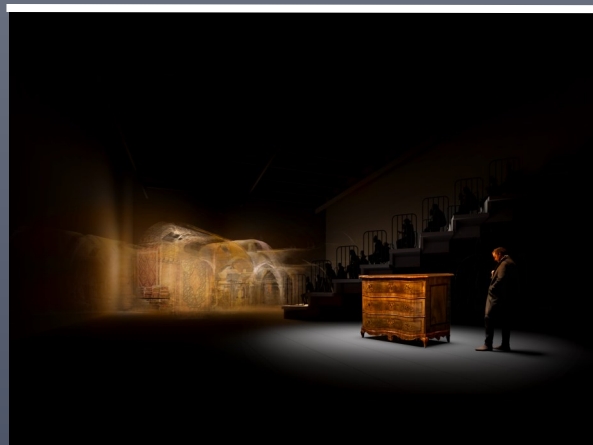




Jewish Country Houses and the Holocaust in History and Memory



Brno, Czech Republic

May 10 - 12, 2023

Convened by Jaclyn Granick (Cardiff),
Cyril Grange (Centre National de la
Recherche Scientifique),
Abigail Green (Oxford), Petr Svoboda
(National Heritage Institute, CZ)



Conference Programme



Funded by:



on the basis of a decision
of the Bundestag



Conference Accommodation NCO NZO, Vlnářská 6, 603 00 Brno-střed

Conference Venue Lecture Room, The Methodological Centre of Modern Architecture (MCMA) in Brno, Preslova 573/53 (next to Villa Stiassni)

This event has received assistance from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, is sponsored by the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future", and is supported by the German Federal Ministry of Finance. We are also very grateful to our partners, the National Heritage Institute NPÚ Czech Republic, for their support.

This is an event of the Jewish Country Houses project (jch.history.ox.ac.uk) which is funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council [AH/S006656/1]. It has been organized with support from Pavlína Petrová (Národní památkový ústav) and Briony Truscott (University of Oxford)

Front cover images from top to bottom:

OSE Children's Home at Villa Helvetia in Montmorency. Photo by Maurice Laserson (Mitau, Lettonie, 1879 - Melbourne, 1964), 1939, Musée d'art et d'histoire du Judaïsme; Château de Seneffe occupied by Alexander von Falkenhausen, military governor of Belgium, with Princess Marie-José of Belgium. Photo by Jo Gérard, 1941-1944; Collection CegeSoma – State Archives in Belgium (OD4), Image no. 7355. Felix's Room. © Adam Ganz/ScanLAB Projects; Villa Tugendhat, Photo by Miroslav Zavadil, National Heritage Institute 2018.

MCMA Wi-Fi: COPA Password: Hroznova14

Day 1, Wednesday 10th May

11:00 Optional visit to Synagogue Agudas Achim (Skořepka 247/13, 602 00 Brno via Tram #1,) with Jaroslav Klenovský (Jewish community of Brno).
Depart from NCONZO at 10.15. Followed by lunch at *U dřevěného orla*.

14.30 Coffee and registration at the MCMA

15.00 Welcome to Brno: Jaclyn Granick (Cardiff) and Petr Svoboda (NHI)

15.15 **Panel One: Spoliation**

Chair: Laura Hobson-Faure (Université Panthéon-Sorbonne-Paris)

- **Cyril Grange**, CNRS-Sorbonne Université
'Spoliation and restitution of Rothschild country houses in France 1940-1951'
- **Elyze Storms-Smeets**, Gelders Genootschap and Dutch Castle Foundation
'War in Arcadia: Dutch country houses and estates in World War II'
- **Yehoshua Ecker**, University of Florida
'From plunder to refuge in the Galician countryside'

16.45 Guided Tour of Villa Stiassni (2 groups)

18:30 **Panel Two: Family Voices**

Chair: Monica Bohm-Duchen (Birkbeck)

Opening with reflection

- **Daria Martin**, Ruskin School of Art, Oxford *joining virtually*
'Return to Home through Dreams: three films about Villa Stiassni'
- **Daniel Low-Beer**, WHO
"Starting from Zero" – newness from the ruins of Schindler's Ark in Brnenec
- **Adam Ganz**, StoryFutures Academy and Royal Holloway
"Felix's Room: Reconstructing a life from a sketch"

20:00 Dinner garden party at MCMA-Villa Stiassni

20:45 Screening of Daria Martin's films in the Loggia

Day Two, Thursday 11th May

09.30 Guided group walk from the NCO NZO Hotel to the MCMA

10.00 **Keynote Lecture: Rebecca Clifford**, Durham University
‘Beyond refuge: Weir Courtney as a site of experimentation, exclusion, memorialisation and forgetting’
Chair: Abigail Green (Oxford)

11.00 Coffee

11:20 **Panel Three: Houses of Refuge**
Chair: Jaclyn Granick (Cardiff)

- **Luisa Levi D’Ancona Modena**, European Forum, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
‘Villa Mayer, a space for Jewish Displaced Persons in Italy’
- **Michal Frankl**, Masaryk Institute and Archives, Czech Academy of Sciences
‘Affluent sanctuaries. Closed borders and the remaking of refugee spaces in Czechoslovakia in 1938’
- **Laura Hobson-Faure**, Université Panthéon-Sorbonne-Paris
‘From Hunting Lodge to Children’s Home: the Rothschild’s Château de la Guette and the Holocaust’

13:00 Schnitzel Lunch

14.00 **Panel Four: Heritage from European houses—Telling Jewish Stories after the Holocaust**
Chair: Aubrey Pomerance (Jewish Museum Berlin)

- **Iryna Lozynska**, Villa Gartenberg, Ukraine
- **Maria Krakowiak**, Villa Żabiński, Poland
- **Joachim Zettl**, Schloss Rothschild, Austria
- **Elijah Sakakushev-von Bismarck**, Villa Seligmann, Germany
- **Lucy Armstrong-Blair**, Croft Castle, UK

15.30 Bus departure for the visit to Villa Tugendhat / Villa Löw-Beer

16.00 **Guided Tour of Villa Tugendhat / Villa Löw-Beer** (2 groups)

- Iveta Černá (architect, director of the Villa Tugendhat)
- Vladimír Březina (art historian, branch manager at the Villa Löw-Beer)

17. 30 **Panel Five: Heritage from the Czech context** (in Villa Löw-Beer)

Chair: Kateřina Báňová (National Heritage Institute)

Opening with reflection

- **Petr Svoboda**, National Heritage Institute
‘The Fate of Rothschild’s Schillersdorf and Gutmann’s Tobitschau (Tovačov) after 1938’
- **Iveta Černá**, Brno City Museum, Villa Tugendhat
‘Villa Tugendhat in WWII and Afterwards in Historical Photographs’
- **Petr Czajkowski**, National Heritage Institute
‘Villa Stiassni (and Villa Tugendhat) in the Light of Police Protocols’
- **Martin Šolc**, National Heritage Institute
‘The Gomperz Family and South Moravian Heritage in the Period of Occupation’
- **Kateřina Vajdáková**, Masaryk University
‘The Drawing Collection of Arnold Skutezky (1850-1936) and its Fate during the Protectorate’

19.00 Garden dinner party

20.15 Performance of **“The Story of the Book”** by **Hana Mikolášková** at Villa Löw-Beer, introduced by Eva Yildizová (director of Štetl Fest, Brno)

21.45 Return bus departure to the NCO NZO Hotel



Villa Löw-Beer, National Heritage Institute

Day Three, Friday 12th May

09:00 Departure on foot from NCO NZO to the MCMA.
Please bring your workshop object/source.

09:30 **'Memory Lies in the Objects': A Workshop on Excavating Jewish Traces after the Holocaust**

Keynote Presentation: Ruth Ur (Yad Vashem Berlin/urKultur)
'Sixteen Objects: Rethinking Remembrance'
Chair: Jaclyn Granick

11.30 Coffee (*Daria Martin calling in*)

12.00 **Panel Six: Ruptures and Afterlives, East and West**
Chair: Tetyana Pavlush (Cardiff)

- **Lucy Wasensteiner**, Liebermann-Villa am Wannsee
'Reconstructing the Liebermann-Villa: A Country House and its Art Collection from Expropriation to Musealisation'
- **Tullia Catalan**, University of Trieste
'A Lost Jewish Heritage: Villa Antonini-Brunner during the Fascist and Nazi Persecution and beyond '
- **Milena Woźniak -Koch**, Polish Academy of Sciences, Berlin
'The Kronenbergs: Lost Heritage of the 'Warsaw Rothschilds''

13.30 Schnitzel Lunch & Concluding Discussion

14.45 **Conference Ends**



Kronenberg Palace on Fire in Warsaw, 1939.
Photo from the Ilustrowany Kurier Codzienny.
Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe, 3/1/0/9/7150.