

SUMMARY

Igor Ivan, Jiří Kovář

Specific features of different parts of Ostrava (sociodemographic profile and types of housing)

This article presents an analysis of the results of the 2011 census comparing different parts of Ostrava. The analysis consists of three main sections. First it focuses on the city's current 23 municipal districts; it then turns its attention to 5 sectors of the city delineated on the basis of historical, legal and urbanistic factors; and finally it explores distinct areas of the city delineated according to the prevailing type of housing (city centre, detached houses, mixed housing, urban housing – older urban housing, newer housing estates). Focusing on selected indicators, the article documents differences in the population structure between individual parts of the city, while also confirming the underlying trend towards the homogenization of Ostrava's population structure.

Key words: Ostrava, census, population, housing

Mečislav Borák

The internment of passengers from the SS Alsina in West Africa during 1941 and their subsequent fates

One chapter from the early years of the Second World War still remains almost completely unknown: the internment of passengers from the SS Alsina in West Africa by the authorities of the French Vichy regime. The steamship Alsina was carrying around 500 people who were attempting to flee Nazi-occupied Europe for Brazil; the ship left Marseille in January 1941. However, the Vichy authorities feared that the ship might be intercepted and confiscated by Allied forces, so they forbade it from setting out on its Transatlantic voyage, and detained it – and its passengers – in the port of Dakar. The passengers included around 75 Czechoslovak citizens, among them several people from the Ostrava region. The Czechoslovak General Consulate in New York intervened in an attempt to rescue them, but in June 1941 they were taken to the Moroccan city of Casablanca, where they were held in internment camps while their travel documents were processed. By the end of 1941 they had found their way to South America and the USA. A lively account of the events is given both by archive materials and by the refugees' memoirs.

Key words: SS Alsina, Marseille, Dakar, Casablanca, Jewish Refugees

Radomír Sed'a, Hana Šústková

From the construction of the Vítkovice Ironworks stadium to a modern municipal sports facility (1937–2016)

Sport as a mass leisure activity is a phenomenon of the 20th century. The growing popularity of sport – both among active participants and spectators – was reflected in the construction of community sports facilities funded either by public institutions (such as municipal stadiums), sports clubs, or private companies (as was the case of the stadium in Vítkovice). From the late 19th century the management of the Vítkovice Mining and Iron Company supported local sport by building a number of sports halls and outdoor sports facilities; these were used mainly by schoolchildren, but they also served sports clubs and associations in the local area. During the 1930s the Vítkovice Sports Social Club (SSK Vítkovice) persuaded the company's management of the need to build a modern athletics stadium with a football pitch. Though the stadium has undergone several major renovations and modernizations since its construction, it still continues to play a central role in Ostrava's sporting life.

Key words:

Ostrava municipal stadium, Vítkovice Mining and Iron Company, Oskar Federer, Vítkovice Sports Social Club, sport, athletics, football, Vítkovice Ironworks

Kamil Rodan

How the Sokol association in Nová Ves planned to open a pub

The establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state in 1918 led to an unprecedented growth in the popularity of Czech national sports and gymnastics associations. The Sokol movement played a dominant role among these associations, and one of its main aims was to ensure that its local branches became fully integrated into community life. The local Sokol branch in the village of Nová Ves (now part of Ostrava) broke away from the central Ostrava headquarters in 1923; soon afterwards, it established a cooperative organization whose task was to secure the necessary funding that would enable the branch to build its own premises. The plan was to raise the money by running a pub, which was felt to be an easy and effective source of income. However, the application to open a pub with a licence to serve alcoholic beverages met with opposition from the local community in Nová Ves, as well as from local innkeepers, trade unions, and the Sokol movement itself (both at city and national level). After two years of efforts, the application was finally rejected. The events of those two years offer an insight into the political and economic situation during the early years of the new republic, as well as documenting the finances of clubs and associations at the time.

Key words: Nová Ves (Ostrava), Sokol, pub licence, First Czechoslovak Republic, associations

Lukáš Lisník

Students at Czech-language secondary schools in Moravská Ostrava and Přívoz from 1919–1938

This paper presents an analysis of students at Czech-language secondary schools in Ostrava from 1919 to 1938. The students at these schools are stratified according to their territorial, social and cultural (religion, mother tongue) origins. Depending on the type of stratification discussed, the results are compared with data for students and the total population of Czechoslovakia and its individual provinces. The article aims to determine who the target students of these schools were, which social groups were keen to provide their children with at least a secondary education, and which social groups could afford this level of education. The text also includes a brief overview of the history of the individual schools.

Key words:

secondary education, stratification, school student lists, Moravská Ostrava, Přívoz

Martin Juřica

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the circus... The history of circus performances in Ostrava from the 1840s to 1960

The history of the circus in Ostrava began in the 1840s, when the region was visited by circus artists and menageries. Three decades later, Moravská Ostrava and the surrounding communities had become firmly established as destinations for major touring circuses. At the turn of the 20th century the city hosted world-renowned companies such as Barnum & Bailey and Buffalo Bill's Wild West. Both before the First World War and during the inter-war years, the famous Kludský circus made Ostrava its base during the winter months. During the Second World War the city hosted renowned circuses such as Busch and Krone. The period 1945–1960 is associated with the timber-built "Beskyd" circus venue, which was home to the top circus artists Henry and Humberto. Another popular circus venue was the Černá Louka site in the city centre.

Key words: circus, leisure, artists, menagerie, circus tent, Ostrava

Antonín Barcuch

Coal-miners' bands in the Ostrava region

Popular music has always formed an integral part of Ostrava's rich musical culture, and a special role in the region's popular music was played by coal-miners' bands. The first documented reference to a miners' band dates from 1843. The scene was dominated by the United Miners' Band, founded in 1862 on the initiative of the mining engineer Vilém Jičínský. The band was a joint project co-financed by all the local mining companies, and its musicians were recruited from several different local collieries. The band achieved great success under the baton of the outstanding conductor, choirmaster and composer Václav Ludwig (1837–1915), and it became known for its concerts with the Lumír amateur choir in Moravská Ostrava. Before the First World War, coal-miners' bands functioned as hugely important centres of musical culture and education, and they helped to popularize numerous new compositions (often written by the bands' conductors).

Key words: coal-miners' bands, musical culture, Václav Ludwig, Ostrava

Jan Galeta

Nádražní Street – Ostrava's first villa quarter

The oldest part of Nádražní Street in Moravská Ostrava has undergone a series of transformations during the course of its history – from a rural community, to a quarter known for its exclusive villas, ultimately becoming today's wide urban boulevard. The article focuses on the second of the above-mentioned phases, characterized by a pastiche form of architecture known as Historicism. During the 1850s and 1860 a number of Ostrava's prominent citizens built their villas here – ranging from local politicians to the building contractors Josef Kraus and Franz G. Böhm – followed in the 1880s by the villa of the doctor and politician Otto André, in the 1890s by a villa for the stone merchant Josef Becke, and in the first decade of the 20th century by the villa built for Josef Kraus's son Karl. The article traces the historical development of this part of Nádražní Street in terms of its architecture, urban planning, and transport systems – including the widening of the street to make space for tramlines in the 1890s and the construction of new streets in the vicinity. The author then focuses on the architectural history of the individual villas – their layout and functional use, the people who lived in them, a stylistic analysis, and details of their owners and architects.

Key words: villa architecture, Historicism, Secession, Moravská Ostrava, Nádražní Street

Zbyněk Moravec, Irena Moravcová

Cemeteries in Moravská Ostrava up to 1785

In the period under investigation, Ostrava had three cemeteries in regular use: at the Church of St Wenceslas, at the Church of St Mark, and at the Chapel of St Luke (previously known as Na Zámčisku). The most prestigious places of rest were the interior of the Church of Wenceslas and the crypt at the Chapel of St Luke. The cemetery at the Church of St Mark – probably the second oldest cemetery in Ostrava, established in the 16th century – was used by people at the lowest end of the social spectrum, and it retained this role until it ceased to function in 1860. The cemetery at Na Zámčisku appears to have initially been used as an auxiliary site when capacity at the other cemeteries was exceeded. By 1774 it had become the city's main cemetery, but statistical analysis shows that most people buried there came from the outlying communities and parishes around Ostrava. For a long time, the cemetery at the Church of St Wenceslas served as Ostrava's main burial site. It was used mainly for inhabitants of the most prestigious part of Ostrava – the central part of the city.

Key words: Ostrava, cemetery, Modern Era, archeology, death

Gabriela Pelikánová

Not every region has its Tlapák

Rudolf Tlapák (1884–1940), a teacher at the Czech State Secondary School in Moravská Ostrava and a Czechoslovak Legionary, played a major role in Ostrava's cultural life and educational scene in the inter-war years. During the First World War Tlapák became an active member (and later the Chairman) of the local branch of the Czechoslovak Legion. In the 1920s and 1930s he organized celebrations to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Zborov, and in 1931 he was instrumental in establishing the Czechoslovak Legion Museum in Ostrava. He applied his organizational skills as a functionary in numerous clubs, associations and other institutions. He was the secretary of the Masaryk People's School (from 1920), the Cultural Council for the Wider Ostrava Region (from 1921), and the Association for the Construction and Maintenance of an Exhibition Pavilion in Moravská Ostrava (from 1923). He was the editor of the monthly educational magazine 'Černá země' ('The Black Country') and an annual publication on educational work in the wider Ostrava region. He died in 1940 at the Oranienburg concentration camp.

Key words: Rudolf Tlapák, Czech State Secondary School, Moravská Ostrava, Czechoslovak Legion, 'Černá země' magazine, Masaryk People's School, Cultural Council for the Wider Ostrava Region, Ostrava Art Gallery

Janusz Spyra

Ostrava's rabbis and the Ostrava Rabbinate before the Second World War

Jews were forbidden to live in Moravská Ostrava for a long time; they only started to settle there in the second half of the nineteenth century. Similar restrictions affected the neighbouring community of Polská Ostrava (now Silesian Ostrava) and the surrounding area, as well as the whole of Cieszyn (Teschen) Silesia. The first Jewish religious community in Cieszyn Silesia was officially organized in Cieszyn after 1848. From 1858 the community's rabbi was Simon Friedmann. An official religious community based in Moravská Ostrava was established in 1875. Its rabbis were Simon Friedmann (1876–1891), Bernhard Zimmels (1891–1893) and Jakob Spira (1894–1942). As the number of community members grew, assistant rabbis were employed: Ruben Färber (from 1902) and Arnošt/Ernst Baas (from 1924).

Key words: rabbi, rabbinate, assistant rabbi, Jewish religious community, Cieszyn, Teschen, Těšín, Silesia, Moravia, Moravská Ostrava

Jana Prchalová

Memoirs of the Stará Bělá mayor and chronicler Emanuel Šindel, focusing on his imprisonment in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp

The memoirs of Emanuel Šindel (1897–1979) from Stará Bělá describe the key moments in his personal life – from his childhood and school years to his first job at the Vítkovice Ironworks (1912–1924) and his work as a local chronicler after his retirement. Šindel's memoirs also give details on his involvement in public life; he played an active role in the Social Democratic Party, he was the mayor of Stará Bělá from 1931 to 1939, and he was the Chairman of the Association of Mayors for the Ostrava District. This article focuses its attention mainly on the part of his memoirs that relates to his arrest at the beginning of the Second World War (on 1 September 1939) and the six years he spent as a prisoner in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

Key words: Emanuel Šindel, Second World War, memoirs, concentration camp, Sachsenhausen, Stará Bělá, Vítkovice Ironworks

Blažena Przybylová

The end of the Second World War and the first days of the liberation in the memoirs of Alois Berger from Stará Bělá

The highly detailed account given in the memoirs of Alois Berger from Stará Bělá – an employee of the Vítkovice Ironworks – maps not only political events, but also everyday life

during the Second World War, from June 1941 to the first months following the liberation of Czechoslovakia in 1945. The article focuses on Berger's account of the turbulent events that accompanied the Soviet Army's 'Ostrava-Opava Operation', when there were still German troops in Stará Bělá, and on the first days following the village's liberation by the Red Army on 1 May 1945. This represents just a small fraction of Berger's memoirs; the original manuscript consists of more than 600 typewritten pages.

Key words: Alois Berger, memoirs, Stará Bělá, Second World War, 1945 liberation

Ladislav Grygar

Fates divided by the ocean – travelling to Argentina with Missler

Based on a small number of surviving letters from the period 1905–1920, the article traces the story of Marianna and Josef Grygar from Svinov. They were one of many married couples whose relationship ultimately fell apart due to the emigration of one of the partners during the early years of the 20th century. Josef's first letter contains a very detailed, enthusiastic account of his journey, instructing his wife on how to organize her own journey to join him by contacting the emigration agent Ferdinand Missler. However, in his later letters – written at quite sporadic intervals – we can find only brief news of his entirely unsuccessful attempts to establish himself and find suitable employment in Argentina.

Key words: Argentina, emigration, Missler, Svinov, Josef Grygar