

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, patrons and donors of the Kurt and Ursula Schubert Center of Jewish Studies,

in May we symbolically concluded another academic year. Please allow me to inform those of you, who do not have the opportunity to keep up with the everyday course of events at CJS, about the development of Jewish Studies in Olomouc.

We launched the 2011/2012 academic year with a Yiddish songs recital by Mrs Hana Frejková. This ceremonial act took place at the highly impressive premises of the Theatre Hall in the building of Convict at Palacký University. Not only students of Jewish Studies were present but also students of History and Culture of the Jews, academic staff and also guests and patrons from the general public. It was more than obvious from the number of people attending and from their subsequent reactions that Jewish Studies in Olomouc has already earned degree prestige at and beyond the university.

CJS had the opportunity to develop culturally-educational activity as soon as October when it co-operated with the Olomouc Jewish Community and the Music Theatre (Divadlo Hudby) in organizing **Days of Jewish Culture in Olomouc** festival (October 4th to 9th 2012). CJS students became initiators and organizers of the film section of the festival which met with an unanticipated response. The Academic staff of CJS was then partaking in the realization of a block of lectures on the topic of Jewish-Christian relationships. A tradition was started and will continue in October this year. Under the supervision of CJS lecturers, the students have prepared a film section for the festival this year that is called "Czechs and Collaboration" with three thematic units: Czech filmography in the time of the Protectorate, Collaboration theme and Antifascist resistance in Czech filmmaking.

The scale of culturally-educational events that are held by the CJS was broadened at the beginning of 2012 with the **Keeping the Memory Alive: Children in the Holocaust** event: this exhibition arose from an international student competition for the best poster design for the International Holocaust Remembrance Day and was held in cooperation with the Olomouc Jewish Community under the auspices of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Jiří Lach. It was held on the premises of Dean's office at the Faculty of Arts at Palacký University in Olomouc. The opening session took place on 1st February 2012 and 16 winning posters were presented.

An exhibition of black and white photos by Jindřich Buxbaum followed. It was called **Remembrance** and it was opened ceremonially on 13th March 2012 in the baroque halls of Palacký University's Art Centre.

Another exhibition on the theme of **Jewish Prostějov** is being prepared by some female students of CJS in cooperation with Prostějov Museum. This exhibition should be opened sometime in the course the autumn semester of the next academic year.

Above all The Kurt and Ursula Schubert Centre of Jewish Studies is a scientific and educational institution. And so it was trying to develop actively in this field primarily during the previous academic year.

From 14th October to 16th October 2011, the second year of an international student conference **Central European Jewish Studies: The Students' Voice** took place on the premises of CJS at the Faculty of Arts at Palacký University. Apart from students of the home institution, students of Prague Hebrew Studies (Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague) presented their contributions as did the students of Jewish Studies in Vienna. CEU (Budapest), University of Dublin, University of Cambridge, University of Harvard, University of Glasgow and Uniwersytet Jagielloński Krakow. Although it was a first experience talking to an international audience for many of the participants,

the academic level of the papers was remarkable. Their commentaries to particular presentations the reviewers, who are experienced university lecturers, were very positive. From the home institution it was Dr. Louise Hecht, Dr. Marie Crhová and Dr. Tamás Visi. Commentaries by Dr. Dieter Hecht (Austrian Academy of Sciences) and Dr. Pavel Sládek (Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague) were to be heard as well. In autumn 2012 a collective volume with the papers from this conference should appear in print.

In the following autumn semester 2012/13 CJS will host not only the third year of the student conference but also two other important symposiums : **CFP conference: "The Land in Between – Three Centuries of Jewish migration to, from and across Moravia, 1648-1948"** (Nov. 18-20, 2012) and a working conference of cooperating Jewish studies institutions called **Jewish Studies in the modern world**.

Since October 2010 CJS realizes a significant ESF project called "Innovation of Jewish Studies. History and Culture of the Jews." In the framework of this project, 21 innovated or new courses have been created, which, thanks to their interdisciplinary conception address, even students of other departments at the Faculty of Arts at Palacký University and of other faculties and other universities. A Compendium of courses for which also study pillars have been created (text-books, lecture notes and readers) is significantly successful among students and it helps to broaden the interest in Jewish Studies (attached in the form of an electronic supplement). It is also an effective tool for a deepening mutual relationship with the public. In this respect, the "Cycle of Judaist Lectures for the Public" proved to be incredibly successful. In terms of this cycle, a broad interdisciplinary cooperation was established with various researchers from the Czech Republic and from abroad with institutions where these people work.

In the last semester, these lecturers appeared:

1. Zuzana Peterová: Shoa Trauma Transfer onto Next Generations (Přenos traumatu šoa na další generaci)
2. Hana Mayer: Praise of Brave Woman - Woman in the contemporary Judaism (Chvála ženy statečné - žena v současném judaismu)
3. Tomáš Hrbek: Alice Pastorová-Flachová: dance saved her life (Alice Pastorová-Flachová: tanec jí zachránil život)
4. Jiří Holý: Jews and Anti-Semitism in Czech prose of the break of 19th and 20th century (Židé a antisemitismus v české próze přelomu 19. a 20. století)
5. Jaroslav Klenovský: Jewish Monuments and Architecture of Synagogues around Olomouc (Židovské památky a architektura synagog Olomoucka)
6. Abraham David: The Hebraist Johan Christoph Wagenseil and his relationship with Jewish scholars in the second half of the 17th century

In terms of the project CJS created an Interactive Map of Jewish Institutions which covers not only domestic but also foreign institutions that cooperate with CJS on various levels. The map is available online: <http://judaistika.cz/index.php/cs/odkazy/mapainstituci>.

CJS has to deal with quite a low number of applicants for study in the same way that other humanities do, even though the interest in interdisciplinary courses is considerable. In January 2012 we therefore decided to broaden our offer of study programs with the Bachelor's degree. Accreditation was submitted at the Ministry of Education in February that year and we are waiting as to whether they accept the proposal.

Current students of the first and second year of the subsequent Master's program have the opportunity to verify their knowledge in practice and to have a higher chance of asserting themselves after graduation in terms of the new module, Practice and Internship. This module is

realized in cooperation with partner institutions that have become subscribers for our interns. Apart from very good cooperation with the Respect and Tolerance Society, which realized a block of field courses for the CJS student in the spring semester of 2012, we commenced mutual cooperation with the Sefardi Toledo Museum, which is an important institution. This is due to good contacts of Dr. Eva Schubert. We are trying to extend our existing contacts.

Classic educational courses are enriched with regularly held excursions around Jewish monuments in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia which are very popular even with students of different fields.

In the course of the 2011/12 academic year, the book funds of CJS grew significantly. Thanks to the donation of Mr. Chaim Frank, the CJS Library on Trída Svobody acquired a Jewish archive of significant extent. Due to the need for extending its storage space, a new small classroom was set up. There are not only capacious libraries but it is also equipped especially for the needs of language practice in smaller groups. The big classroom which is linked to the central library is still used for lectures, seminars, celebrations of Jewish holidays (also students of other fields and applicants from the general public take part in this) but it also serves as space for exhibitions and a place for study. More and more people are displaying an interest in the book funds of CJS, as are researchers from other fields.

The 2011/12 academic year was truly very fruitful for CJS and it brought a great deal of success. We hope that next year it will be possible to inform you in a similarly positive vein.

For more information and photo documentation download please visit our website: www.judaistika.cz, or <http://judaistika.cz/index.php/cs/onas/foto>

Thank you for your goodwill and we are looking forward to your eventual visit to Olomouc.

On behalf of The Kurt and Ursula Schubert Centre of Jewish Studies team.

Ivana B. Procházková
Manager Head of CJS