

<http://www.kingston-synagogue.org.uk/index.php/community/ostrava>

Londýnský kroužek Ostraváků
Der Londoner-Ostrauerkreis
Our Ostrava Group

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Postponed Trip to Ostrava 2015 and *Stolpersteine*

Sadly we have had to postpone our planned trip to Ostrava on 30th April 2015 (the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Ostrava) as it coincides with the World Ice-Hockey Championships and it is not possible to find enough suitable hotel rooms.

However, we are planning to have some further *Stolpersteine* laid and this will probably be sometime in April or May, so the postponement will allow us to arrange the trip at an appropriate time to see the newly laid *Steine*. **Please let Heinz Vogel know as soon as possible** (heinz@vogel.org.uk tel: +44 1227763343) **if you are interested in having a *Stein* laid for one of your murdered loved ones.** The cost will be £135 each.

As soon as we have a definite date for the laying of the *Steine*, we will start to make plans for the trip to Ostrava. It will probably be in May 2015. Please let David or Monica know if you are interested in the trip. Further details will follow as soon as we have a date.

"Steel and Schnapps, Sausages and Soldiers, Scrolls and Survival - the Story of Ostrava and its Jewish Community"

Our magnum opus or *Velké Dílo* is progressing. Thanks to the generosity of several of our Ostravaks we have been able to start writing. David has spent

some time in Ostrava collecting and collating data and working on the preliminary text of the first few chapters. Libuše has produced many of the family stories for the “Gazetteer” section, in Czech, and Victoria Bursa has been hugely helpful in translating material from Czech.

Blažena Przybylová, the Ostrava City Archivist, is invaluable in finding obscure references and documents for us and is unfailingly polite and helpful in response to a continuing stream of enquiries.

Now that the autumn and winter approach, we expect to be able to devote even more time to writing.

News of Ostravaks

Yes, there are still more “undiscovered” Ostravaks out there and we are delighted to hear from them. Please let us know if you know of anyone from Ostrava who is not on our circulation list.

Ephraim Lieser

Ephraim made contact with us through the web and wrote to us from Israel:

My father was born in Ostrava, 10 Mozart St. in 1925, survived Theresienstadt, Auschwitz and other places, and came to Israel after the war.

Simon Lieser born in 1896 in Sanok, Poland to Joseph-Mordechai born in 1875 and Atara Kreina born (Brueck) in 1873. Simon served the Austro-Hungarian Army during the 1st WW. His family had to leave Sanok to Dunajska Streda, Slovakia, as a consequence of the Russian occupying Sanok. During 1925 Simon, married **Cyra Cila**, born **Forscher** in 1900, in Ostrava. Simon moved then to live with his wife at her parents’ house in Ostrava, Mozartova 10.

Peretz Pavel was born in 1926, **Elimelech Max** was born in 1928, **Yeziel Jiri** was born in 1933, and **Israel Eduard** was born in 1936. The Liesers’ were a religious orthodox family, the family business was trading.

Simon Lieser was among the deported men as well. In October 17, 1939 right after the Germans occupied Ostrava. Simon Lieser, being a Polish citizen, was deported from Ostrava to Nisko. He was in contact with the family in Sanok and then he was deported across the river San into then the Russian part of Poland. This information that he was in Russia was found in one of the postcards send by the family in Dunajska Streda, Slovakia to Palestine. Obviously, they received this information from the relatives lived then still in Sanok.

On September 22, 1942 the Liesers were send to Theresienstadt BI with 860 other Jews from Ostrava. Peretz who worked in the kitchen, was whenever possible, risking his life stealing butter for the family.

On December 12, 1943 the Liesers were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau DS - 2271.

Elimelech's at the age of 15, met there his childhood friend **Yehuda Bacon** being both young boys who could work, they worked in the camp in the kitchen doing such jobs as peeling potatoes, bringing food for the kids, etc. They lived in the same block in camp. The two smaller children of the Liesers, Yechiel and Israel, 10 and 7 years old were together in families. Yehuda Bacon still remembers Yechiel and Israel singing and playing in the block 31 for kids in the camp. The boys were used for the SS courier and KAPO roles. As a teenager, Elimelech was required to bring carts with wood to the crematorium and then carry the ashes of the victims with the cart out of there.

On July 10-11, 1944, Cyra together with the two smaller sons, Yechiel 11 years old and Israel 8 years old were sent into the gas chambers at Birkenau. On November 2, 1944, Elimelech was sent to work in a coal mine in the camps near Birkenau and this work continued until January 1945. Peretz was sent to KZ Schwarzheide in June 1944 and stayed there till April 1945 when he was sent again to Theresienstadt and was freed in May 1945. On January 18, 1945, Elimelech came out in a death march to Gleiwitz, when during the march he got in the foot a big nail. Supported by his friends he ended up walking the journey after 3 days (who ever stopped the march was shot to death by the Germans.).

Simon was transferred by the Russians to Siberia, living there under difficult conditions. In fact throughout the whole period of the war, Simon was separated from his wife and his children and met only the survivors, his two elder sons, Peretz and Elimelech, after the end of the war.

Peretz left Cyprus to Palestine on 31st December 1947. Simon and Elimelech arrived in July 1948 to Israel. Simon remarried in 1949 with Paula and lived till the age of 92. Peretz married Zipora in 1950. They have three children: Ephraim (1951), Rivka (1953) and Tsila (1955). Peretz died in the age of 64. Elimelech married 1956 Rache. They have three children: Tsili (1959), Ifat (1964) and Ishai (1971).



We would, of course, be very pleased to hear from anyone who knew the family.

Ephraim's sister, Debra Frost, has also joined our Ostravak network.

Andrew Kohn

Following the article about Andrew in the last Newsletter, he writes that the story of his return visit to Ostrava has been published in the Irish Times: Here is the link:

<http://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/from-ireland-to-auschwitz-1.1890462?page=1> and the link to his blog about his trip to the Czech Republic is: <http://www.andrewkohnphotographer.com/blog>

Hana Slome – Anne Altmann

Anne has now been in touch with Hanna who reminisced about old times. Hanna has written about her life story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eijz8CTI5Qs>

Lukaš Příbyl, who now lives in Israel, asked to be put in contact with Hana, so we continue to put friends and families together.

George Löwy

George sent a great photograph, taken in Ostrava around 1928/29 at a cafe during a weekly Tarot game.



He writes:

Josef Reisz (Karel's and Paul's father) had a twin brother by the name Franz. They were named after the Kaiser Franz Josef...It was very difficult to tell them apart; both had had egg-shaped, bald heads. You can see them in the photo below. They are numbers 3 and 4. Number 1 is my grandfather Jonas Loewy, Glas und Porzellan on Masarykovo Namesti, and number 2 is his son (my uncle) Ernst. Number 5 is "Sozi" Winterstein, the father of Judith and Ruti; Number 6 is my grandmother's brother Hugo Kohn.

Martin Krasnic

Pavel Vransky wrote to us following our brief write up about Martin Krasnic in the last Newsletter:

Now my actual reason to contact you, and perhaps through you Mr. Krasnic in Denmark, are two names mentioned in his letter to you. I remember that my parents had a friend named Bellak. He was a dentist. The other name is Heinz Alt. I think that Heinz Alt was the son of Dr. Ludwig Alt the head surgeon in the hospital of Vitkovice, and has been related with my family. My parents were Ida and Filip Wechsberg, and one of my father's brothers Robert married a sister of Dr. Alt. They all were murdered in Auschwitz. Only the mother of Heinz Alt survived, she was not Jewish.

That is all I know, but may be that even the little will fill in the gap of the knowledges about the family of Mr. Karsnic.

I remain with best wishes, and Shalom Yours Pavel Vranský (né Wechsberg).

Do any of these names mean anything to you?

Shelly Pomeranz (Zehngut)

Shelly Pomeranz is a relatively new member of our network, appearing for the first time in our last Newsletter. Since then, she has introduced her cousin, Rita Weiser, to our ranks and we hope to hear much more about her and her family after the Holidays.

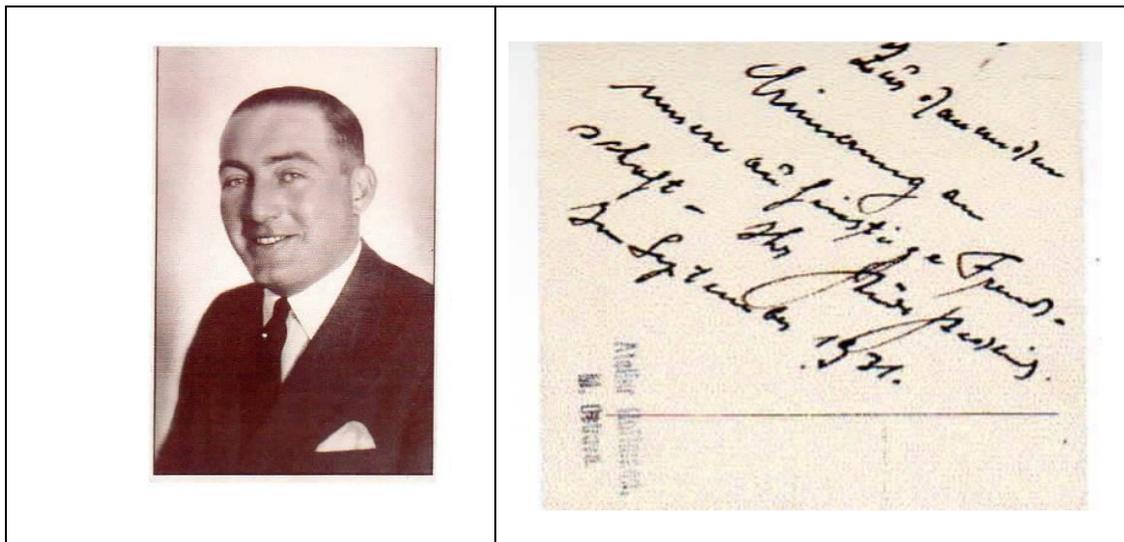
Otto Winecki recognised some of the names in our entry for Shelly and she is now in touch with him.

Meanwhile, Shelly has been indefatigable in sending photos and information about her family which is being incorporated into the data base of the Jewish Museum by Radana Rutová who has taken over from Jiří Jung. Radana is on maternity leave from the Museum, looking after her young son, Tobiaš.



I. to r. Jenny, Jakob, Katerina and Emil Huppert

Shelley found this photograph of “A man from Ostrava” among her mother’s papers. Do you know who he is?



If you have any family photographs, documents or information which could be included in the data base, please do let Monica or David know.

Help requested.

Do you know or did you know a lady called Weinlichová? Victoria Bursa has passed on this appeal:

In Rosh Chodesh (monthly magazine of the Jewish communities in Czech lands and Slovakia) august 2014, page 26 is the following appeal:

v Ros Chodes (mesicnik Federace zidovskych obci v ceskych uemich a na Slovensku), srpen (august) 2014, na str.26, je nasledujici vyzva :

I am looking for a Jewish girl, who was names Weinlichova (1928) after the war she lived in Prague at Italska 1, after 1948 moved to England.
Contact: Fantova - tel. 226 235 051, e-mail fantova@kehilaprag.cz

Or contact Monica or David.

Ralph Altmann asks:

My father's partner in London was a certain Emil Brenner who I believe came from his hometown, Orlova. He died in 1955-ish, does that ring any bells with the Ostravaks?

BCSA Review

Ostrava reunion
Dr David Lawson, of Kingston Synagogue's Ostrava Scroll Group, played host to 75 guests from the USA, Vietnam, Austria and the Czech Republic, during the eighth annual Ostravak Reunion, in April. The event reunites Holocaust survivors and their families from the Czech city of Ostrava and was held at the Czech Embassy shortly before the 69th anniversary of the 1945 Liberation of Ostrava by the Red Army.
"Of Ostrava's approximately 10,000 Jews, we know the names of at least 3,604 who were deported," Dr Lawson said.

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The British Czech and Slovak Association Review had a short article about our recent Ostravak Reunion.

The Orient in Bohemia

The Jewish Museum has organized an exhibition on Jewish Refugees in WW1. Details are given in the Appendix.

Happy New Year

All of us on this side of the computer wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year. To celebrate, here is a picture of Ostrava painted by Salomon Salomonovič, the Uncle of Miša and Pepek.



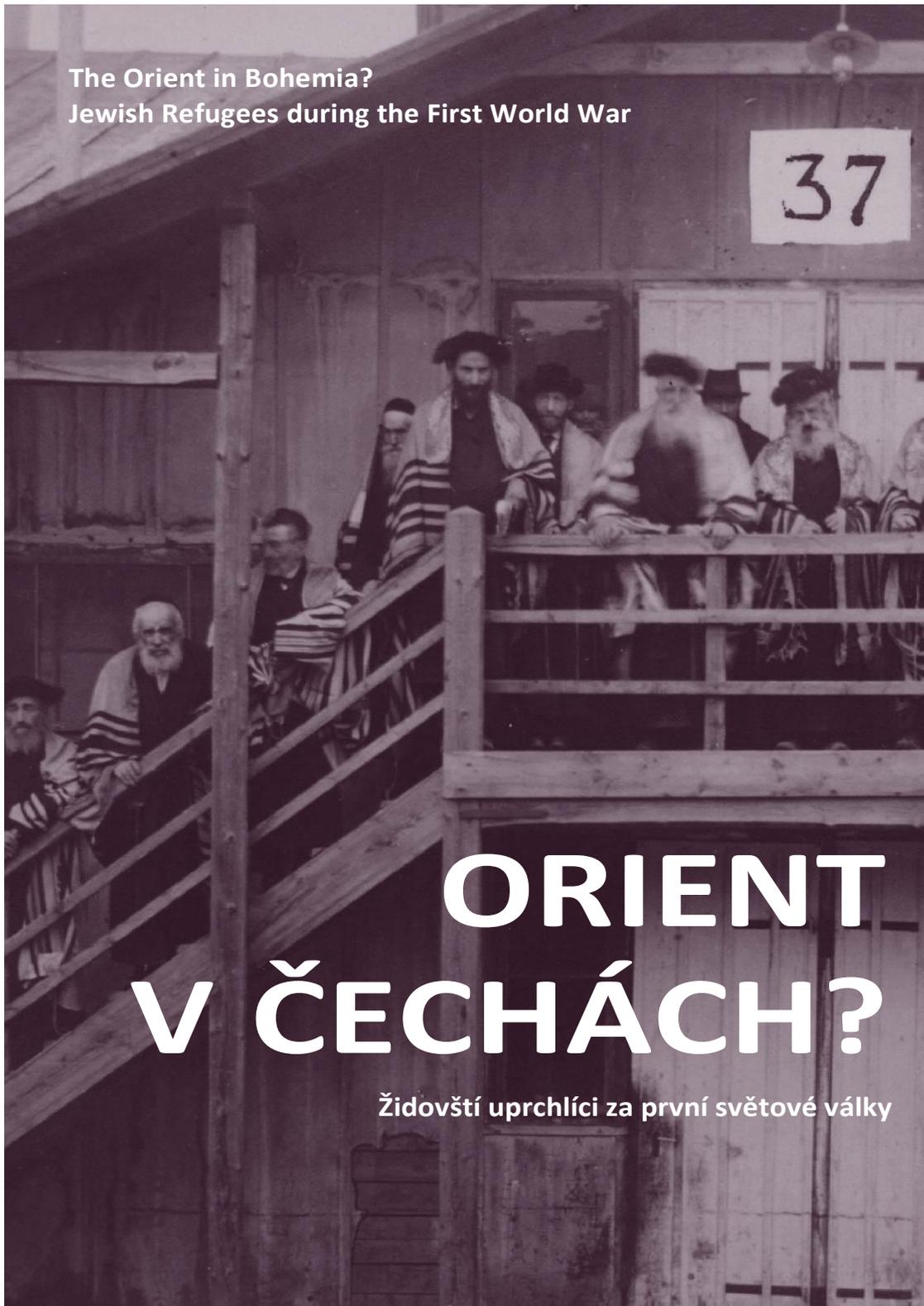
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Stop Press: David Prager wrote
“I looked up uk online marriage records for
Weinlich/Weinlichova on www.freebmd.org.uk and found
a 1968 marriage of a Ruth Weinlich to Robert Barnes in
Chipping Norton”. It seems to be the right person!

Appendix

The Orient in Bohemia?
Jewish Refugees during the First World War



ORIENT V ČECHÁCH?

Židovští uprchlíci za první světové války

Židovské muzeum v Praze si vás dovoluje pozvat na zahájení výstavy
The Jewish Museum in Prague is pleased to invite you to the opening of the exhibition

ORIENT V ČECHÁCH?

Židovští uprchlíci za první světové války

THE ORIENT IN BOHEMIA?

Jewish Refugees during the First World War

27. 8. 2014 / 17 hodin / 5 p.m.

Galerie Roberta Guttmana / Robert Guttman Gallery
U Staré školy 3, Praha 1

Výstava bude otevřena / Open / 28. 8. 2014 — 1. 2. 2015
Galerie Roberta Guttmana / Robert Guttman Gallery / U Staré školy 3, Praha 1



Denně kromě sobot a židovských svátků
9 —18 (do 23. 10. 2014) / 9 —16.30 (od 25. 10. 2014)
Every day, except for Saturdays and Jewish holidays
9 a.m. — 6 p.m. (until 23.10. 2014) / 9 a.m. — 4.30 (from 25.10. 2014)

www.jewishmuseum.cz



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