to Vienna at the close of his professional life, to live there until his death in 1968. His remains were moved to Brno, where they are buried at the Jewish Cemetery in Židenice district. Haas was in memoriam declared an Honorary Citizen of the city of Brno in 2000. His grave bears an inscription commemorating his brother Pavel Haas, too.

Pavel Haas, composer (1899–1944)

Pavel Haas was the only one among students of Janáček to master Janáček's technique of music composition. After finishing his studies he also started to teach and compose. It is his opera *Charlatan* (*Šarlatán*), which won him the Bedřich Smetana Foundation Prize, that is considered the top among his works. Gestapo arrested Haas in December 1941 and he was deported to the Terezín concentration camp. Haas addressed the fellow-prisoners by his music, strengthening their hope for survival. The most eloquent evidence of Haas' work in Terezín is his very well received piece *Four Songs to Words of Chinese Poetry*. Haas was later transported to Auschwitz, where he was executed in a gas chamber in 1944. He was in memoriam declared an Honorary Citizen of the city of Brno in 2000.

A number of graves of other noted personalities can be also visited at the Jewish cemetery of Brno, such as that of benefactor Heinrich Gomperz, physician and litterateur Alois Ludwig Jeitelles, psychologist Věra Capponi, prima-ballerina Alice Pastorová and many others.

Synagogues

Another goal for the growing community was to build a synagogue. The first synagogue, called Maior, was built as soon as 1855 in Přízová Street. German Nazis burnt it down on 16th March, 1939. The second synagogue, called New, was built in Ponávka Street in 1905. The synagogue served as a storehouse during WWII and was torn down in 1986 due to the state of total devastation. Only one synagogue has been preserved in Brno. It was built according to a project by Arch. Otto Eisler at 13 Skořepka Street. The New Synagogue is the most recently built synagogue in Moravia and Silesia, nowadays the only one in the whole region still being used for prayer services.

The building itself is a two-storey structure with a platform roof. The main temple is illuminated by a window of thirty segments set in the facade. The hall, accessible directly from the synagogue vestibule, is equipped with 146 seats for men and 14 armchairs. A three-sided gallery for women fitted with 102 seats can be entered by a staircase leading from the vestibule. A ground-floor corridor leads to the backyard with a sukkah – a shelter used for celebrating Sukkot, The Feast of Booths. The smaller room on the second floor, originally a study hall, has been turned into a smaller temple.

As far as buildings which used to host Jewish institutions are concerned, the headquarters of the former Jewish Religious Community at 31 Kpt. Jaroše Street, the Jewish Grammar School at 43 Hybešova Street, the old people's home at 54 Štefánikova Street and the Makkabi sports ground at Brno Riviera have been preserved. These buildings however nowadays have other owners and are mostly used for different purposes.

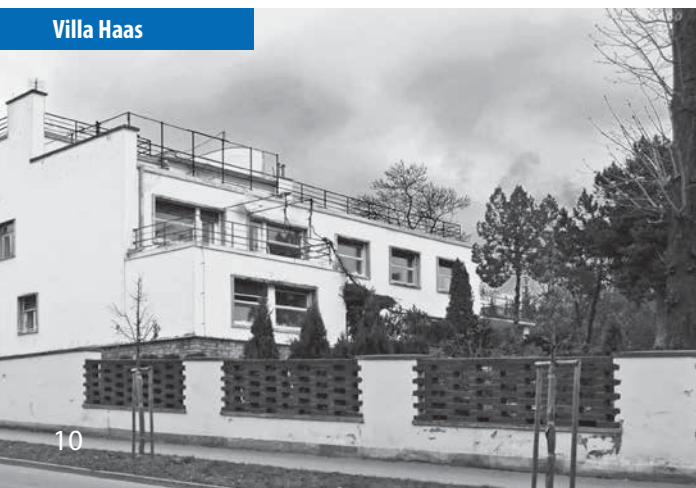




Villa Stiassni



Villa Bass



Villa Haas



Villa Tugendhat

Between Two Wars or Jews and the Modern Architecture in Brno

A populous community of extremely successful Jewish industrialists lived in Brno during the interwar period. Simultaneously, a distinctive generation of outstanding Jewish architects worked here. They designed many great buildings that have been preserved and gained the privileged status of national monuments enjoying protection of the state.

The Tugendhat Villa, 45 Černopolní Str.

Černopolní Street offers a magnificent view of the Brno panorama, which is one of the reasons it hosts one of the most important buildings of Modern Movement architecture – the Tugendhat villa.

The villa was designed per order of the newly-married Tugendhat couple by one of the most famous European architects Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in 1929. No price limit was set for the architect, therefore the materials used in the construction and furnishing the villa were of the highest possible quality; some were even imported from overseas.

The structure was realised by the building company owned by Eisler brothers, whose grave can be visited at the Jewish cemetery of Brno.

Mr. and Mrs. Tugendhat moved to their new villa in December 1930, but they were able to live there only till 1938, when – being of Jewish origin – they were forced to flee from the Nazis.

The Tugendhat villa has been preserved in its original shape and added on the UNESCO's World Heritage List. The building hosts a permanent exposition covering its own history and the lives of its Jewish owners.

The Stiassni Villa, 14 Hroznová Str.

The family villa of the textile entrepreneur Alfred Stiassni was designed by Ernst Wiesner in 1927. The villa is a two-storey L-shaped construction. The house is further complemented by a detached building with garages and by a horse stable and the driver's house located at the gateway sides. The villa is set in a large garden with a swimming-pool, designed by Arch. Otto Eisler, the designer of the New Synagogue in Brno. The Stiassni family managed to flee from Czechoslovakia before the advance of fascism, saving themselves from the forthcoming deportations of Jewish people. The villa served as a "government facility" after the end of the war and later a part of it was rebuilt to serve as a hotel. At the time being, the building is owned by the National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites, which works on restoring the villa to its original state and shape to allow the establishment of a centre devoted to modern architecture research and documentation.

Brno Crematorium, 1 Jihlavská Str.

The structure of the Brno Crematorium, situated in the upper part of the Central Cemetery, was built according to the design by Ernst Wiesner, the leading representative of Modern Movement architecture in Brno, in 1926–1929. The monumental exterior combining the elongated brick-red tiled main building with the white mass of the mourning hall decorated with the slender travertine pillars contrasts with the interiors communicating a sense of intimacy. The spatial composition invites a variety of interpretations, including the alleged inspiration by Mesopo-

Ernst Wiesner, architect (1890–1971)

Ernst Wiesner moved from Malacky to Brno in his early childhood, together with his parents who were themselves born in south Moravia. Wiesner acquired his qualification in Vienna, mainly in the atelier of Friedrich Ohmann, who highly valued his talents. He has come to be very well known by the construction of a villa for the director of the Czech banking house Union and a villa for the honorary consul of the Persian Empire in Brno. He designed some of the buildings of the banking houses located in the centre of Brno and a number of villas above the Brno exhibition grounds. He is also the author of the Picka's villa in Prague. All of his projects – including the prize-winning Brno crematorium – are highly valued specimen of modern architecture. Ernst Wiesner succeeded in fleeing from the Nazis into Great Britain, where he continued to work and where his grave is.



tamic ziggurats. This valued building is among the protected national monuments of modern architecture in Brno.

Villas above the Brno Exhibition Grounds

The villas above the Brno exhibition grounds – a quarter formerly called Úřednická (Clerk Quarter), renamed Masaryk quarter in 1925. What is worth seeing in the quarter with the fuzzy borders is the whole concept of the residential area with the verdure spreading over Žlutý kopec, including Wilsonův les, and over Kraví hora. The architecture of Brno in the 1920s and 1930s played a key role not only in the context of the Czechoslovak Republic, but also in the context of then-Europe.

Otto Eisler, architect (1893–1968)

Otto Eisler, together with his brothers Arthur, Moritz a Hugo, co-founded a major construction company in Brno. Eisler himself projected houses and apartment buildings. His works are easy to discern by windows aligned with the front finish, balconies ending in a semicircle, and mainly by the clear plainness of design. Otto Eisler and his brother Moritz also participated in the construction of the Tugendhat Villa. Eisler was deeply interested in garden architecture. He designed the synagogue at Skořepka Str., Brno, built by the Eisler family construction company in 1936. Eisler managed to flee from the war to Norway, but was captured and sent back – and to Auschwitz.

In the 1950s Eisler became the chairman of the association for establishing the Zoological Garden of Brno City; he personally designed some of the pavilions.

Other structures built by Jewish architects of Brno worth your attention:

- Eduard Münz's villa, Hroznová 19
(Arch. Ernst Wiesner; 1924–26)
- Willy Leo Stein's House, Barvičova 25
(Arch. Ernst Wiesner, 1925–26)
- twin-houses of Viktor Kraus and Eugen Link, Lipová 39 and 41
(Arch. Otto Eisler, 1927)
- Walter and Hana Neumark's villa, Vinařská 38
(Arch. Ernst Wiesner, 1928–29);
- Gustav Haas's villa, Lipová 43
(Arch. Ernst Wiesner, 1928–30)
- the architect's own villa, Neumannova 10
(Arch. Otto Eisler, 1930–31)
- Elsa and Bedřich Bass' villa, Lipová 22
(Arch. Zikmund Kerekes, 1932);
- single house of Hermína Weigl, Kalvodova 2
(Arch. Ernst Wiesner, 1934)
- Ernst Löw-Beer's villa, Kalvodova 8
(Arch. Rudolf Baumfeld-Norbert Schlesinger, 1935).

The War Tragedy and Present Times

The onset of fascism and the adoption of the Nürnberg Laws ushered a period of suppression of the Jewish community. The terror and oppression culminated in 1941–1943 with 12 subsequent deportations to Terezín comprising the total of around 10,000 Jews from Brno and its vicinity. A memorial plaque has been mounted on the wall of the primary school in Merhautova Street, from where the Jews were sent to concentration camps. Fewer than 700 survivors returned to Brno after the end of the war.

As soon as in autumn 1945 the Brno synagogue was resanctified and the activities of the Jewish community were gradually restored. But the Jewish community was to be paralyzed again in 1948 with the arrival to power of the communist party. Many Jewish families left for what then was the mandatory territory of Palestine.

A happier period was ushered only by the coming to Brno of Landesrabbiner Richard Feder from Kolín and the Chief Cantor Alexander Neufeld, the latter to be later succeeded by his son Arnošt, who resumed the tra-

dition of beautiful Askenazy singing. In 1961, rabbi Feder was elected the Chief Landesrabbiner residing in Brno.

The next boom in the activities of the Jewish community occurred as late as after the Velvet Revolution of 1989, when it got a new impetus leading to an expansion of spiritual, social as well as sports activities.

The building at 3 Kpt. Jaroše Str., where the Jewish Community headquarters is situated, houses not only the administrative office but also home care agency JAS providing services for senior members of the community, survivors of the holocaust. The building was adapted to include a mikvah (ritual bath), a kosher kitchen, a library, a community room and the Brno office of the Department for Education and Culture of the Jewish Museum in Prague, which offers events for schools and the public.

The Jewish Community of Brno now administers the life of the community in all of Moravia.

Memorial plaques

A number of important Jewish personalities active in culture, arts, politics and business were born in Brno and left their mark on the city's history. The key ones are commemorated by memorial plaques.

Ludwig Blum, painter (1891–1974)

Ludwig Blum studied at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts under the famous painter David Kohn. He joined the Austro-Hungarian Army during WWI and received several medals for valour. He left for Palestina in 1923 and settled down in Jerusalem for the rest of his life.

The Chapterhouse Room of the St. Augustine Church in Mendel Square boasts the monumental painting (8x2 m) "Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives" painted by him in 1936. The abbey also hosts an exposition devoted to the founding father of genetics and an abbot of the St. Augustine Abbey, Johann Gregor Mendel (1922–1884), a close friend to Baruch Placzek.

A memorial plaque can be found on his native house, at 2 Pohankova Str., Brno-Líšeň.





Heinrich Wilhelm Ernst, violin virtuoso and composer (1814–1865)

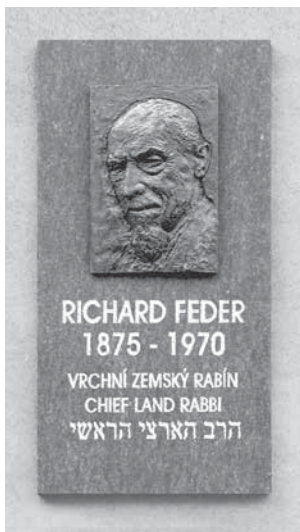
Ernst was regarded as a rival to Paganini in his time but after trying to imitate his style, he developed his

own unique one. He toured around Europe, performing and composing music. His Brno performances were hosted by Reduta Theatre. He was generously giving to the poor from what he earned by his music but spent his last years in Nice in France, depending on help from others. He died in 1865 and is buried here just like his great musical model Nicolo Paganini.

A memorial plaque at 18 Křenová Str.

Richard Feder, Chief Landesrabbiner (1875–1970)

A memorial plaque to Dr. Richard Feder can be found in the Jewish



Cemetery of Brno, 27 Nezamyslova Str. A bust of R. Feder was unveiled in the entrance hall to the headquarters of the Jewish Community of Brno at 3 Kpt. Jaroše Str.



Brothers Hugo (1901–1968) and Pavel Haas (1899–1944), actor and composer respectively

A joint memorial plaque at 8 Biskupská Str.

Erich Wolfgang Korngold, composer (1897–1957)

Korngold was born as a son to an important musical reviewer. The family moved to Vienna in 1891, where the young Korngold frequented artistic circles and met the celebrities of the time. His exceptional talent became apparent very soon. In 1910, when he was 13, his pantomime called "Snowman", composed two years earlier was staged in the Court Opera in Vienna. He left later for Hollywood, where he made his mark writing music for film and theatre. He received two Oscars for the films "Anthony Adverse" (1936) and "The Adventures of Robin Hood" (1938).

A memorial plaque on his native house at 1 Koliště Str.



Georg Placzek, physicist of world renown (1905–1955)

A son to Alfred Placzek, the owner of a textile factory in Alexovice, a grandson to the Moravian Landesrabbiner Baruch Placzek. It was his grandfather, Baruch Placzek, who sparked the interest in natural sciences in young Georg. After studying at the German State Grammar School of Brno, he continued his studies at Vienna University and the German University in Prague simultaneously. His departure for the US shortly before the outbreak of the war saved his life. He was the only one in his family to survive. His extensive work in physics was essential for the development of the atomic bomb and nuclear reactors. It is close to certain that he was the only Czech citizen to witness the atomic explosion near Alamogordo in New Mexico on 16 June 1945. Georg Placzek died in Zürich on 9 October 1955.

A memorial plaque at 3 Svobody Square.



Anna Ticho, painter (1894–1980)

Having studied painting in Vienna, Anna Ticho left for Palestine in 1912. She was accompanied by her cousin Avraham Albert Ticho (1883–1960), a native of Boskovice near Brno, who was to become a renowned ophthalmologist and to found a hospital in Jerusalem and whom Anna Ticho was to marry. Her drawings and watercolour paintings, showing the landscape around Jerusalem region and its people, are exhibited in many a gallery worldwide. Anna Ticho also co-founded the Bezalel Arts Academy.

A memorial plaque at 1 Zelný Trh Square.

Ernst Wiesner, architect (1890–1971)

A memorial plaque on the Czech Radio building at 4 Beethovenova Str.

Commemorating the forced transportations

A memorial plaque commemorating the deportations of Jewish citizens during WWII was mounted on the front wall on the school at 37 Merhautova Str. The building witnessed deportations of 9,397 Jews from Brno and its vicinity. Fewer than 700 people survived.

Memorial plaque at 37 Merhautova Str.



TIC ŽOB – TOURIST & INFORMATION CENTRE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF BRNO

Nezamyslova 27, 615 00 Brno

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Tel.: +420 544 526 737

Web: www.jewishbrno.eu

Opening hours:

Summer (April through Oct.): Sunday–Thursday: 9–17; Friday: 9–16

Winter (Dec. through March): Sunday–Thursday: 9–16; Friday: 9–15

Closed on Saturdays and Jewish holidays

Services offered by TIC ŽOB:

- Free individual tours of the cemetery. An audio-guide can be collected from TIC ŽOB for free. Also available for download as a free app.
- Free individual tours of the exhibition, viewing the film Jewish Brno, TIC receptionist.
- Guided tours of the cemetery – for groups only, trips to sights in the vicinity of Brno – tourist packages, to be ordered from TIC Brno.
- Jewish Brno: a documentary and a guided tour of the exhibit, a guided tour of the synagogue and the cemetery, for groups only, to be ordered from VKC ŽMP Brno.
- Free access to an internet-connected PC at TIC ŽOB reception.
- Wireless internet, access codes to be collected at TIC ŽOB reception.

The Jewish Brno Projekt

During the four centuries of their banishment from the city of Brno itself, Jews kept settling down in its vicinity and smaller towns around the region, building their houses, synagogues, establishing cemeteries and striving for fulfilment. They have left us a number of Jewish sights from which we can learn about the history of Jewish settlement in South Moravia. These include at least 16 places of interest we can invite you to visit. To facilitate your travel, we can offer you a list of 11 itineraries – tourist packages which can bring you further enlightening experience. There are several possibilities: you can take advantage of the services offered by TIC Brno or set out on your own or follow the advice of TIC ŽOB staff – or just get some inspiration at www.jewishbrno.eu. The web pages will inform you not only of possible trip destinations but also of details on the places of interest in South Moravia associated with the history of Jews in the region.

Field-trips and sightseeing tours for the visitors to Brno and South Moravia

The schedule and prices are subject to negotiation. To be ordered from TIC Brno, tel. +420 542 427 150–151.

Other important contacts:

The Jewish Community of Brno (Židovská obec Brno)

tř. Kpt. Jaroše 3, 602 00 Brno

Tel.: +420 544 509 622

E-Mail: secretary@zob.cz

Web: www.zob.cz

The Jewish Cemetery of Brno (Židovský hřbitov)

Nezamyslova 27, 615 00 Brno

Tel.: +420 544 526 737

The Brno Synagogue

Skořepka 13, 602 00 Brno

Tel.: +420 544 509 651

Tourist Information Centre Brno (TIC Brno)

Radnická 8, 602 00 Brno

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