



Chronology of Munich's Jewish History 1229 – 1945



The synagogue in Herzog-Max-Strasse, erected 1884 - 1887

Introduction

The Jewish history of Munich is an indispensable constituent of the city's history. The Jewish citizens influenced the development of the Bavarian capital, even if they experienced here, just like in other places in Germany "that dire slavery and deprivation of rights lasting throughout centuries, that isolation by force from general culture and custom, that brutal unkindness," as once cantor Emanuel Kirschner put it. This compact illustrated presentation is the first historical overview available in the web, supposed to remember the people, their achievements and their love of their hometown.

Frankly, this service is not quite unselfish: I would like to ask all former residents of Munich who visit this page to share with me their memories of their lives in prewar Munich and after emigration. The output of such a collection of autobiographic texts, pictures and documents is supposed to be a publication in any adequate form (book or online). I would be very grateful for any information.

Susanne Rieger

1229 to 1800 - Persecution, Expulsion and Return

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| 1229 | "Abraham the Municher" is the first Jewish resident of Munich mentioned in a deed. |
| 1285 | Riots of the people in the city because of the rumor, that Jews killed a gentile child (ritual murder lie). Thereupon 180 Jews, who had fled into the synagogue in Judengasse, were killed on October 11 by the rabid mob. |

- 1345 Persecution of Jews in Munich with several victims due to a new ritual murder rumor.
- 1349 Another pogrom caused by the plague in Munich, for which the Jews were held responsible.
- 1442 Expulsion of all Jews from Upper Bavaria by duke Albrecht III. Transformation of the Munich synagogue into a Saint Mary's church and renaming of the Judengasse to Gruftgasse. For a long time there was no Jewish life in Munich.
- 1763 Emergence of a new small Jewish community. Due to the circumstances the community's life took place in seclusion from the gentile public. Opening of a Jewish prayer room at the so-called "Judenbranntweiner" in the building Tal 13. It was a private installation in the dwelling of the businessman Abraham Wolf Wertheimer.
- 1781 53 Jews living in Munich.
- 1790 127 Jews living in Munich.
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The 19th Century - "Jews Edict", Emancipation and Civil Equalization

- 1804 Spreading of the so-called "court Jews" in Bavaria since the beginning of the 18th century. The court in Munich also had been financed by Jewish businessmen. - Appointment of Aron Elias Seligmann as the Bavarian "banker to the court". Seligmann contributed largely to the development of Munich's banking infrastructure. In 1814 he was ennobled as the first Jew in Bavaria to baron von Eichthal.
- 1805 Improvements for Jews within the economic area, e.g. acquisition of houses and estate, by the "global arrangements about the assignment of protection to the Jews" of June 17.
- 1806 Establishment of the first Jewish association Chewra Talmud Tora in Munich on May 6.
- 1813 Regulation of the legal status of Jews in Bavaria by the royal "Jews edict" of June 10. Jews were allowed now to acquire citizenship and estates, however the freedom of settlement was limited by the "register paragraph", according to which only a limited number of Jewish residents was allowed to live in a certain district.
- 1815 Official establishment of the Jewish congregation in Munich. The first executive committee members were Rabbi Hessel, Israel Hirsch Pappenheimer and Eduard Marx.
- 1816 Completion of the cemetery at Thalkirchner Strasse, which still exists today, however closed.
- Establishment of the second Jewish brotherhood Chewra Kadischa, which merged in 1827 with Chewra Talmud Tora.
- 1824 Appointment of Jacob von Hirsch as banker to the royal court on February 1. The banking house of Hirsch at Promenadeplatz existed until 1885.
- 1826 Opening of the synagogue at Westenriederstrasse on April 21 in presence of King Ludwig I. and his wife (architect: Jean Baptiste Métivier).

1830 Foundation of the Women's Association for Needy Jewish Females in Munich.



1848 Right to vote and to be elected for Jews in Bavaria.

1861 Abolishment of the regulations of the "register paragraph" and as a consequence growing influx of Jews from the small villages in Franconia, Swabia and the Upper Palatinate to Munich in order to work or to study here.



1880 Outbreak of pogroms in Russia and subsequent immigration of Eastern Jews to Munich. The immigrants from Russia or Galicia often made their way from being welfare recipients, tobacco workers and peddlers to the owners of lucrative businesses, in particular in the leather goods and fur trade. Settlement of many Eastern Jews in the quarter around Gaertnerplatz.

- 1887 After the old synagogue had become too small, inauguration of the congregation's new synagogue on September 16 in Herzog-Max-Strasse by rabbi Dr. Josef Perles. The synagogue had been built by architect Albert Schmidt and with approximately 1,000 seats for men and 800 seats for women was the third biggest Jewish house of worship in Germany.



- 1892 Opening of Ohel Jakob synagogue on March 25 by rabbi Dr. Josef Perles and the orthodox rabbi Dr. Heinrich Ehrentreu. The orthodox synagogue had been built by architect August Exter in Kanalstrasse 24 (since 1903 Herzog-Rudolf-Straße 3).



Today only a memorial plaque reminds the visitor of the Ohel Jakob synagogue.

The 20th Century - From the bloom of Jewish life to the Holocaust

- 1904 Establishment of a Jewish kindergarten in the rear building of Baaderstrasse 32. The kindergarten was a private initiative of Elizabeth Merzbacher, her sister Luise and their friend Ida Kohnstamm.
- 1905 Foundation of the Association for Jewish Youth Welfare. Due to a lack of space the kindergarten moved to Baaderstrasse 5, where also a day-nursery was established.
- 1908 Opening of the new Jewish cemetery at Ungererstrasse (today Garchinger Strasse) on July 1.
- 1910 With more than 11,000 members the Jewish congregation in Munich reached its all time high.
- 1910/11 Suggested by and with the assistance of the well-known physician Dr. August Feuchtwanger a Jewish hospital in the Hermann-Schmid-Strasse 5 could be established.
- 1915 44 Jewish clubs and associations in Munich. Among others the first foundations were the Jewish Women's Association (see above), the Jewish Wood Association (1830), and Concordia Social Club (1838).

- 1919 Foundation of the NSDAP in Munich. The year after "Voelkischer Beobachter" newspaper kicked off its permanent anti-Semitic propaganda here.
- 1923 In the context of Hitler's failed coup d' tat numerous Jewish businessmen were taken hostage.
- 1924 Establishment of the Jewish elementary school in the upper floors of Herzog-Rudolf-Strasse 5.
- 1926 In March opening of the children's home run by Jewish Youth Welfare at Antonienstrasse 7 after closing down the kindergarten at Baaderstrasse for reasons of space and hygiene. The home had an infant and a school children department, as well as a department for housekeeping students. Affiliation of a kindergarten.
On May 1 opening of the Women's Housekeeping School in the Country in Wolfratshausen. Establishment of this school by the Munich chapter of the Jewish Women's Association with state permission. The girls received a education in all skills required for housekeeping, cooking and gardening. After Hitler's seizure of power the training program was extended, as language courses were offered to prepare the students for an emigration to Palestine.



- 1930 Opening of a girls' home on January 1 in Virchowstrasse 1, which moved to Kaiserplatz 6 on April 1, 1931.



- 1931 Inauguration of the synagogue for the Eastern Jewish congregation at Reichenbachstrasse 27 on September 5. "Reichenbachschul" or "the Polish synagogue" had 330 men's and 220 women's seats. The rabbi of the congregation was Samuel Wiesner.
- 1932 68 Jewish clubs and associations existed in Munich.



1933 January 30 marked the start of the superseding of Jewish citizens from the social, political, cultural, and economic life. Many Jewish business steeped in tradition had to be shut down. They were "aryanized" by the Nazis or liquidated.

In September "Bayerische Israelitische Gemeindezeitung" newspaper reported that from now on Jewish salesmen were excluded from the Oktoberfest.

Between 1933 and 1942 approximately 7,500 Jewish residents of Munich had to leave their hometown, even their native country. Most of them emigrated to Palestine and the USA.

1938 Destruction of the synagogue in Herzog-Max-Strasse in June.

"Reichskristallnacht" (November 9/10): Plundering and destruction of many Jewish dwellings, institutions and shops. Arbitrary arrests of numerous Jewish residents of Munich and deportation to Dachau concentration camp. The orthodox synagogue, the Jewish elementary school and the kindergarten in Herzog-Rudolf-Strasse were destroyed.

SA men devastated the synagogue in Reichenbachstrasse almost completely, and set it on fire. The work of the fire-brigade was restricted to prevent the flames from spreading to the neighboring buildings. The use of the building as a synagogue was not possible any longer. In September 1939 the "Jewish training workshop" was moved there by the Gestapo from Biederstein 7. Until late 1942 Fritz Saenger taught youngsters technical skills useful for their emigration in the former synagogue. Since late 1938 services were held in the rear building of Lindwurmstrasse 125, which became the "Lindwurm synagogue".



Two different views of the memorial at the site of the leveled synagogue in Herzog-Max-Strasse, solemnly revealed in 1969. See also: Project Jakobplatz: A new synagogue for Munich

1939 Decrease of the number of Jewish businesses until March to 162, until the year's end to 27.

- 1941 First deportation from Munich on November 20 to Kaunas in Lithuania. Actually the victims should have been deported to the ghetto of Riga. After no capacities were available there, the train of deportation with 1000 victims was rerouted to Kaunas. On November 25 all of them were shot there at "Fort IX". Until February 1945 43 deportations from Munich took place, approximately 3000 Jewish citizens of Munich were murdered in the Shoah. Prior to the deportations the Munich Jews were ghettoized at the "Jewish settlement" in Milbertshofen (Knorrstrasse 148) and the "housing area for Jews" in Berg am Laim.
- 1942 Liquidation of the home in Antonienstrasse 7 in April. The last children and their teachers Alice Bendix and Hedwig Jacobi were transferred to the "housing area for Jews" before being deported to Theresienstadt in December 1943 and from there to Auschwitz.

**Development of the membership of Munich's Jewish congregation 1818 - 1944
(see Seelig, 1988, p. 58, p. 164 and Ophir / Wiesemann, 1979, p. 33)**

1818	479
1825	607
1860	1,200
1867	2,067
1880	4,144
1910	11,083
1925	10,068
1933	9,005
1936	9,021
1937	8,713
1939	4,535
1941	3,410
1942	146
1943	171
1944	7

For the years 1942 to 1944 the figures only give the number of people, who were members of the Jewish congregation already before 1933.

1 Reestablishment of the Jewish congregation in Munich in the elder care
9 home in Kaulbachstrasse 65 in July. The founding president became Dr.
4 Julius Spanier, who had returned from Theresienstadt, vice-president
5 Siegfried Neuland. Inauguration of the synagogue in Reichenbach-
strasse, which is Munich's synagogue until today, on May 20, 1947.

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- The ads are taken from the newspaper "Bayerische Israelitische Gemeindezeitung", the photographs are copyrighted by the author.