

**BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY CLUJ-NAPOCA
FACULTY OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY
INSTITUTE OF JEWISH STUDIES AND JEWISH HISTORY
“DR. MOSHE CARMILLY”**

UNIVERSITY STREET NO. 7-9, ROOM 61
3400 – CLUJ-NAPOCA
ROMANIA

TELEPHONE 40-64/191252/EXT.162
FAX 40-64/197811

PROJECT OF RESEARCH

Jewish Cemeteries and Synagogues in Transylvania

1. Premises of the project:

Transylvania's peculiar features derive from the fact that being given access into towns in the second half of the 20th century, the Jews possess numerous cemeteries (about 470 of the 600 throughout Romania are in Transylvania, as well as about 2/3 of the synagogues) and buildings in the rural area, as well as a great variety (about 430 localities in which there is a Jewish building tradition) of traditions originating in the presence of the Sephardim and the Ashkenazim, the Orthodox-Neologists status quo ante, of Hasidism in the north etc. The situation in Romania is rather better than in the other former communist countries, as the cemeteries are all enclosed, locked after by the communities and, paradoxically, every year other sites are being discovered and there also exists, or can be reconstituted, an evidence of the patrimony (preserved, demolished, lost by expropriation, takeover or nationalization). The weak point consists in the fact that, because of the circumstances that encourage the Aliyah, the Jewish architectural patrimony proves extremely vulnerable without an active community that should preserve it, and also because of the fact that facing the option between people and monuments the first have been naturally favoured and just the present year (as compared to a year long tradition in the neighbouring countries) a special commission was set up, as well as an editorial programme to publish books on Jewish art and architecture. The issue of damage is not related to the traditional vandalism, but to fact that until the after war establishment of an organized administration of the cemeteries and buildings, some parts of them have been used as building material, especially in the rural area. The pollution issue is different from one place to another, depending on the location. The main problem is related to the deterioration with time, lack of maintenance and repairs, the fact that a significant percentage (about 15%) of the stones are knocked to the ground.

1. Available means:

a. The research team:

- coordinator of the project: researcher Ladislau Gyemant, PhD, director of the Institute of Jewish Studies and Jewish History “Dr. Moshe Carmilly” (see the annexed curriculum vitae).
- architect Mircea Moldovan, PhD. Mr. Moldovan is professor at the School of Architecture in Cluj (disciplines: history of architecture and integrated arts, aesthetics and architectural design), has been teaching for six years the history of Jewish art and architecture (including some chapters dedicated to Romania) at the Babes-Bolyai University and has joined the research team of the Institute “Dr. Moshe Carmilly” since its setting up in 1990. Being a member of the national Commission for the Jewish artistic and architectural patrimony of Romania, he is in contact with its organizers: academician Cajal, Mrs. Benjamin, Mr. Culer and the department of goods of the Federation of the Jewish Communities. Mr. Moldovan is in possession of the lists comprising the Jewish architectural patrimony of Romania, has selected the part concerning Transylvania, her historical and architectural monuments, and has drawn up the maps for the research routes. Because of his good relations with the communities of Cluj County he has visited the buildings in their care and has access to those responsible with the Jewish patrimony. He has carried on archive researches on demolished Jewish patrimony, and has found the plans of the Sephardic synagogue of Alba Iulia and of Cluj, Baritiu Street. He has about 10 papers (including studies of cemeteries and synagogues) and contributions in the international conferences on Jewish studies of Cluj, Bucharest, Warsaw-Krakow. He published 14 articles and book reviews related to this field (including on synagogues and cemeteries) in Studia Judaica, Tribuna, Arhitect-Design etc. (see the annexed curriculum vitae).
- Specialists in Hebrew:
 - prof. David Bar-Ad, visiting lecturer from Israel
 - Maria Radosav
 - Claudia Ursutiu
 - Students in the history of Jewish art and architecture within the programme of Jewish studies of the “Dr. Moshe Carmilly” Institute.

b. Technical equipments:

- “Dr. Moshe Carmilly” Institute: 1 video movie Panasonic VHS NV-A1E, 1 computer 486 Sx, 1 printer A4 color, 1 Xerox A4/A3;
- Professor Mircea Moldovan: 1 computer Pentium 120, 1 computer 486 Dx, 1 support for video movie or camera, 1 videorecorder VHS, 1 printer A3/A2 color, 1 handy scanner black-white, 2 cameras, 1 vehicle.

3. Plan of activity and methodology:

- a. Difficulties: long distances to travel in order to visit 430 localities, 470 cemeteries, about 60 synagogues; the location of most of the patrimony in rural areas where there is no public transport and the access is possible only in dry seasons; generally bad uneven roads that necessitates frequent repairs of the vehicles, low speed and high costs (therefore the need of a team, made up of two rather experienced members, who should make the best out of daylight, owing to the fact that most of the time is wasted on the road, and who should have means of transport).

b. Methodology:

1. We believe that we must employ the methodology and the 12-item questionnaire of the U.S. COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AMERICA’S HERITAGE ABROAD.

2. Because of the big amount and span of the work we suggest the following priorities: Stage I – Preliminary Research of Cemeteries; Stage II – Preliminary Research of Synagogues; Stage III – Through Research of Jewish Cemeteries and Synagogues.
3. In the first and second stages, in order to visit the 470 cemeteries and 60 synagogues, we have in view weekly expeditions (Cluj is almost at the middle of Transylvania) which implies traveling to one town, from where the team should leave daily for pre-established routes in order to visit 5-6 cemeteries. The travel should be made by car, the material should be recorded on 45 minutes videocassettes (which have the advantage of a higher recording capacity and immediate checking of the quality, in order to avoid remaking, as it may be the case with photograph) and in U.S. Commission forms. Before leaving, the team should contact the communities that administrate the cemeteries, draw up the travel programme, collect the information about the local administration, the caretakers, the area etc. After coming back, the data should be copied on computer, the videocassettes of video movie on normal cassettes, and the preliminary materials should be edited. We suggest that the research proper should be done subsequently, in the third stage, in the country or abroad. After the first year, it should be possible to outline an adapted methodology and to train students or additional members. With an adequate plaque the video pictures may be processed in order to be printed, drawn compared etc.

c. Stages:

Preliminary Stage: lists of cemeteries, maps, calls and correspondence for preparing visits, preparation of materials and car, purchase of materials;

Stage I: Cluj – 7 days;
 Stage II: Dej – 7 days;
 Stage III: Zalău – 7 days;
 Stage IV: Bistrița – 7 days;
 Stage V: Tg. Mureș – 7 days;

Intermediary Stage I: Bucharest – 3 days

The estimated deadline (in case of agreement): December 1998

Stage VI: Baia Mare – 7 days;
 Stage VII: Sighetu Marmatiei – 7 days;
 Stage VIII: Satu Mare – 7 days;
 Stage IX: Oradea – 7 days;
 Stage X: Arad – 7 days;
 Stage XI: Timisoara – 7 days;

Intermediary Stage II: Bucharest – 4 days

The estimated deadline: December 1999

Stage XII: Deva – 7 days;
 Stage XIII: Alba Iulia – 7 days;
 Stage XIV: Resita – 7 days;
 Stage XV: Sibiu – 7 days;
 Stage XVI: Fagaras – 7 days;
 Stage XVII: Brasov – 7 days;
 Stage XVIII: Sf. Gheorghe si Miercurea Ciuc – 7 days;

The estimated deadline: December 2000

TOTAL: 18 STAGES + 2 INTERMEDIARY STAGES = 133 traveling/working days
+ 105 nights accommodation.

4. The budget of the project:

- A. The customary tariff ... USD/cemetery or synagogue x 470 cemeteries + 60 synagogues =
**... USD + additional expenses related to the abovement situation in Transylvania an
proposed methodology:**
- B. Travel by car: 20,000 km x ... USD/km = ... **USD** = about ... USD/cemetery or
synagogue;
- C. Accomodation: 105 nights hotel/boarding house for 2 persons x ... USD/night = ... **USD**
= about ... USD/cemetery or synagogue;
- D. Admission fee: ... **USD** = about ... USD/cemetery or synagogue;
- E. Daily allowance/ Meals during the travel: ... **USD** = about ... USD/cemetery or
synagogue;
- F. Telephones/Faxes and mail to the communities in order to prepare the travel: ... **USD** =
about 0.38 USD/cemetery or synagogue;
- G. Multiplication of materials/ tapes and hard copies: ... **USD** = about ... USD/cemetery or
synagogue.

TOTAL: ... USD (tax-free expenses) = about ... USD/cemetery or synagogue.

Note: The calculation was valid in July 1998. According to the evolution of the prices
possible corrections are to be made every year.

DIRECTOR:
PhD Ladislau GYEMANT

PhD Mircea MOLDOVAN