



Activity Update Spring 2014



*The former synagogue in Dubno Suburb in Kremenets (late 19th c.), now a bus station
Photograph by Sergey Kravtsov, 2011*

An illustration from the book *Synagogues in Volhynia (Ukraine)* by Sergey Kravtsov and Vladimir Levin, to be published by the CJA, 2014

**Center for Jewish Art
Hebrew University of Jerusalem**



Digitization

The main efforts of our staff during last year and a half were devoted to the digitization of the Center for Jewish Art collections – a project carried out in cooperation with the National Library of Israel. As mentioned in the previous update, the archives of the CJA were recognized by the Israeli Government as a “Non-Tangible National Heritage,” worthy of being publicized in the National Library's website.

The digitization process consists of three stages. The first is the scanning of photographs, slides, architectural drawings, and handwritten descriptions amassed in our archives since 1979. This stage is nearing completion; up-to-date we have scanned about 200,000 images and expect to scan c. 50,000 more.

The second stage is the most time consuming: it involves the identification of the scanned images and providing them with digital metadata. According to a tight schedule, we have to supply 30,000 metadata items every six months, which is a great burden on our small staff.

The third stage of the process is uploading images and metadata to the CJA page at the National Library website. This is being done by the National Library.

Up-to-date, there are 72,000 images from the Center for Jewish Art collections available in the Internet (web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/English/digitallibrary/cja/Pages/default.aspx), and we expect to upload 30,000 images more this summer.

The project was presented by Dr. Vladimir Levin at EVA/MINERVA: Tenth Annual Conference of the Digitization of Cultural Heritage, November 2013, and at the International Photography Festival “Preserving Intellectual Memory through Photography” in Rishon Le-Zion, April 2014.

The digitization project is supported by the Landmarks Program of Israeli Prime Minister's Office, Harvard University Library, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, and the Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation.



Catalogue of Wall Paintings in European Synagogues

The Center for Jewish Art starts a new project, planned for two years: the preparation of a catalogue of wall paintings in European Synagogues. The aim of the project is to produce a comprehensive digital illustrated catalogue of all known synagogue wall paintings in Europe, from the earliest known frescos of the 16th century until the Holocaust. The catalogue will include images of all surviving synagogue murals found anywhere in Europe, as well as old photographs and descriptions of those destroyed. We hope that the catalogue will shed more light on the phenomenon of synagogue decoration and of Jewish folk art in Central and Eastern Europe.



Beit Tfila Benyamin Synagogue in Chernivtsi, Ukraine

The Catalogue of Synagogues in Lithuania

The long expected presentation of the Center's latest publication, *Synagogues in Lithuania: A Catalogue* took place in Bar Ilan University on March 18, 2014. The main speakers at the event were His Excellency Darius Degutis, the Ambassador of Lithuania in Israel, and Prof. Mordechai Zalkin of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.



Exhibition in the Hebrew University

Eighteen photographs of synagogues from various countries held in the archives of the Center for Jewish Art and a screen showing three-dimensional computer models of synagogues decorate now one of the sectors in the Humanities Building of the Hebrew University at Mount Scopus.



Torah ark curtain, Sa'adon Synagogue in Fes, Morocco (1922)

Academic Conferences

The Ukrainian and Jewish Artistic and Architectural Milieus of Lwów/Lemberg/Lviv: From Ausgleich to Holocaust. Lviv, November 2012.

The conference was a result of cooperation of the Center for Jewish Art, the Center for Urban History of Central-Eastern Europe in Lviv, Polish Institute of World Art Studies, the Leonid Nevzlin Research Center for Russian and East European Jewry in Jerusalem, and the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter Initiative in Toronto. Dr. Sergey Kravtsov of the CJA was the initiator and organizer of the conference and presented there a paper. The proceedings of the



conference, edited by Dr. Kravtsov, Prof. Jerzy Malinowski and Dr. Ilia Rodov are being currently prepared for print.

Jewish Architecture – New Sources and Approaches. April 2014, Braunschweig

The second conference on Jewish architecture (the first one was held in 2007) was organized by the Bet Tfila – Research Unit for Jewish Architecture in Europe, a joint venture of the Technical University in Braunschweig and the Center for Jewish Art. The conference marked the twentieth anniversary of cooperation between the CJA and the Department of Architectural History in TU Braunschweig. It was attended by 70 people from 14 countries and was very successful. CJA was represented at the conference by Prof. Aliza Cohen-Mushlin, Dr. Sergey Kravtsov and Dr. Vladimir Levin. A detailed report on the conference will soon follow.



Participants of the Jewish Architecture – New Sources and Approaches conference in Braunschweig.



Participation of CJA researchers in other conferences

- Prof. Aliza Cohen-Mushlin gave a paper entitled "The Workshop of Hebrew Manuscripts of Hans-Jakob Fugger in Venice, 1548-1552," in a conference of the International Committee of Latin Palaeography held in St. Gallen, Switzerland, in autumn 2013. It is one of the interesting themes to be published in the catalogue of *Hebrew Manuscripts in the Bavarian State Library, Munich*, by the library and the Center for Jewish Art, scheduled in 2015.
- Mr. Ivan Čerešnješ, Dr. Sergey Kravtsov, and Dr. Vladimir Levin of the CJA participated in the Working Seminar on Projects, Challenges and Strategic Thinking "Managing Jewish Immovable Heritage in Europe," held in Kraków in April 2013.
- Dr. Sergey Kravtsov, Dr. Vladimir Levin, Mr. Ido Noy gave papers at the 16th World Congress of Jewish Studies, held in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in July 2013.
- Architect Ivan Čerešnješ was on the Academic Board of the conference "Nationalization, Confiscation and Restitution. Historical, Legal, Economical and Political Issues," Belgrade, Serbia, February, 2014 and presented there a paper.
- Dr. Sergey Kravtsov gave papers at the International Conference under the auspices of *Ars Judaica: The Bar-Ilan Journal of Jewish Art* in memory of Michael J. Floersheim, Bar-Ilan University, September 2012; at the inter-university conference "Research on Polish Jewry and Its Culture: New Trends," Bar-Ilan University, December 2012; and the conference "On the Verge of Modernism: Jewish Contribution to Local Architectures," Technion, Haifa, February 2014.
- Architect Zoya Arshavsky lectured at the International Conference "Thousand-year Sources of Building Culture of Turkmenistan," Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (November



2013), and at the opening of the exhibition "Threads of Silk. Story of Bukharan Jews," in the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv (January 2013).

- Mr. Ido Noy gave papers at the Israel Numismatic Society Monthly Seminars, Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv, March 2013; and at the conference "With Hands on Materials," Jewelry Department, Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem, May 2013.
- Dr. Vladimir Levin participated in the symposium "Genealogy and Family History of Jews in Russia," National Library of Russia, St. Petersburg, September 2012; in the International Research Workshop "Exploring Jewish Urban Space in a European Context," Tel Aviv University, January 2013; in the conference "Jews and Muslims in the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union," the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, June 2013; in the seminar "Documentation and Preservation of Synagogues in Israel" of the Jewish Art Department, Bar-Ilan University, November 2013; and in the seminar "Mental Maps and Making of National Spaces: The Case of Lithuania," Lithuanian Institute of History in Vilnius, January 2014.

Educational Activities

- Dr. Vladimir Levin, together with Prof. Shalom Sabar of the Hebrew University, guided a group of Jewish Historical Seminar in a trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg in July 2013. He also lectured at the Bet Tfila Research Unit in TU Braunschweig in August 2013.
- Architect Ivan Čerešnješ gave a number of lectures at the LIMMUD Conferences in Ohrid, Macedonia (2012), and in Budva, Montenegro (2013). He also lectured in Belgrade, Serbia (December 2012), Prishtina, Kosovo (March 2013), Skoplje, Macedonia (May 2013), Zagreb and Dubrovnik, Croatia (July and August 2013).



- Dr. Sergey Kravtsov gave a course on synagogue architecture in the High School for Hebrew Philology in Toruń, Poland, in November 2013. He also gave lectures in the Institute of Architecture of the Polytechnic University in Lviv (November 2012) and in the Polish Institute of World Art Studies in Warsaw (December 2013).

Recent Publications by the CJA staff

- Sergey Kravtsov and Vladimir Levin, “The Great Synagogue in Dubno,” *Arkhitekturna spadshchyna Volyni*, ed. Petro Rychkov, vol. 3 (Rivne, 2012), 44–59 (in Ukrainian).
- Sergey Kravtsov and Vladimir Levin, “Leviathan Thanks the Lord: *Perek Shirah* on a Wall of the Great Synagogue in Radyvyliv,” *Ars Judaica: The Bar-Ilan Journal of Jewish Art*, 10 (2014): 105–110.
- Zoya Arshavsky, “The private Synagogue of Bukharan Jews,” in *Threads of Silk: Story of Bukharan Jews*. Exhibition Catalog, The Diaspora Museum (Tel Aviv, 2013), 179–180.
- Zoya Arshavsky, “On the Adobe Housing in the Territory of the Post-Mongol Central Asia,” in *Materials of the International Conference “Thousand-Year Sources of Building Culture of Turkmenistan,” Ashgabat-Mary, November 13-14, 2013* (Ashgabat, 2013), 177–179.
- Sergey Kravtsov, “Studies of Jewish Architecture in Central–Eastern Europe in Historical Perspective,” in *The History of Art History in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe*, ed. Jerzy Malinowski, vol. 1 (Toruń: Society of Modern Art & Tako Publishing House, 2012), 183–189.
- Sergey Kravtsov, “The Progressive Synagogue in Lemberg/Lwów/Lviv: Architecture and Community,” *Jews and Slavs*, 23 (2013): 186–214.
- Sergey Kravtsov, “A Note on the Names of the Golden Rose Synagogue in L’viv,” *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry*, 26 (2013): 457–459.



- Vladimir Levin, “Jewish Political Emigration from Imperial Russia: Mapping the World in a Different Way,” in *East European Jews in Switzerland*, eds. Tamar Lewinsky and Sandrine Mayoraz (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2013), 35–52.
- Vladimir Levin, *Russia’s Jews during the Late Imperial Period and the Civil War, 1900–1921*, Open University of Israel, Raanana, 2014 (in Hebrew).
- Ido Noy, “The Victory Wreath of Hyrcanus I,” *Israel Numismatic Research* 7 (2012): 31–42.
- Ido Noy, “Head Decoration Representations on Hasmonean and Herodian Coins,” *Israel Numismatic Research* 8 (2013): 39–53.