Abstract

The Jewish Museum in Prague was founded in 1906, and it counts among the oldest Jewish museums in Europe. Visited by more than half a million people every year, it is one of the most visited museums in Prague. The former Jewish Quarter of Prague, where the museum is situated, was entered on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1992. The museum administers four historical synagogues, a Ceremonial Hall, the Old Jewish Cemetery, a number of depositories and archives, the Robert Guttmann Gallery, and a library with a multimedia center. This specialized Jewish studies library owns a rich book and archive fund, which contains more than 130,000 volumes about the history and culture of the Jews. Most Judaica and other items in the collection come from the property of Jewish communities and families murdered in the Holocaust. Therefore, the collection tells a lot about the history, traditions and customs of the Jewish inhabitants of Bohemia and Moravia. The above facts make the museum a guardian of not only Czech, but also of international cultural heritage.

The year 1994 was a turning point for the Jewish Museum in Prague – it was the year when all the buildings of the museum were returned by the state to the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic. The museum thus became a non-government institution, and started a whole new era of its existence. In 2014, the collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague became part of the Google Art Project, which is aimed at the digitalization of a number of collection of museums and galleries. Thanks to new media, new opportunities have opened for the broader presentation of the Jewish Museum in Prague not only in the Czech Republic, but abroad as well.