

# May God Let Him Grow

A Child's Birth in the Culture and Customs of Bohemian and Moravian Jews

This book is the result of almost five years' research that was undertaken between 2004–2009 by staff at the Jewish Museum in Prague on the available donated circumcision textiles from Bohemia and Moravia (in public and private collections both in the Czech Republic and abroad). It features a specialist study (by Dana Veselská) on the ceremonies that are connected to the birth of a child in the culture and customs of Bohemian and Moravian Jews, as well as three other specialist studies that provide a detailed analysis of the Torah binder – made from the swaddling cloth used at a boy's circumcision – as a unique and previously unknown source for social and art history. The texts are by Dana Veselská, Iveta Cermanová and Alexandr Putík).

The catalogue section is divided into six chapters and contains almost 1,330 items, including translations of Hebrew dedicatory inscriptions. These inscriptions mention the name of the new born child and also the name of his father and the precise date of birth. This

chronological arrangement of records of embroidered binder donations constitutes a complete new and very important source of research concerning historical Jewish settlement in Bohemia and Moravia with records on the births of hundreds of Jewish boys.

It is illustrated with wonderfully rich full-colour illustrations on foldable pages. There are also indexes of the forenames and surnames of donors (i.e. the boys or their parents or grandparents) and an index of the localities (communities) mentioned in the dedicatory inscriptions, supplemented with all the ascertained variants of the Hebrew inscriptions. All the indexes are also supplemented with the ascertained versions of the Hebrew names or titles. This book is suitable not only for historians, genealogists, archivists, cultural historians and ethnographers, but also for the general public. A unique register of circumcisions from 1668 to 1930, this book will be a rich resource for anyone interested in Jewish culture.

Available in Czech and in English.

312 pages, 195 full-colour illustrations.

Czech version: ISBN 978-80-86889-94-8

English version: ISBN 978-80-86889-95-5





Torah binder – mappah type, velvet, embroidery, Bohemia, 1912  
Inscription: This was donated by the young man Zelig, son of R. Jacob Sachs, in the year 672 a.m.e.  
© JMP, acc. no. 046.418



Torah binder – mappah type, cotton, wool, embroidery  
Bohemia, 2nd half of 19th century  
Inscription: Dedicated to the Lord.



Torah binder – mappah type, needlework canvas, embroidery  
Bohemia, 2nd half of 19th century  
Inscription: Dedicated to the Lord.  
© JMP, acc. no. 065.576



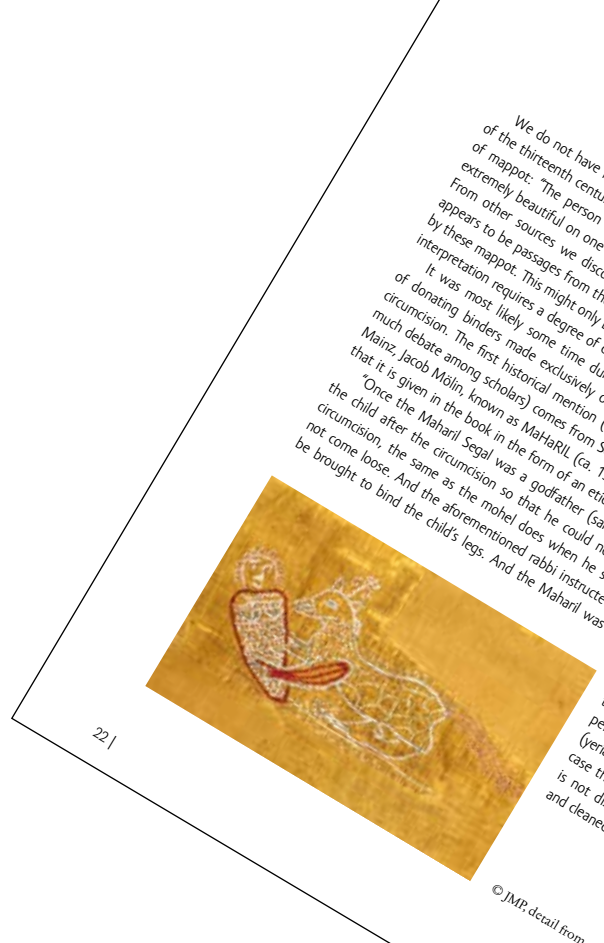
Torah binder – mappah type, plush, appliqué  
Bohemia, 2nd half of 19th century



Torah binder – mappah type, velvet, appliqué  
Bohemia, 2nd half of 19th century  
© JMP, acc. no. 174.542



Torah binder – mappah type, needlework canvas, embroidery  
Bohemia, 2nd half of 19th century  
Inscription: Tilli Arnstein.  
© JMP, acc. no. 023.425



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## You can buy the book *May God Let Him Grow:* in the Jewish Museum in Prague's online store

Czech version <http://www.jewishmuseum.cz/shop/czshop.php>

English version <http://www.jewishmuseum.cz/shop/ashop.htm>

by e-mail to [sales@jewishmuseum.cz](mailto:sales@jewishmuseum.cz)

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Rest of world	400 CZK	22 USD	16 EUR

