The records of Moravia, Silesia and Bohemia - similarities and differences

1788-1949

INTENTION
↓
decrees &
regulations

RECORDS
↓
content &
structure

plus
historic and geographic background
↓
AVAILABILITY today

Toledot, Prague, CR
Short historic preview ~ DECREES

1734 a rescript on marriages (age of bride and groom)
1766 circumcision books
1783 birth records of girls
1784 Joseph II.’s decree on vital records
   - preprinted format, records keepers, etc.
1874 a decree to keep the duplicates
1949 the agenda transferred to the state
Historic preview and the records

Joseph II. CSSR

1784 1938/1939 1949

1797

1874 1938

1797 1838 1868 (1890)

1797 Systemal Patent issued by Franz I.

1838 Decree enforcing the control duplicates led by nearby catholic church

Toledot, Prague, CR
18./19. century - country administration
In Moravia, Jews were expelled from „royal“ town in abt. 1440 (earlier than in Bohemia) and the families settled in small towns but did not scattered to small villages like in Bohemia. There were 52 rather large Jewish communities in Moravia. The restriction on number of families (5400) was lifted in 1849.

In Silesia, there were not large communities until abt. 1860. Individual families were coming from Moravian communities (Singers from Ivančice to Těšín, many Jews from Jeviško to Osoblaha, etc.). The restriction on number of families (119) was lifted as early as in 1794.
As always - accessibility is heavily influenced by historic events...

Sudetenland in 1939

Toledot, Prague, CR
Three major sources of Jewish records today:

1. Prague Natl. Archive - collections HBMa a HBM
2. Jewish Museum Prague
3. Local state archives - network of regional a district archives
Today, many vital records from central Moravia and Silesia are missing, esp. those of period 1846-1873, 1874-1900.
1. Prague Natl. Archive - collections HBMa a HBM
   = dupl.   = cath.dupl.

Bohemia ~ abt. 770 places ~ today 2 030 duplicate books
(only 7 of 770 partly missing)   plus   701 cath. dupl. books

Moravia ~ 52 communities (77 places) ~ 409 duplicate books
   plus          43 cath. dupl. books

Silesia ~ 14 places   ~ 47 duplicate books
( no historic communities )   plus   4 cath.dupl. books

Toledot, Prague, CR
1. Prague Natl. Archive - collections HBMa / HBM
   = dupl. = cath.dupl.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>towns/villages</th>
<th>HBMa</th>
<th>HBM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bohemia</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>2030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moravia</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silesia</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Local state archives [www.cesarch.cz](http://www.cesarch.cz)
Opava archive records : [www.archives.cz](http://www.archives.cz)

Toledot, Prague, CR
Some of catholic duplicates of Moravia and Silesia are still in local parish collections in district archives.

1838-1863

Toledot, Prague, CR
1. Prague Natl. Archive - collections HBMa a HBM

Central Moravia towns except Brno:

Boskovice, Hranice, Ivanovice, Holešov, Kojetin, Kroměříž, Lipník, Loštice, Nový Jičín, Olomouc, Prostějov, Přerov, Rousínov, Slavkov, Šumperk, Tovačov, Vyškov

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>1784-1848</th>
<th>1849-1873</th>
<th>1874-1900</th>
<th>1901-1949</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Toledot, Prague, CR
1. Prague Natl. Archive - collections HBMa a HBM

**South-East Moravia towns:**

Buchlovice, Bzenec, Dambořice, Dolni Kounice, Hodonín, Ivančice, Koryčany, Kostel, Kyjov, Lednice, Mikulov, Miroslav, Strážnice, Uherský Brod, Valašské Meziříčí, Veselí na Moravě, vsetín, Bučovice, Břeclav

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>1784-1848</th>
<th>1849-1873</th>
<th>1874-1900</th>
<th>1901-1949</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Prague Natl. Archive - collections HBMa a HBM

South-West Moravia towns:

Batelov, Brtnice, Jihlava, Jemnice, Lömnice, Police, Polná, Šafov, Telč, Třebíč, Třešť, Velké Meziříčí, Znojmo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>1784-1848</th>
<th>1849-1873</th>
<th>1874-1900</th>
<th>1901-1949</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Toledot, Prague, CR
2. Jewish Museum Prague www.jewishmuseum.cz

Collections of Jewish community incl. family history papers
- can substitute missing vital records:

Dambořice, Dolní Kounice, Ivančice, Jevíčko, Kojetín, Kroměříž, Kyjov, Lomnice, Loštice, Mikulov, Opava, Ostrava, Podivín, Pohořelice, Prostějov, Slavkov, Telč, Třebíč, Třešť, Uherský Ostroh, Úsov, Znojmo.
Jews in Silesia - historic preview = Opava, Těšín, Krnov:

Jews were expelled from Opava (1535), Krnov (1535) and Hlubcice (1543). They could not settle but could come to markets, collect taxes and rent the distilleries (arendas).

In 1721/1722 the Jews lived in 3 places of Krnov estate and 17 places of Opava estate, 111 people altogether.

In 1723/1725, there were 40-50 families living at Těšín estate.

In 1752, there were 88 families in Těšín area, 23 families in Opava/Krno area, and 8 families in Vidnava.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>HBMa</th>
<th>HBM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bílovec</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruntál</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frýdek</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frýdlant</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeseník</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karviná</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krnov</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Místek</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opava</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osoblaha</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Ostrava)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Těšín</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vidnava</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Toledot, Prague, CR
1. Prague Natl. Archive - collections HBMa a HBM

Silesia towns:

Bílovec, Bruntál, Frýdek, Frýdlant, Jeseník, Karviná, Krnov, Místek, Opava, Osoblaha, Ostrava, Těšín, Vidnava

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1784-1848</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>1849-1873</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>1874-1900</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901-1949</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Toledot, Prague, CR
Several databases online:

Jewish cemeteries - by Brno Jewish community [www.zob.cz](http://www.zob.cz) Brno, Ivančice, Holešov, Miroslav,

- GenTeam.at

- Grave-pictures.at

and others...

Toledot, Prague, CR
Summary:

Many vital records of Moravia and Silesia are in Prague Natl. Archive. However, some period records are missing due to historic consequences (captured Sudetenland / destruction of records by the nazis in April 1945).

The catholic duplicates are often still in district archive, some of them are online (Opava regional archive).

The collections of Jewish museum archive in Prague can substitute missing vital records.

Silesia communities were mostly formed by Moravian Jews so their family history can be traced in „hometown“ Moravia records.

Toledot, Prague, CR