



Activities Report

of the Center for Jewish Art at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Torah Ark in the synagogue of Apostag, Hungary (1822)

Photo 2018 by Vladimir Levin

Spring 2018 – Spring 2019



CONTENTS

Overview	3
Bezalel Narkiss Index of Jewish Art	4
Jewish Heritage in Slovenia	6
Expeditions.....	8
Conferences	11
Our guests.....	13
The Narkiss Prize	15
Sergey Kravtsov's book presentation.....	15
From Dessau to Tel Aviv	16
Preservation and Commemoration	17
Lectures by the CJA researchers	18
Recent publications by the CJA researchers:	20
Poster "Wooden Synagogues of Europe".....	21



Overview

It was a busy year for the Center. We have started a large new research project and moved forward with the ongoing ones:

NEW PROJECT:

- A research project "Digitization of the Jewish Heritage in Slovenia," which includes an international conference on September 18-19, 2019 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (grant from the Ministry of Science of Israel and the Slovenian Research Agency).

ALMOST FINISHED:

- The *Catalogue of Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts in the Bavarian State Library* by Aliza Cohen-Mushlin, Michal Sternthal et al. is currently in print in the Harrassowitz Publishing House in Wiesbaden, Germany.
- A book on synagogues in Latvia (grant from The Israeli Science Foundation).
- Iconographical indexing of the Ursula and Kurt Schubert Archives (grants from the Municipality of Vienna and the Archbishop of Vienna, Cardinal von Schönborn).

ONGOING PROJECTS:

- A book on Jewish material culture in Siberia (grant from Dr. Betsy Gidwitz).
- A cooperative project with the Russian State Library in Moscow on documentation of visual elements in Hebrew books (accessible in the Hebrew Printed Books section of the Bezalel Narkiss Index of Jewish Art).

EXPEDITIONS

- A research expedition to Hungary (grant from The Keller Foundation).
- A research expedition to Romania (grant from The Morris and Beverley Baker Foundation).

CONFERENCES and ACADEMIC COOPERATION

- We were co-organizers of the international conference "Urban Jewish Heritage: Presence and Absence" (Kraków, September 3-7, 2018), the 4th International Congress on Jewish Architecture (Hamburg, November 6-8, 2018), and GEOP Interdisciplinary Research Workshop "Building Culture and Community: Jewish Architecture and Urbanism in Poland" (Warsaw, May 29-31, 2019).
- We participate in the research project "Revealed Architecture: Sacral and Secular Jewish Architecture in East Prussia," run by Dr.-Ing. Kamila Storz at Beit Tfila – Research Unit for Jewish Architecture in Technische Universität Braunschweig.



Bezalel Narkiss Index of Jewish Art

Since the inauguration of the fully-digitized Bezalel Narkiss Index of Jewish Art during the 17th World Congress of Jewish Studies on August 9, 2017 (see our *Update* published in Spring 2018), the Index expanded significantly. At the time of writing these lines, it includes 302,116 images and this number is constantly growing. Among the recent additions we would like to mention two special ones.

The first is the Jewish Heritage Collection of Constance and Theodore Harris. It is a collection of about 500 diverse objects, bearing Jewish symbols or possessing Jewish connections, which significantly enlarge the representation of contemporary Jewish visual culture in the Index. The collection is kept in the University of Michigan and we are very grateful to Mrs. Constance Harris for permitting us to include it into the Index and for supporting our work.



An ashtray with Yiddish inscription "There will be revenge to the fleas as they'll burn up with the house," France, first half of the 20th century.



*Matzah box, USA, 1998.
Constance and Theodore Harris Jewish
Heritage Collection, University of Michigan*

The second important addition is the materials collected by Dr. Leonid Smilovitsky of Tel Aviv University during his work on a book about Jewish cemeteries in Belarus. We are grateful to Dr. Smilovitsky for permitting us to include his collection into the Index. The collection comprises about 3,000 photographs of Jewish cemeteries, Holocaust monuments, synagogues and Jewish buildings from about 50 towns and villages in Belarus.



Jewish cemetery in Ivianets, Belarus (early 20th c.). Photo 2018 by Leonid Smilovitsky.



Jewish mill in Gorodok, Belarus (early 20th c.). Photo 2013 by Leonid Smilovitsky.

***The development of the Index of Jewish Art is possible with the generous support of
Dr. Betsy Gidwitz.***



Jewish Heritage in Slovenia

The Center for Jewish Art and France Stele Institute of Art History at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts won a grant from the Ministry of Science and Technology of the State of Israel and the Slovenian Research Agency to conduct a research project "Digitization of the Jewish Heritage in Slovenia."

The project aims to document, research, and digitize the Jewish tangible and correlated intangible heritage in Slovenia and integrate it in the Bezalel Narkiss Index of Jewish Art. The results will be presented as a separate web portal "Slovenian Jewish Heritage."

Jewish heritage within the borders of the Republic of Slovenia is extremely multifaceted and includes material remnants of the medieval communities, as well as vestiges of Austrian, Hungarian and Italian communities of the modern era. The project will place Slovenia's Jewish heritage in the context of Central European and global Jewish heritage, enable its digital preservation, thus making it accessible to the research community throughout the world.

In the framework of the project, an international conference "Jewish Heritage in Slovenia" will take place on September 18-19, 2019 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



Jewish cultural Center in Ljubljana. Photo 2018 by Vladimir Levin.



The Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia in Israel, Barbara Sušnik and the Ambassador of Israel in Slovenia, Eyal Sela, visited the Center for Jewish Art on April 11, 2019. Dr. Vladimir Levin presented our project "Digitization of the Jewish Heritage in Slovenia" and invited them to participate in the opening of the international conference "Jewish heritage in Slovenia."



H.E. Barbara Sušnik, the Ambassador of Slovenia in Israel, H.E. Eyal Sela, the Ambassador of Israel in Slovenia, and Dr. Vladimir Levin at the entrance to the office of the Center for Jewish Art on the campus of Mt. Scopus, the Hebrew University, April 11, 2019.

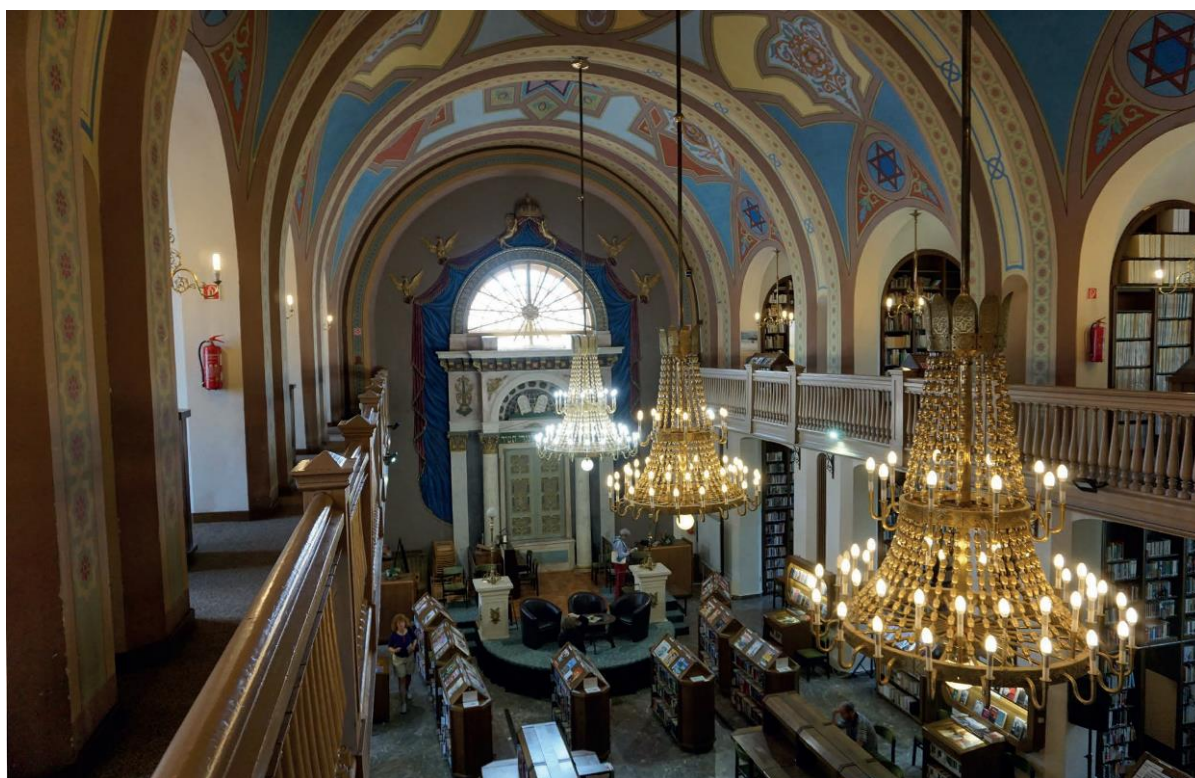


Expeditions

In addition to the ongoing expedition to Slovenia, during this year the Center for Jewish Art organized two research expeditions, one to Hungary and another to Romania.

Expedition to Hungary, 2018

The expedition to Hungary was undertaken by the Center for Jewish Art in May 2018. It was organized in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Rudolf Klein, the world-renowned specialist on Hungarian synagogue architecture, and endorsed by the Government of Hungary, the ICOMOS Hungarian National Committee, and the Jewish communities of Hungary.



Synagogue in Baja, interior view towards the east (1842-45). Photo 2018 by Vladimir Levin.

The expedition aimed to document synagogues built from the late eighteenth century until the Revolution of 1848, which was the formative period for the emerging synagogue architecture in Hungary, and to survey synagogues erected after 1848. During the ten-day journey, the CJA team traveled more than 4,000 km and surveyed 56 synagogues; twelve of



them were thoroughly documented and measured. About 5,000 photographs were taken and are accessible in the Bezalel Narkiss Index of Jewish Art.

Among interesting discoveries of the expedition there are synagogue buildings not mentioned in scientific or tourist literature: the Old Synagogue in Abaújszántó, the Small Synagogue in Szolnok, and the Beit Midrash in Gyöngyös. The murals in the Old Synagogue in Eger with unusual iconography were added to the Catalogue of Wall Paintings in Central and East European Synagogues.

The results of the 2018 expedition serve for the preparation of a new expedition to Hungary, to take place in summer 2019.



Synagogue in Kővágóörs, view from the southwest (early 19th c.). The synagogue will be thoroughly documented and measured by the 2019 expedition. Photo 2018 by Vladimir Levin.

The full expedition report is available here: <http://cja.huji.ac.il/browser.php?mode=projects>

The expedition became possible with the generous support of The Keller Foundation.



Expedition to Romania

The expedition of the Center for Jewish Art to Romania took place in January 2019. The aim of the expedition was to survey and document synagogues, Jewish cemeteries and cemetery chapels in eastern Wallachia (known also as eastern Muntenia) and in Dobruja.

In Wallachia, the expedition visited the cemeteries in Călărași, Giurgiu and Oltenița and synagogues and cemeteries in Brăila, Buzău and Râmnicu Sărat. In Dobruja, the expedition visited the synagogues in Constanța and Tulcea, as well as the cemeteries in these two towns and in Babadag, Cernavodă, Isaccea and Măcin. In addition, the expedition surveyed three Jewish cemeteries in Bucharest. About 3,000 photographs were taken and are accessible in the Bezalel Narkiss Index of Jewish Art.

We are very grateful to the Jewish Communities in Tulce and Brăila and to the Municipal Museum of Râmnicu Sărat for their assistance to this expedition.

The full expedition report is available here: <http://cja.huji.ac.il/browser.php?mode=projects>



Funerary carriage (early 20th c.) in the Filantropia Ashkenazi cemetery in Bucharest.

Photo 2019 by Vladimir Levin.

The expedition became possible with the generous support of The Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation.

Conferences

Urban Jewish Heritage: Presence and Absence

The Center for Jewish Art was a co-organizer of the international conference “Urban Jewish Heritage: Presence and Absence,” together with the Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage (University of Birmingham) and the Foundation for Jewish Heritage, in association with the City of Kraków and Villa Decius Association. The conference was held in Kraków on September 3–7, 2018. It was addressing urban Jewish heritage and the multi-layered issues it faces – from tourism and sustainability to conservation and representation. The conference brought together academics, planners, policy makers and community leaders to examine the past, present and future of cities with Jewish heritage. Dr. Vladimir Levin and Dr. Sergey Kravtsov were among the speakers.



Michael Mail of the Foundation of Jewish Heritage, Uri Bar-Ner of the Izmir Project and Dr. Vladimir Levin during the conference.

4th International Congress on Jewish Architecture

The 4th International Congress on Jewish Architecture was held in Hamburg on November 6–8, 2018. It was organized by the Bet Tfila – Research Unit for Jewish Architecture (with participation of the Center for Jewish Art) and the Institute for the History of German Jewry. The



congress aimed to re-examine the biographies of Jewish architects from the 19th century up to the present day from an international perspective. It dealt with the question whether and to which degree Jewish self-definition as well as the perception of “Jewishness” by a non-Jewish environment had influenced the life and works of Jewish architects all over the world. Prof. Aliza Cohen-Mushlin, Dr. Vladimir Levin and Dr. Sergey Kravtsov were among the participants of this conference.



Sergey Kravtsov and Sharman Kadish visiting the Jewish Cemetery in Altona, Hamburg.

Building Culture and Community: Jewish Architecture and Urbanism in Poland

Dr. Vladimir Levin and the Center for Jewish Art, together with Prof. Cecile E. Kuznitz of Bard College, Prof. Michael Krutikov of the University of Michigan and Prof. Marcin Wodziński of the University of Wrocław, are co-organizers of the GEOP Interdisciplinary Research Workshop “Building Culture and Community: Jewish Architecture and Urbanism in Poland,” to be held in the POLIN Museum in Warsaw on May 29-31, 2019. Dr. Kravtsov and Dr. Levin will give papers at the workshop.



Our guests

Remy Arkenbosch

The Center for Jewish Art had the pleasure of having Remy Arkenbosch, a MA student from the Radboud University in the Netherlands, as an intern from October 2018 to February 2019. During those four months, Remy worked in our Departments of Jewish Architecture and Funeral Art. Remy corrected the existing data on synagogues in the Netherlands, added entries for the missing ones and supplemented the existing entries with additional information and descriptions. He created entries on all 244 Jewish cemeteries and on all 32 cemetery chapels in the Netherlands, providing them with images, metadata, and exact geo-coordinates. During his internship period, Remy also worked on his research topic, comparative analysis of early synagogue and church architecture.



Remy Arkenbosch and CJA's research assistant Ekaterina Sosensky during a short excursion to the Jordan Valley.

Dr. Eva Janáčková

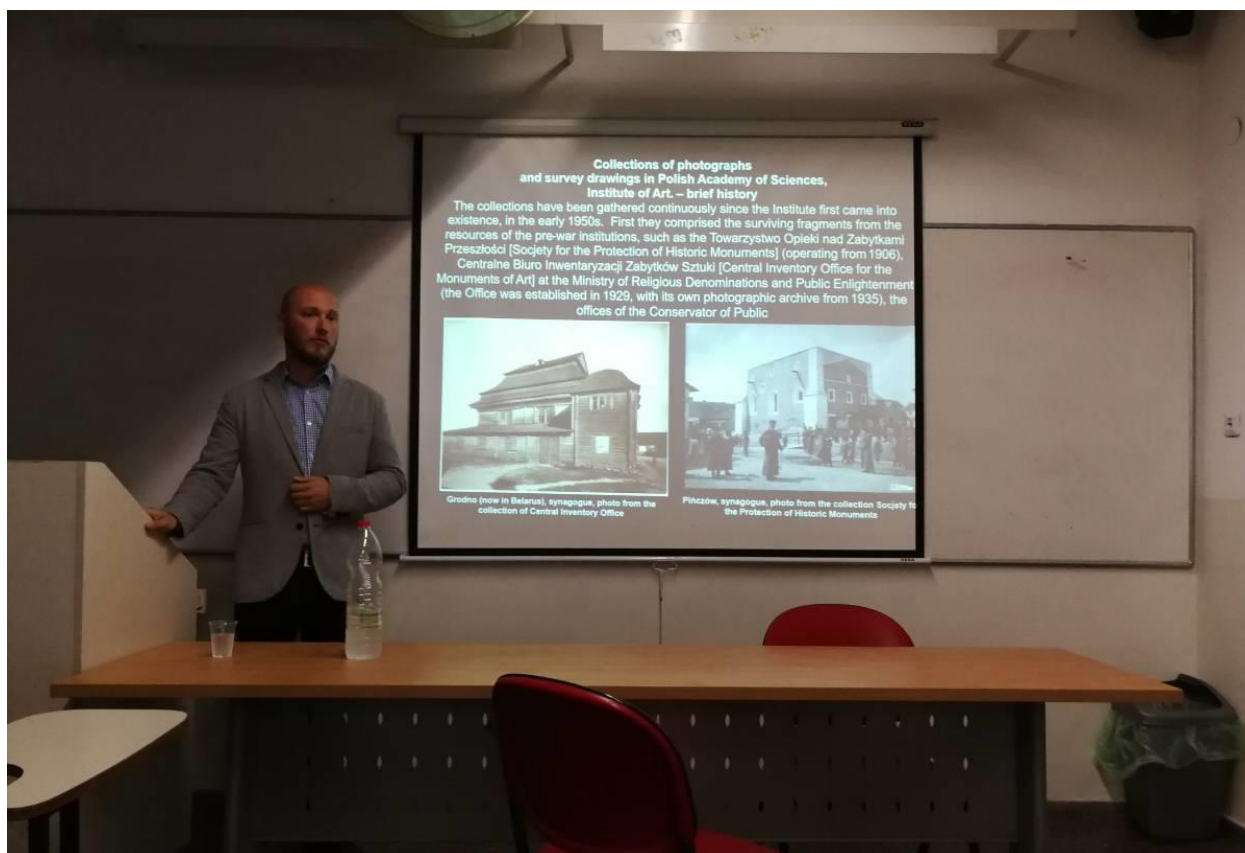
The Center for Jewish Art has the pleasure of having as our guest scholar Dr. Eva Janáčková from the Institute of Art History of the Czech Academy of Science in Prague. Dr. Janáčková works on the topic “Israeli Artists of Czech Origin in the 20th century.” She will spend six months in the Center, exploring Israeli libraries, archives and museums.



Dr. Eva Janáčková in the CJA office.

Dr. Piotr Lasek

A guest lecture by Dr. Piotr Lasek, the Manager of the Photographs and Measurements Collection at the Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, was held at the Center for Jewish Art on June 5, 2018. The topic of the lecture was “Saved on Glass and Paper: Jewish Heritage in the Institute of Art’s Collections.” During the academic visit of Dr. Lasek, the researchers of the Center for Jewish Art were able to discuss and exchange experiences of management and preservation of archival photo collections.



Guest lecture by Dr. Piotr Lasek, June 5, 2018.

The Narkiss Prize

On December 9, 2018, Dr. Esther Juhasz of the Hebrew University and Achva Academic College received the Bezalel, Mordechai and Nessia Narkiss Prize for Excellence in the Field of Jewish Art. Dr. Juhasz is the 27th recipient of the Prize. The award ceremony took place in the Umberto Nachon Museum of Italian Jewish Art in Jerusalem. Dr. Juhasz gave the lecture “Viewing, Looking and Observing the Shiviti and Menorah Plaques.”

Sergey Kravtsov's book presentation

The presentation of the new book by Dr. Sergey Kravtsov, *In the Shadow of Empires: Synagogue Architecture in East Central Europe* (Weimar and Rostock: Grünberg, 2018) was held in the Center for Jewish Art on April 29, 2019. The speakers at the event were Prof. Mike Turner of the

Bezalel Academy, Prof. Ilia Rodov of the Bar Ilan University, and Dr. Reuven Gafni of the Academic College Kinneret.



Dr. Sergey Kravtsov speaks at the presentation of his book, April 29, 2019.

From Dessau to Tel Aviv

The Center for Jewish Art participated in the students' workshop "From Dessau to Tel Aviv" – a joint undertaking of Prof. Regina Stephan of Mainz University, Prof. Klaus Tragbar of Innsbruck University, Dr. Ulrich Knufinke of Beit Tfila Research Unit in Braunschweig and Prof. Shmuel Groad of Bezalel Academy. The first part of the workshop took place in Dessau in December 2018 and the second part – in Tel Aviv in March 2019. Dr. Vladimir Levin guided the participants of the workshop through the Old City of Jerusalem.



Preservation and Commemoration

Dr. Sergey Kravtsov took part in a project “Jewish Lviv: 100 Addresses.” This project is a component of a larger ongoing project, “Lviv Interactive,” which is a web-accessible, interactive historical map of the city of Lviv. The map seeks to present the contemporary, dynamic city rather than reproduce a static picture of the past. This project is managed by Taras Nazaruk at the Center for Urban History of East Central Europe (on Nazaruk’s guest lecture at CJA see our *Activities Report Spring 2017 – Spring 2018*). The “Jewish Lviv: 100 Addresses” is designed as a virtual walk guided by Boris Orach (1921–2011), a teacher of mathematics and researcher of Jewish history of Lviv, as well as the school teacher of Sergey Kravtsov. The walk is available online, also in a mobile version.



“Jewish Lviv: 100 Addresses” web page

Dr. Sergey Kravtsov participated in the work of the international Advisory Group for Heritage Issues at the Lithuanian Jewish Community. Within this framework, Dr. Kravtsov took part in the meeting of the Group on October 22–25, 2018, in Vilnius. This collective work resulted in recommendations for preservation and commemoration of the Vilnius Great Synagogue, Paneriai Mass Killing Site Memorial and the Užupis Jewish Cemetery. These recommendations are available online: <https://www.lzb.lt/en/2018/12/18/jewish-heritage-experts-agree-guidelines-for-commemoration-of-the-great-synagogue-of-vilna/>.



Lectures by the CJA researchers

In May 2018, Dr. Anna Berezin gave a lecture “Jews of the Russian Empire” at the Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies.

In June 2018, Vladimir Levin and Sergey Kravtsov participated in the International Workshop “Framing the Sacred: Shrines in European Architecture,” in Bar-Ilan University. Dr. Levin gave a lecture “Sephardi Religious Reform? Synagogues of Izmir and their Tevot;” Dr. Kravtsov’s lecture was entitled “Domed Torah Arks in Eastern Europe: Breaking Baroque Schemes.”

In June 2018, Michal Sternthal participated in the workshop “Hebrew Manuscript Studies: Codicology, Palaeography, Art History in the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies and Bodleian Library, Oxford.

During this workshop, Mrs. Sternthal gave a guest lecture “Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts: The Medieval Regensburg Pentateuch” in the Oxford Chabad Society at the University of Oxford.

In June 2018, Dr. Kravtsov delivered a lecture “Art Collecting by Galician Jewish Aristocracy: From Majer Jerachmiel von Mises to Artur Lilien-Brzozdowiecki” at the international workshop Art Patronage and Jewish Culture, held in the Bar-Ilan University.

Also in June 2018, Dr. Levin participated in the international workshop “At Home: Jews and Muslims in Eastern Europe,” organized by Prisma Ukraina – Research Network Eastern Europe, Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin, and spoke there on “Parting the Ways: Jews and Muslims of the Russian Empire.”

In July 2018, Dr. Levin and Dr. Kravtsov participated in the Eleventh Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies, this time held in Krakow. Vladimir Levin gave a paper “Fortress Synagogues: Reality or Scholarly Invention?” and Dr. Kravtsov spoke on the “Synagogue Architecture of Latvia between Archaeology and Eschatology.”

In August 2018, Dr. Vladimir Levin led a tour of the Jewish Historical Seminar to Moscow and St. Petersburg and gave there a series of lectures on Jewish history and art in Russia and the USSR.

In September 2018, Dr. Levin and Dr. Kravtsov again visited Krakow, to participate in the international conference “Urban Jewish Heritage: Presence and Absence.” Dr. Levin



presented the project of the website “Historic Synagogues of Europe” (<http://historicsynagogueseurope.org>) and Dr. Kravtsov delivered a lecture “The Space of Synagogues in Lviv: History and Challenges.”

In September 2018, CJA researchers prepared a poster “Wooden Synagogues of Europe,” which was presented at the International Symposium “New Horizons in the conservation of wooden built heritage” organized by the International Wood Committee of ICOMOS in York, United Kingdom (see below).

In October 2018, Dr. Levin delivered a paper “A Way to Reform Judaism? Choral Synagogues in the Russian Empire” at the International Conference “Jews and Citizens – Juden und Bürger” on the Occasion of Israel Jacobson’s 250th Birthday in the Technische Universität Braunschweig.

In November 2018, Vladimir Levin participated in the international conference “Jewish Regions in the Early Modern Central and Eastern Europe,” organized by the German Historical Institute in Warsaw and the Institute of History of Warsaw University. He gave a paper “Where is Jewish Lithuania? *Lite*, *Raysn* and *Zamet* on the Jewish Mental Map of Eastern Europe.”

Also in November 2018, Prof. Aliza Cohen-Mushlin, Dr. Vladimir Levin and Dr. Sergey Kravtsov participated in the 4th International Congress on Jewish Architecture, which was held in Hamburg. Prof. Cohen-Mushlin spoke at the opening session of the Congress, Dr. Levin introduced the section “‘Jewish’ Architects? Self-Definitions of ‘Jewishness’,” and Dr. Kravtsov delivered a lecture “Joseph Barsky (1876–1943) and His Search for a ‘Hebrew’ Architecture.”

In April 2019 Dr. Levin was invited to lecture at the conference in memory of his teachers, Prof. Jonathan Frankel and Prof. Ezra Mendelsohn, at the Hebrew University, and there he spoke on “Between Spirit and Material: Modern Jewish Politics and Synagogue Architecture.”



Recent publications by the CJA researchers:

Anna Berezin and Vladimir Levin, “Jews in Siberia: Siberian Jews and their Artistic Heritage,” *Et-Mol* 257 (July 2018), 19–22. (In Hebrew).

Sergey Kravtsov and Vladimir Levin, “Synagogues of Rivne: Preserved and Lost,” in *Arkhitekturna spadshchyna Volyni* [Architectural Heritage of Volhynia], ed. Petro Rychkov (Rivne: PP DM, 2019), 35–62. (In Ukrainian).

Sergey Kravtsov, *In the Shadow of Empires: Synagogue Architecture in East Central Europe*, with preface by Ilia Rodov (Weimar: Grünberg Verlag, 2018). 294 pages, ca. 100 ills.

Ukrainian and Jewish Artists of Lemberg/Lwów/Lviv: From Ausgleich to the Holocaust, Sergey Kravtsov, Ilia Rodov, and Małgorzata Stolarska-Fronia, eds. (Weimar: Grünberg Verlag, 2019), 284 pages.

Sergey Kravtsov, “Józef Awin on Jewish Visual Culture,” in *Ukrainian and Jewish Artists of Lemberg/Lwów/Lviv: From Ausgleich to the Holocaust*, Sergey R. Kravtsov, Ilia Rodov, and Małgorzata Stolarska-Fronia, eds. (Weimar: Grünberg Verlag, 2019), 90–101.

Sergey Kravtsov and Ilia Rodov, “Introduction,” in *Ukrainian and Jewish Artists of Lemberg/Lwów/Lviv: From Ausgleich to the Holocaust*, Sergey R. Kravtsov, Ilia Rodov, and Małgorzata Stolarska-Fronia, eds. (Weimar: Grünberg Verlag, 2019), 7–11.

Sergey Kravtsov, “The Jewish Museum in Lviv: Genius Loci and Realpolitik,” in *Synagogue and Museum*, Katrin Keßler, Ulrich Knufinke, Alexander von Kienlin, and Annette Weber, eds., publications of the Bet Tfila – Research Unit for Jewish Architecture in Europe, vol. 10 (Petersberg: Michael Imhof Verlag, 2018), 101–104.



21st



ICOMOS
INTERNATIONAL WOOD COMMITTEE

International Symposium
New Horizons in the conservation of
wooden built heritage
12th–15th September 2018 York, UK



Wooden Synagogues of Europe



The project **Historic Synagogues of Europe** was undertaken by the Center for Jewish Art at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (CJA) and the Foundation for Jewish Heritage in order to provide – for the first time – a comprehensive inventory of all 3,342 extant synagogue buildings in Europe. The inventory is available online (<http://historicsynagogues.europa.org>) and indicates also the significance and physical condition of every edifice. Synagogues that are today still in existence in various forms account for 17 percent of ca. 20,000 synagogues in Europe before WWII.

Distribution of preserved wooden synagogues by country	
Lithuania	17
Ukraine	9
Belarus	8
Latvia	5
Russia	5
Germany	4
Poland	3
Georgia	2
Azerbaijan	1
Czech Republic	1
Romania	1
Turkey	1

Until the mid-20th century, the majority of synagogues in Eastern Europe were wooden buildings that were devoured in frequent fires, to be immediately replaced with new wooden or stone ones. The atrocities of two world wars, anti-Jewish policies of Communist regimes, and simple neglect wiped out most of these monuments. All magnificent wooden synagogues of the 17th and 18th centuries built by Jewish carpenters and often decorated with murals by Jewish painters have gone and are known today only from photographs and scholarly documentation. What has remained are modest unpretentious buildings which were used for various secular purposes after WWII.

Today, only 57 timber synagogues are preserved, although two were recently replicated in Poland. Among extant wooden synagogues, we rated 27 as having international or national significance and 24 as being in a poor or very bad physical condition. Notwithstanding several successful cases of restoration described below, we are facing the risk of the almost total disappearance of this unique historical and architectural phenomenon.

Synagogues at risk: every step should be taken to preserve these important historic buildings



Istipol Synagogue in Istanbul, Turkey, 1898–1909. Abandoned.



Old (Small) Synagogue in Kulashi, Georgia, 1827. Abandoned.



Synagogue in Kurkila, Lithuania, architect Povilas Jurėnas, 1938. Abandoned.



Synagogue and Rabbi's house in Kallinena, Lithuania, architect Kazys Krulikas, 1938. Abandoned.



Synagogue in Alanta, Lithuania, late 19th century. Under reconstruction.



Soldiers' Synagogue in Tomsk, Siberia, Russia, architect Andrei Langer, 1907. Abandoned.

Vanished wooden synagogues: physical destruction and perpetuated memory



Synagogue in Voupa, Belarus, 18th century. Destroyed during WWII.



Synagogue of Hirzeta/Gvovdzic, Ukraine, mid 17th – 18th century. Burned during WWII.

Salvaged synagogues: restoration in the last minute before collapse



Synagogue in Pakruojis, Lithuania, 1801

The €750,000 project was carried out over three years by the Pakruojis Regional Administration, with financing from Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein under the European Economic Area and Norway financial grants mechanism (EEA). The synagogue was rededicated in 2017. The building houses a children's literature section of the Juzas Paukštelis Public Library and also host concerts and other cultural events. An exhibit tells the history of the Jews of the Pakruojis region.

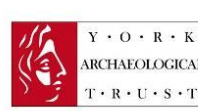


Synagogue in Pakruojis, Lithuania, 1801

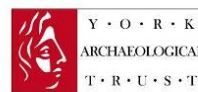


Great Synagogue in Ludza, Latvia. Built ca. 1800, brick clad in late 19th century

The €250,000 restoration project was mainly funded by a grant from the EEA. Other funding came from the city and state. The synagogue was rededicated in 2017. The only synagogue in Latvia to preserve an inner cupola, the building now houses a museum with a multimedia exhibition on Jewish life, culture and local Jewish history, and a section on the World War II Ludza Ghetto.



Historic England



Poster “Wooden Synagogues of Europe” presented at the Symposium of the International Wood Committee of ICOMOS in York