

Igor Ivan, Jiří Kovář

Ostrava and the Ostrava region in 2011 census data

This article is closely related to the text on the 2011 census published in Volume 28; it again presents an analysis of Ostrava, this time in comparison with the city's hinterland – i.e. the municipalities in the neighbouring districts. The primary source of data for analysis and comparison is the national census of 2011. The article also draws on other sources in order to ensure that the analysis is as up-to-date as possible and presents an accurate picture of the situation in the region. The results are presented in tables, graphs and maps. The introduction characterizes and delineates the Ostrava region, focusing on demographic developments with respect to migration into and out of the city's hinterland. The authors then present the changing age structure of the population, which shows a clear ageing trend. The article moves on to analyze the structure of the population in terms of education, types of households, nationality and religious affiliation; the latter two areas clearly show the (lack of) quality of the census data. The authors also analyze the data on (un)employment and occupation by sector. The final section of the article focuses on the striking differences between Ostrava itself and the city's hinterland; this forms the background for a discussion on the appropriacy of the current administrative delineation. The conclusion summarizes the results presented in the article and compares the situation in the Ostrava region with the neighbouring region on the Polish side of the border, situating Ostrava and its hinterland in the wider context of the (more populous) Katowice region.

Martin Juřica

State cultural policy and its impact on musical and theatrical life in Ostrava during the 1970s and 1980s

The period of 'normalization' – the political crackdown that followed the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 – brought a tightening of restrictions on freedom of speech. Many figures who had been associated with the political thaw of the late 1960s were excluded from public life; the trial featuring the members of the Waterloo theatre was meant to serve as an exemplary case in the theatrical community. In Ostrava, more than perhaps anywhere else in Czechoslovakia, the communist party functionaries were fiercely hostile towards works with religious content. Theatre (especially drama) was subjected to much stricter controls than music. The city's puppet theatre was explicitly instructed to educate young audiences in the spirit of atheism. Many representatives of cultural life adapted to the new circumstances. The degree of loyalty to the new regime varied widely; some figures were

entirely devoted to it, while others developed strategies involving greater or lesser degrees of compromise.

Lukáš Vaculík

National ecclesiastical policy in the Ostrava region 1948–1953

This study traces the development of communication between the state authorities and the Roman Catholic Church in the Ostrava region from 1948 to 1953, viewing it in the wider context of ecclesiastical history in Czechoslovakia. It focuses primarily on the changes implemented in ecclesiastical policy after the communist takeover in 1948, anti-ecclesiastical measures and attempts by the state authorities to control and monitor all Church activity. The article also gives an overview of the key representatives of the Church and the clergy, as well as outlining the administrative structures of the Church in the Ostrava region during the period under investigation.

Petr Kašing

Příbram? Prague? Ostrava!!! Sources on the relocation of the VŠB-Technical University to Ostrava

The VŠB-Technical University ranks among Europe's oldest academic institutions specializing in mining. It was established in 1849 as a mining college in the Bohemian town of Příbram. In 1895 it gained university status, and in 1904 it was renamed the Příbram Mining University (Vysoká škola báňská). After the Second World War the university was relocated to Ostrava on the basis of a decree issued by President Edvard Beneš on 8 September 1948. The relocation was not merely a politically motivated move. Although both academic staff and students considered Prague to be the only viable future location for the university, the industrial Ostrava region represented a better alternative, enabling the institution to grow and flourish. Other important motivations for the move included the central importance of revitalizing Czechoslovakia's economy in the post-war years. The main problem arose in connection with the difficulty of finding adequate premises in Ostrava; the university was re-opened in November 1945 in a range of temporary buildings that had previously been schools.

Mečislav Borák

The deportation of Jews to Mauritius (1940–1945)

In 1939 and 1940, over 300 Czechoslovak Jews sought to escape from Nazi persecution by fleeing the country for Palestine; this involved a dangerous journey along the Danube and the Mediterranean coast. On their arrival, however, the British authorities barred them from entering Palestine; they were deported as illegal immigrants to an internment camp on the island of Mauritius, where they lived (with other Central European Jews) until the summer of 1945. The strict regime at the camp was hard for them to bear, as was the restriction of personal liberty and the tropical climate. Most of the men from the Czechoslovak group joined Czechoslovak or Jewish military units, fighting alongside the Allies. It was not until after the war that they were finally able to realize their dream of settling in the land of their ancestors. Extracts from historical studies, memoirs and archive sources commemorate the tragic and heroic fate of these refugees, many of whom came from the Ostrava region.

Jakub Gryžboň

Road transport-related professions in the Ostrava region, 1918–1938 (Part 2)

Following on from Part 1 of the study, this article maps a number of different road transport-related professions in the Ostrava region, including the trade in motor vehicles and accessories, repair shops, vulcanizing shops, garages and car hire firms, guarded car parks, driving schools, the trade in petrol and mineral oils, and petrol stations. The final part of the article outlines the history of five major Ostrava-based companies which made an important contribution to the development of road transport-related business in the region. The main focus of attention is on the period of the First Czechoslovak Republic between the two world wars, which witnessed a huge boom in this field of business. The post-war years proved to be merely a temporary interlude before the companies were ultimately nationalized in 1950.

Ondřej Kolář

The forgotten criminologist and museum worker František Kocián

The article traces the life and career of the criminologist František Kocián, born in 1896 at Kateřinky near Opava. When Czechoslovakia gained its independence, in the autumn of 1918, Kocián helped to form the National Guards in the Opava region; he later worked as a security consultant for the provincial government. When the provincial government was disbanded in 1928 he joined the police force in Opava and began to publish articles on criminological theory. He also established a police museum and archive in the city; he continued his museum work when he was transferred to Moravská Ostrava in 1938. During the Nazi occupation he used his museum – located at the police directorate – as a cover for his work in the resistance

movement, maintaining close contacts with the illegal group led by the teacher Emil Hájek. After the war he faced accusations of collaboration. Although these were not proved, Kocián nevertheless had to leave the police force. In the late 1960s he wrote several volumes of memoirs, though their location still remains unknown.

Blažena Przybylová, Jozef Šerka

The changing names of streets and public spaces in the cadastral districts of Zábřeh nad Odrou, Zábřeh-VŽ and Zábřeh-Hulváky

The paper brings a brief overview of changing names of streets and public areas in the cadastral districts of Zábřeh nad Odrou, Zábřeh-VŽ and Zábřeh-Hulváky from 1910 (when these administrative units were established) until the present day. The first part of the article focuses on the factors which influenced the process of change – both factors stemming from within the municipality (primarily the growth in population, construction of housing, and the development of the road network) and also factors which had an effect on the entire city within its historic boundaries (the merging of municipalities, plus socio-political changes with nationwide impact). The second part of the article consists of an alphabetical list of the names of streets and public areas, both existing and defunct, including explanations; the list is compiled on the basis of archive materials, printed street indexes, address books and map sources.

Kamil Rodan

Roth's pub in Nová Ves, Ostrava

The history of Roth's pub in Ostrava's Nová Ves district is a model example of a business run by three generations of three Jewish families – the Sonnenscheins, the Guttmanns and the Roths. In the context of the political and economic emancipation of the Jewish community in the Ostrava region during the second half of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, Roth's pub became synonymous with the community's growing economic prosperity and ambition. Covering a period of almost a hundred years, the article sketches the determination and hard work of people who – despite the difficult circumstances in which they had to operate – were determined to achieve their business goals and prove to the public as a whole that what had once seemed impossible could now become a reality. Thanks to the business acumen of its owners, Roth's pub became not only a model example of a successfully implemented business plan, but also something of a cultural phenomenon. The existence of the pub left an indelible imprint on the history of Nová Ves.

Irena Moravcová, Zbyněk Moravec, Jaroslava Novotná, Michal Živný

Mariana Máchová (1817–1837) and her family

In 2007 an archeological survey at the former cemetery of St Luke's chapel (today Puchmajerova St. in Ostrava city centre) unearthed the skeletal remains of a woman aged around 20. A post-mortem horizontal incision was identified on her skull. By studying death registers it was possible to determine that the woman was one Mariana Máchová (1. 7. 1817–23. 12. 1837), the daughter of the prominent Ostrava burgher Vincenc Mácha and the sister of the priest Jan Mácha, who went on to become the rector of the university in Olomouc. She lived her whole life in house no. 19, where she also died. An autopsy was carried out by the healer Antonín Žídek (denoted by the horizontal incision). The cause of death was stated as dyspnea and a stroke. However, the probate record of 30 December 1837 states that she committed suicide; this was probably not known at the time of her burial. Several facts indicate that she poisoned herself, perhaps with arsenic.

Romana Rosová, Martin Strakoš

Like a Phoenix from the ashes... The history and renewal of the historic wooden Church of St Catherine in Ostrava-Hrabová

The wooden Church of St Catherine in Ostrava-Hrabová was evidently built in the period 1538–1564. At this time it did not yet have the distinctive tower offset from the nave; instead it had a prismatic tower on the ridge of the roof. The offset tower was probably built in 1787. In 1898–1903 the church – which had fallen into disrepair – underwent a major programme of repairs. Obsolete structural components were replaced, the unsuitable interior whitewashing was removed and replaced by murals imitating timber, and the interior fittings were also renewed (e.g. the pulpit). The next major repairs came in the first half of the 20th century and at the end of the century. However, on 2 April 2002 the newly renovated church was destroyed by fire. The parishioners of Hrabová reached an agreement with representatives of the Ostrava-Opava Diocese and the state heritage conservation authorities that an expert reconstruction of the building would be carried out. The project was coordinated by Antonín Závada and implemented in 2003–2004 by the building contractors Juráň of Vsetín. The design for the interior (completed in 2005) was produced in 2003–2004 by the Brno-based architect Marek Štěpán in conjunction with Zuzana Morávková and the painter René Vlasák. The result is a combination of a replica of the former building with an interior of great artistic

and technical quality – evoking the past while applying contemporary forms and modern techniques.

Gabriela Pelikánová

Not every region has its Eduard Šebela

Between the two world wars, Eduard Šebela (1878–1952), the General Director of the Vítkovice Coal Mining Corporation (Vítkovické kamenouhelné doly), ranked among the most prominent figures in the Ostrava mining industry. He was also a major benefactor and sponsor of the city's arts and cultural scene. He was the chairman of the Association for the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre and the Association for the Construction and Management of an Exhibition Pavilion in Moravská Ostrava. His name is also closely associated with the development of tourism, hiking and skiing in the Beskydy mountains. As a member and chairman of the Radhošť Mountaineering Association in Ostrava he helped to create hiking paths, publish the first map of the Beskydy mountains (1908), and build chalets for mountain hikers and skiers, such as the Tanečnice chalet at Pustevny (1926). Šebela's public life came to a de facto end in 1940, when the Nazi occupying regime forced him into early retirement (as Czechs were not permitted to hold prominent management positions); his work in local associations was also severely restricted. He lived a reclusive life at his villa in Kunčice pod Ondřejníkem. His fate was further exacerbated by the changed political situation following the communist takeover in 1948.

Milan Palák

The early years of the baritone Václav Bednář and the beginnings of his musical career in Ostrava

The outstanding baritone of the Prague National Theatre Václav Bednář (1905–1987) began his musical career at the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre in 1928–1936; he then moved to the Provincial Theatre in Brno, and ultimately to Prague after the war. He performed 85 different roles on the Ostrava stage; before being given a permanent post, he also played a number of small dramatic parts. According to those who saw him perform – documented mainly by the music critic Milan Balcar – Bednář was an outstanding artist (both as a singer and as an actor) from the early beginnings of his career. In addition to his operatic and theatrical performances, he also performed at concert halls and gave live radio broadcasts in Ostrava.

Tomáš Karkoszka, Jaroslava Novotná

The life of the ambitious Ostrava printer Rudolf Vichnar (1861–1943)

Rudolf Vichnar (1861–1943) was one of the founders of three Ostrava print works (in Přívoz, Moravská Ostrava and Mariánské Hory) with a long tradition. They mainly printed books for a regional readership, advertising and promotional materials, statutes of associations, annual reports, cultural programmes, posters, and the official bulletin of the district authority. The Přívoz works printed the pro-Catholic newspaper Ostravsko-přívozské noviny (later renamed Ostravské noviny), and the Moravská Ostrava works printed the regional newspaper Ostravský kraj. In addition to his professional career, Vichnar was also actively involved in the life of the Czech community in the region, both politically and socially. He was a keen amateur dramatic actor and he maintained contacts with a wide range of Czech cultural associations in Ostrava. He also published numerous articles and texts, including works on the early history of the region's amateur dramatic scene, print works and newspapers. His successor as the head of the company was his elder son Jaroslav. His younger son Jindřich moved to Prague in 1919, embarking on a career as an artistic typographer.

Šárka Glombíčková

“... We march cold-bloodedly towards our unhappy fate.” Letters of the Ettinger siblings from Krakow to Ostrava 1940–1942

After the Munich Agreement of September 1938 Polish forces expelled the Czech population of the Těšín/Cieszyn region. The Czech authorities faced the problem of accommodating the refugees, and the Ostrava Police Directorate decided to deal with the situation by expelling Polish nationals from the city “in retribution”. Among them were a Jewish family, Adolf and Hermína Ettinger from Hrušov, and their children. They chose Krakow as their new home. Their son Alfred remained in Ostrava and attempted to emigrate to the Dominican Republic, though without success. When the war broke out he was arrested and placed on the third Protectorate transport train to Nisko. From a camp in Sosnowiec he eventually reached his family in Krakow in early 1940. The first letter by the twins Eliška and Edita and their brother Alfred to their friend Marie Gašová from Radvanice is dated February 1940. Their correspondence reveals the family's living conditions in Krakow and nearby Niepołomice. Their tragic fate was sealed in August 1942 with the liquidation of the ghetto in Wieliczka, where Jews from Niepołomice and the surrounding area had been placed by the Nazis.

Jiří Krátký

Organs in Moravská Ostrava and elsewhere in the light of the Staudingers' family correspondence

In 2014, restoration work on the Staudinger-built organ at the Church of St Peter and Paul in Kružberk (Opava district) found documents addressed to the Staudingers, a prominent organ-making family from Andělská Hora. The most important source is a letter from 1803 in which the son, Fabian Sebastian, describes to his father, Joseph Sebastian, the old organ (which at that time still existed) in Ostrava's Church of St Wenceslas. Based on this letter, it is possible to date the Staudingers' plans for the reconstruction of the organ (held at the Ostrava City Archives) to 1803. In addition to details of the Ostrava organ, the letter also mentions a contract to build an organ in Dolní Lutyně; today only the cabinetwork of this instrument has survived. Further information concerns a business trip and more details on other organs in Moravia (e.g. at Klenovice in the Haná region).

Eva Rohlová

A dispute over an evil spirit – a magical root in Moravská Ostrava at the end of the 17th century

This study contains the edited text of a record contained in the oldest surviving chronicle of Moravská Ostrava, covering the period 1565–1757. A Czech-language text dated 20 July 1699 reports on a dispute among three women inhabitants of the town, concerning an allegedly magical root known as a 'spiritusek', which was purchased 13 years prior to the dispute by the Ostrava burgher Jiřík Anturin. The root was meant to protect the house from fire and help its owner to acquire money. In connection with this root, Anturin's widow Brigita (who later remarried, becoming Brigita Parojková), was accused by two neighbours of being in league with an evil spirit. She sued her accusers at the town's court, and won the dispute. The record reveals the superstitions of the town's population at the time. It is also a unique record of a dispute which could potentially have led to a witch trial.