

Dear ladies and gentlemen, friends and patrons of the Kurt-and-Ursula-Schubert Centre of Jewish Studies,

In September 2013 we symbolically concluded another academic year and thus let me inform those of you who do not have opportunity to follow daily events at the Centre about the latest developments at Olomouc Judaistik.

Study:

- The Academic Year of 2012/13 bore fruit of the previous years' efforts. The award of accreditation to a B.A.-program in Jewish and Israel Studies by the Ministry of Education was certainly the most important achievement. The application for accreditation was submitted at the Ministry in academic year 2011/2012. In September 2013 the B.A.-program was open to first students. Altogether 12 students were accepted to the first year. The opening of the B.A.-program fundamentally increased the attractiveness of the study field and thus we expect higher number of applicants in the next years.
- In academic year 2012/13 we also successfully applied at the Ministry of Education for a prolongation of accreditation to the M.A. program in Jewish Studies. Thanks to the set-up of the B.A. program, the M.A. studies have become an elite degree of education and its graduates benefit from an individual approach and attention of the teachers.
- On November 25 and 26, 2012, the students of Jewish Studies at the University of Wroclaw (Poland) visited our Centre. The University of Wroclaw showed interest in closer cooperation with the Centre.
- Apart from regular events the Center also co-organized two workshops and established useful contacts with foreign experts and institutions, which will be developed into close cooperation in the future.

15– 16 April 2013: workshop "Advances in Medieval Church and Religious History", organized in the occasion of prof. Miri Rubin's (Queen Mary, University of London) visit at the History Department of the Palacký University in Olomouc by doc. Antonín Kalous. Lecturers of the Centre (Tamás Visi, Daniel Soukup) delivered their papers at the workshop. The Centre established contacts with Queen Mary, University of London (Miri Rubin, Milan Žonca, Matthew Champion) and the Institute of History, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (PhDr. Eva Doležalová, PhD.).

16 April 2013: a block seminar "Berechiah Hanaqdan's Mishlei Shu'alim and European Fable Traditions" led by Tovi Bibring (Bar-Ilan University) and devoted to medieval fables and inspiration sources of Mishlei Shalim by rabbi Berachja Nitronaj ha-Nakdana.

- In the summer semester of 2013 the Centre contacted the Department of Film and Television of the Tel Aviv University with the aim of cooperation on a new seminar entitled "Israeli Movie" and on module "Practice and Training." The first outcome of the cooperation will be a visit of prominent Israeli film-maker Tomer Heymann, who will introduce three of his movies at the film section of the festival Days of Jewish Culture in Olomouc in October 2013. He

will also lead a workshop "Development of temporary Israeli society and its impact in Israeli movies" organized for students, lecturers and the public. The film section will also show short films by the students of the Department of Film and Television of the Tel Aviv University.

Research:

In winter semester 2012/13 the Centre organized two important symposia. The first one was a conference entitled **The Land in Between - Three Centuries of Jewish migration to, from and across Moravia, 1648-1948**, organized by Louise Hecht, which took place at Centre of Jewish Studies from the 18th to 20th November 2012. Major topic of the conference was the latest research on migration of Jews in the Czech region of Moravia. A number of Czech and foreign experts delivered their papers, please find the conference program attached. A detailed report on the conference by Simona Malá was published at H-Soz-u-Kult and in a prestigious periodical of the Jewish Museum in Prague, *Judaica Bohemiae*.

- The second important symposium was a working conference of institutions pursuing Jewish studies entitled **Judaism and Jewish Studies in the Modern World**, which took place from the 17th to 19th November 2012. The conference papers and discussions focused on forms of cooperation, proposals for common projects, educational programs and excursions, such as:

- participation of Olomouc students in a seminar led by prof. David Ruderman and organized by the Central European University in Budapest (January 2013)
- tours of Jewish sites in South-West Bohemia in the end of Summer Semester 2013 (cooperating institution: Museum of Český les)
- Exhibition on extinct Jewish communities in South-West Bohemia in Winter Semester 2013

The conference papers of cooperating institutions were published in a conference volume. Papers by the following institutions were included in the proceedings: CJS FF UP Olomouc (Jakub Ráliš), Near Eastern Studies, Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, University of West Bohemia, Plzeň (Zbyněk Tarant), the Prague Centre for Jewish Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague (Marcela Zoufalá), Education and Culture Centre of the Jewish Museum in Prague - Brno Office, Museum of Český les, Tachov (Václav Chvátal), The Ethnography Museum of the Pilsen Region -West Bohemian Museum in Pilsen (Michal Chmelenský). The conference proceedings were compiled Jakub Ráliš, introduction was written by Marie Crhová (CJS).

In September 2013, at the beginning the new academic year, another session of the conference Judaism and Jewish Studies in the Modern World was organized after the positive response and success of the last year's event. The annual September students' workshop will be entitled **Students' voice: Judaism and Jewish Studies in the Modern World** and will be open primarily to students of Jewish Studies at both Czech and foreign universities.

- On the 9th of September 2012, our regular students' workshop **Central European Jewish Studies - The students' voice - 3rd International**

Students' Workshop welcomed students and experts of our partner institutions, such as the Institute of Near Eastern and African Studies at the Charles University, in Prague, the Prague Centre for Jewish Studies, the Central European University in Budapest etc. The workshop was organized by Louise Hecht and Lenka Uličná.

- In October 22-27, 2012 Louise Hecht conducted a block seminar entitled **Israeli Society from Hegemony to Diversity** at partner institution of the CJS, the University of Halle, Germany. The seminar was supported by the Erasmus Program.

- In November 19-23, 2012 Dr. Martin Wein (Tel Aviv University) visited the CJS and conducted a block seminar entitled **Masaryk, Zionism and Israel: Historical Connections and Contemporary Collective Memory**.

- In January 19-24, 2013 an international workshop entitled **Topics in Early Modern Jewish History** was conducted by prof. David B. Ruderman (University of Pennsylvania) and held at the Central European University, Budapest. As a part of the workshop a conference **Heterodoxy in Early Modern Europe** was organized and attended by Tamás Visi and other colleagues and students of the CJS.

- In May 27-29, 2013 the CJS in cooperation with the Prague Centre for Jewish Studies and the Martin-Buber-Institut für Judaistik, Universität zu Köln, organized an international conference **David Gans (1541-1613) after Four Centuries: The Legacy of an Early Modern Jewish Polymath**. The venue of the conference was the Philosophical Faculty of the Charles University in Prague.

- Louise Hecht and Jakub Rališ upgraded the Center's irregular periodical *Judaica Olomucensia* into a bilingual (Czech-English) peer reviewed electronic journal which will henceforward appear twice a year. It will offer a publication platform not only for Olomouc experts but for all foreign and national scholars. The first issue of the renewed journal containing peer reviewed articles will appear in spring 2014. An online version is available at: <http://jjo.judaistika.cz/clanky/>. The Palacký University has approved the upgrade and we are awaiting a positive response from the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic.

Grants:

In 2013 we have successfully completed the following projects

- **Challenging the Narrative of Czech-Jewish History in the Early Modern and Modern Period** (Rotshild-Foundation Europe, coordinated by Louise Hecht)
- **Rabbinic Literature in Moravia from the Fifteenth to the Nineteenth Century** (the Seventh Framework Programme - Marie Curie, coordinated by Tamas Visi)
- **Jews in Moravia: Sources and Studies** (project funded by the Palacký

University within the IGA grant framework, coordinated by Marie Crhová) The outcome of the project is a forthcoming volume *Vybrané hebrejské prameny k dějinám židů na Moravě: středověk a raný novověk* (Selected Hebrew Sources on the History of Jews in Medieval and Early Modern Moravia) edited by Tamás Visi, Alžběta Drexlerová and Marie Krappmann. Authors: Tamás Visi, Miroslav Dyrčík, Jana Horáková, Andrea Hrušková, Magdaléna Jánošíková, Marie Krappmann, Daniel Soukup, Magdalena Soukupová, Marie Vrbová.

- **Innovation of the Jewish Studies Program** (European Social Fund, coordinated by Ingeborg Fialová)

- In 2012 the Centre has launched a new project **BA. Study Program Jewish and Israeli Studies** (Rotshild-Foundation Europe)

Last year, within the project **Innovation of the Jewish Studies Program**, the Centre established cooperation with the following national and foreign institutions:

- Institut für Judaistik, Universität Wien (<http://www.univie.ac.at/Judaistik/>)
- Department of Assyriology and Hebrew Institute of Ancient Studies, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) Budapest
- Department of Jewish Studies, University of Wrocław (Zakład Studiów Żydowskich, Instytut Filologii Polskiej, Wydział Filologiczny, Uniwersytet Wrocławski;
- Jewish Museum in Prague
- Department of Culture and Religious Studies, University of Hradec Králové (project Innovation of Transcultural Communication)
- Pedagogical Faculty of the Palacký University in Olomouc (project Pedagogy in practice and the art of teaching)
- University of the Third Age, Palacký University in Olomouc (project Spiritual dimension of a man)
- The Ethnography Museum of the Pilsen Region –West Bohemian Museum in Pilsen
- Institut terezínské iniciativy

Cultural and educational events

- In October 3rd, 2012, an official opening of the Winter Semester 2012/13 was organized together with a Sukkot celebration at the Botanic Garden in Olomouc.

- In October 18th, 2012 a festive opening of the academic year took place at the Art Centre of Palacký University in the Corpus Christi Chapel. The event was accompanied by a concert of the Baroque Ensemble, which was co-organized by the Centre as a part of the festival Days of Jewish Culture in Olomouc.

- The fifth year of the festival Days of Jewish Culture in Olomouc was held

between October 16 and 25, 2012. The Centre organized the film section of the festival in cooperation with the Jewish Community of Olomouc and the DH. The topic of the film section was The Czechs and collaboration. The attendance of the films was quite extraordinary and contributed greatly to popularization of the Jewish Studies program.

- The Centre's library served as a venue for regular celebrations of Jewish festivals throughout the academic year. The events are open to all university students and the public and they are increasingly popular.

- In February 4th, 2013 members of the Jewish Community in Olomouc were present at a Purim performance (so called Purimspiel) prepared by the students and lecturers of the Centre and the Department of German Studies under the supervision of Marie Krappmann. The event was enormously successful.

- In February 13-28, 2013, an exhibition "On the Ghetto of Prostějov" prepared by PhDr. Marie Dokoupilová of the Museum of Prostějov was installed at the second floor of the Uměleckého centra Univerzity Palackého v Olomouci. The exhibition, organized by the Centre in cooperation with our partner institution the Museum of Prostějov, documented on twelve panels the five-hundred-years history of the ghetto. The exhibition panels were installed by students of the Centre, Petra Hanzlíková and Magdalena Soukupová.

- Graduates of the Jewish Studies M.A. program started to participate in lecture series organized by the Palacký University.

- On December 11th, Mgr. Magdaléna Jánošíková gave a lecture on Marriage in Jewish Tradition within the framework of University of the Third Age, Palacký University in Olomouc (project Spiritual dimension of a man)

The academic year of 2012/13 was indeed very fruitful and brought success. We hope to inform you about similar positive developments next year again. Thank you for your support and we are looking forward to meet you in Olomouc.

On behalf of the Kurt-and-Ursula-Schubert Centre of Jewish Studies,

Ivana Cahová, head of the Centre of Jewish Studies