

V Mariboru, danes drugem največjem mestu Slovenije, je v poznem srednjem veku živela relativno številčna in pomembna judovska skupnost. Marpurch, Marpurg ali Marburg, kot se je mesto nekoč imenovalo, je tedaj spadal k vojvodini Štajerski. Ta je skupaj z vojvodinama Koroško in Kranjsko ter Avstrijskim primorjem sestavljala tako imenovane notranjeavstrijske dežele, ki so bile del habsburškega ozemlja.

Poglavitna gospodarska dejavnost mariborskih Judov je bila posojanje denarja, ukvarjali pa so se tudi s trgovino, še posebej z vinom, ki je bila prav tako dobičkonosna in pomembna dejavnost. Proti koncu 14. stoletja sta se vloga in položaj Judov v posojilnih poslih postopoma spreminjala. S to dejavnostjo so se vse bolj ukvarjali tudi kristjani, vse močnejši konkurenti Judom pa so bili tudi v trgovskih dejavnostih. Gospodarska moč Judov je tako začela upadati, s tem pa tudi naklonjenost in zaščita vladarjev in deželnih gospodov, ki v poslih z Judi niso več prepoznavali finančno-ekonomskega interesa.

Na prigovarjanje notranjeavstrijskih deželnih stanov po izgonu Judov iz teh dežel je Maksimiljan I. 18. marca 1496 naposled podpisal odlok o izgonu Judov s Štajerske, Wiener Neustadta in Neunkirchna. Z odlokom je tudi določil, da se morajo Judje iz teh krajev izseliti do 6. januarja 1497, v istem času pa je Jude izgnal tudi s Koroške.

Nekateri mariborski Judje so po odhodu iz Maribora v novih krajih prevzeli priimek Marpurg(er)/Marburg(er) oziroma Morpurgo. Priimek Morpurgo je italijanska različica priimka Marpurger, razvil pa naj bi se iz beneškega poimenovanja za Maribor (*Morpurcb*). Med vsemi različicami, med katerimi zasledimo še priimke Marpurch, Morpurch, Morpurg, Mompurgo, de Morpurgo in Morpurgo de Nilma, je prav Morpurgo daleč najpogostejši priimek potomcev mariborskih Judov.

Iz zgodnjega 16. stoletja ni ohranjenih zadostnih virov, na osnovi katerih bi bilo mogoče z vso gotovostjo določiti kraje, v katerih so se mariborski Judje v prvih desetletjih po izgonu najštevilčneje naselili. Kljub temu smemo sklepati, da se jih je največ naselilo na območju grofij Goriške in Gradiške in v Trstu. Proti koncu 16. in v začetku 17. stoletja se namreč večina omemb Judov s priimkom Marpurger nanaša na posameznike in družine, ki so tedaj živeli v Gorici in Gradišču ob Soči. Člani družin Morpurgo so bili pozneje tudi med najštevilčnejšimi predstavniki



1 Mariborska sinagoga je bila versko, duhovno in družabno središče mariborskih Judov. Danes je edina ohranjena srednjeveška sinagoga na slovenskih tleh. | The Maribor synagogue was the religious, spiritual, and social centre of the Maribor Jews. Today, it is the sole preserved medieval synagogue on Slovenian territory.

Po podatkih, ki so jih zbrali nekateri družinski rodoslovci, naj bi bilo doslej na družinsko drevo vpisanih že več kot 2350 članov družin Morpurgo. Največ Morpurgov danes še vedno živi v Italiji, živijo pa tudi v Avstriji, na Hrvaškem, v Franciji, Španiji, Grčiji, na Slovaškem, Češkem, v Združenih državah Amerike, Kanadi, Izraelu, Venezueli, Braziliji, Surinamu in še kje.

Z razstavo *Morpurgi, potomci mariborskih Judov* se podajamo po razgibanih poteh potomcev pregnanih mariborskih Judov in se obenem poklanjamo njihovemu spominu.

2 Mnogi Morpurgi so pokopani na pokopališču goriške judovske skupnosti v Rožni Dolini. Njihove nagrobnike pogosto krasi motiv preroka Jone v ustih velike ribe. | Many Morpurgos are buried at the cemetery of the Gorizia Jewish community in Rožna Dolina (It. Valdirose). Their headstones are often ornamented with the motif of the prophet Jonah in the mouth of a big fish.

svojih skupnosti v obeh mestih, priimek Morpurgo pa je v tem času postajal vse pogostejši tudi v Trstu.

Gorica, Gradišče ob Soči in Trst so, kot vse kaže, bili tisti centri, iz katerih so se družine Morpurgo razselile v druga mesta na Apeninskem polotoku in Jadranski obali, v severozahodno Evropo, na območja osmanskega cesarstva in celo v čezatlantske dežele. Posamezne družine Morpurgo med seboj niso bile vselej sorodstveno povezane, povezovala pa sta jih skupen krajevni izvor njihovih prednikov in priimek, s katerim so ime srednjeveškega Maribora ponesle s seboj v svet.

Mnogi Morpurgi so se uveljavili kot spretni trgovci in poslovneži, pa tudi kot ugledni in vplivni bankirji, rabini, zdravniki, univerzitetni profesorji, inženirji, poslanci, knjigarnarji, založniki, pisatelji, pesniki, umetniki itd. Njihovi dosežki potrjujejo, da so v okoljih, v katerih so živeli, pomembno prispevali h gospodarskemu in družbeno-kulturnemu razvoju.



In Maribor, today Slovenia's second largest city, in the late Middle Ages there lived a relatively large and important Jewish community. Marpurch, Marpurg or Marburg, as the city used to be called, was part of the Styria duchy. Together with the duchies of Carinthia and Carniola and the Austrian Littoral, it belonged to the Inner Austrian provinces which were part of the Habsburg territory.

The main economic activity of the Maribor Jews was money-lending, however, they dealt also with trade, especially with wine, which used to be both a profitable and important activity. However, towards the end of the 14th century, the role and position of Jews in the lending business gradually changed. More and more Christians started to deal with money lending; they became strong competitors also in trade activities. The economic power of the Jews started to decline and thus the benevolence and protection of the emperors and land lords who no longer recognized Jews as financially or economically interesting.

At the prompting of the Inner Austrian States to exile Jews from these provinces, on 18 March 1496, Maximilian I finally signed the decree on the exile of Jews from Styria, Wiener Neustadt and Neunkirchen. With the decree he defined that Jews from these provinces had to move away by 6 January 1497. At the same time, Jews were exiled from Carinthia too.

After they left Maribor, some Maribor Jews in the new places took up the Marpurg(er)/Marburg(er) or Morpurgo surname. The Morpurgo surname is the Italian variant of the Marpurger surname. It is supposed to have developed from the Venetian name for Maribor (*Morpurcb*). Among all variants, including Marpurch, Morpurch, Morpurg, Mompurgo, de Morpurgo and Morpurgo de Nilma, Morpurgo itself is by far the most frequent surname of the descendants of the Maribor Jews.

There are no preserved sources from the early 16th century, on the basis of which one could identify the places in which the Maribor Jews settled after the expulsion. However, it is possible to conclude that the majority settled down in the Gorizia and Gradisca counties and in Trieste. Towards the end of the 16th and at the beginning of the 17th century, the majority of references of Jews with the Marpurger surname refer to individuals and families who at that time lived in Gorizia and Gradisca d'Isonzo. The members of the Morpurgo families were later also among most numerous

representatives of their communities in both cities, and the Morpurgo surname became more and more common in Trieste as well.

Gorizia, Gradisca d'Isonzo and Trieste were, apparently, the centres from which the Morpurgo families emigrated to other places on the Italian Peninsula and Adriatic Coast, to north-western Europe, to the Ottoman Empire and even to the Transatlantic countries. Individual Morpurgo families are not always related, however, they share a common geographical origin of their ancestors and the surname with which they carried the name of the medieval Maribor abroad.

Many Morpurgos were artful merchants and businessmen, as well as respectable and influential bankers, rabbis, physicians, university professors, engineers, politicians, booksellers, publishers, writers, poets, artists, etc. Their achievements prove that in the environments where they lived, they significantly contributed to the economic, as well as the social and cultural development.

According to the data, collected by some family genealogists, the family tree has included more than 2,350 Morpurgo family members so far. Today, the majority of Morpurgos still live in Italy, however, they also live in Austria, Croatia, France, Spain, Greece, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, the United States of America, Canada, Israel, Venezuela, Brazil, Surinam, etc.

With the exhibition *The Morpurgos, the descendants of the Maribor Jews*, we trace the diverse paths of the exiled Maribor Jews and pay tribute to their memory at the same time.

3 Leta 2016 so se v Trstu na družinskem srečanju zbrali Morpurgi z vsega sveta. Ob tej priložnosti so obiskali tudi Maribor in tukajšnjo sinagogo. | In 2016, the Morpurgos from all over the world gathered at the family reunion in Trieste. At the occasion, they also visited Maribor and the Maribor synagogue.



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The Morpurgos, the descendants of the Maribor Jews

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