

Annotation

The Habry Jewish community is not insignificant, but it draws attention to its hidden importance both in terms of the year of the first appearance of Jews (i.e. 1341) and the people who appeared there. Dr. A. Stránský was born there, the commercial council of August G. Stránský's government came from there; not far from Habry, there was the last Yeshiva in traditional schooling in the Czech Lands, the place where the Habry Jews would go to be educated, and where the later Chief Rabbi R. Feder taught Habry's Jewish children.

From the population list we can gather that the community there was not always large. From information on which this study is based, and which relates mostly to the period of the 19th and 20th centuries, that is, the time when Jews enjoyed more freedom in their activities and lives, it is apparent that the elevation of Habry was connected with the Jews who lived there. We should remember a doctor's free medical treatment for poor Jews, the founding of the *Werfel and Böhm* factory, which provided employment for up to 100 people, help to Jewish businessmen in issuing food stamps when poverty was at large, or the establishment of bus transport until Habry's elevation to the status of a town, and many other matters connected with the lives of the Jews. The Habry Jews were an important part of society and the contribution of their members can be felt to this day, especially in the person of Dr. A. Stránský, the founder of *Lidové Noviny* and one of the founders of the first Czech-Jewish societies in the Czech Lands. Based on research focusing on comparing archival information, however, it can be seen that not even the great significance of Jews for Habry could prevent anti-Semitic coloured behaviour towards people of Jewish origin at the close of the 1930's, with the date of the strengthening occupation drawing ever nearer (e.g. in the resolution of the city council in 1938, stating that "*doctors of Jewish origin are neither welcome nor desirable*"). These expressions were preceded even in previous years by crude anti-Semitic newspaper articles, defamation with unsubstantiated accusations of having started a fire and much more. Having assessed found materials, it is evident that the occupation by German soldiers and their oppressive manner towards Jews was not the only cause of anti-Semitism among Czech people, but this circumstance in some cases facilitated the manifestation of previously latent attitudes of hate towards Jews. From a survey of archival material, it has also emerged that the whole system of gradual oppression of the Jewish inhabitants during the occupations was elaborately refined, legally substantiated, and even gives the impression of having been taken for granted, hidden behind a veil of state regulations. The oppression continued in concentration camps, to where the Habry Jews were dragged and the majority of them murdered.