

Our Ostrava Archive for the Jewish Museum, Prague

We have been collecting material on Ostrava and its Jewish community for almost 3 years now, and we have a great deal of material, some of it unique. We have been concerned both to preserve all the material and also to make it available to future researchers. We therefore approached Dr Leo Pavlát, the Director of the Jewish Museum in Prague (JMP), to ask if the JMP would host our archive. He replied by email:

Dr. David L

Dear Mr. L,
thank you for your letter dated 28th August 2008. The Jewish Museum in Prague is very pleased by the offer to take care, in the future, of the archival collection relating to the Ostrava Jewish community. One of the primary tasks the Museum is to safeguard the remnants of the cultural and historical heritage of Bohemian and Moravian Jewish communities. Our archives will therefore be prepared to house your collection, take care of all the materials in a professional manner and provide access for researchers and public.

Depending on the proportion of the materials related to the pre-WWII history of Ostrava Jewish community, the collection could either be filed into the general Archive of the Jewish Museum or into our Archive of the Holocaust History – both branches would be able to provide similar care and access to your materials. As you probably know, the Jewish Museum has created an extensive collection of interviews with Holocaust survivors, and we would be very happy to complement it with your interviews with the „Ostravaks“.

Please contact Vlastimila Hamáčková, the head of the Archives (vlastimila.hamackova@jewishmuseum.cz <<mailto:vlastimila.hamackova@jewishmuseum.cz>>), and Michal Frankl, the head of the Holocaust Archives (michal.frankl@jewishmuseum.cz <<mailto:michal.frankl@jewishmuseum.cz>>) regarding the details.

I'm looking forward the cooperation.

Best wishes,

Leo Pavlát

So our Archive will, ultimately, be preserved in Prague.

We also approached the Association of Jewish refugees for a grant to help with the organising of our archive. Our application includes an interesting summary of our activities, and a copy of the Application has been posted on our website. Naturally, if any member of the congregation wishes to make a contribution as well, it will be most gratefully received!

David L