

THE LOST SYNAGOGUES OF EUROPE



ANDREA STRONGWATER

Overview

Between the 1930s and 1945, thousands of European synagogues were reduced to rubble. With the exception of a few that were destroyed during bombings, the vast majority were purposely and methodically wiped off the face of the earth. In some cases, the synagogues—elegant, grand, and architecturally distinctive—were taken apart, brick by brick, by the people who built them and worshipped in them, forced to do so by the ruling Nazi party. The sites were turned into public squares, empty lots, firehouses—anything that would erase any hint of what once existed there.

Although studies of the Holocaust have documented and chronicled the six million Jews from across Europe who were murdered by the Nazis, the tragic fate of the synagogues that were also obliterated has received little attention. While photographs of many of the buildings exist in scattered sources, no one has documented and archived these lost synagogues of Europe. Even those familiar with the history of the Holocaust are surprised to learn of the large number of synagogues—many of them aesthetic masterpieces—that were destroyed from France to Belarus, from the Netherlands to Croatia.

The Lost Synagogues of Europe is the first book to recreate and chronicle a sampling of these synagogues. In a series of vibrant, evocative paintings, artist Andrea Strongwater uses archival photographs taken in the early 1900s to bring back to life 80 majestic synagogues destroyed during the Third Reich. Each synagogue is accompanied by an archival photo as well as a detailed description of its identity, purpose, and architectural grandeur. With an introductory essay offering historical and architectural context, **The Lost Synagogues of Europe** is both a gorgeous coffee table book and a significant historical document, appealing to multiple markets around the world.

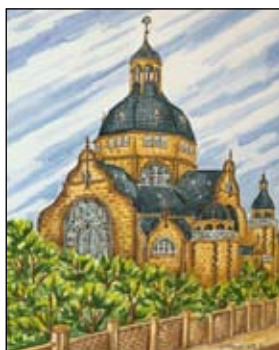
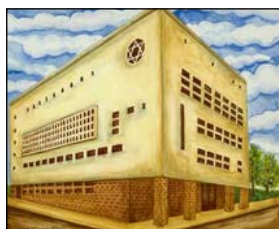
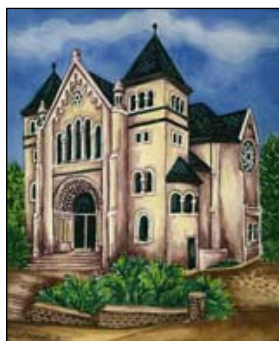
This magnificent survey covers all geographical areas of Europe where the destruction was rampant. The synagogues painted for this book, built from the 1600s to 1930, necessarily represent only those important enough to have been documented in their time. They must do double duty by reminding us of the thousands more that were obliterated leaving no historical record. **The Lost Synagogues of Europe** is a memory piece that brings back a history and a way of life that has vanished forever. It speaks to hearts and minds of all persuasions, young and old, and enables people to see and comprehend the glorious world that existed before World War II.

The Lost Synagogues of Europe will be accompanied by a traveling exhibition of the same name. It will be followed by **Synagogues of the Middle East**.



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Political map of Europe, 1935
Preface, by Andrea Strongwater
Introduction

SYNAGOGUES

FRANCE

Epernay
Epinal
Strasbourg

ITALY

Livorno
Turin

THE NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam

LUXEMBOURG

Luxembourg Synagogue of 1894

GERMANY

Aachen
Baden Baden
Bad Kissingen
Berlin Heiderreutergasse
Bielefeld
Bochum
Breslau
Bruchsal
Buchau am Federsee
Chemnitz
Darmstadt
Dortmund
Dresden
Essen
Frankfurt
Gablonz
Glatz
Gleiwitz
Hannover
Kassel
Koenigsberg
Landau
Mainz am Rhine
Nurenburg
Pforzheim
Plauen
Seesen
Tuebingen

THE FREE STATE OF DANZIG

The Great Synagogue of 1887

AUSTRIA

Graz
Vienna – Heitzing
Vienna – Leopoldstadter
Vienna – Neudeggergasse
Vienna – Polnische Shul
Vienna – Turnergasse

POLAND

Belz
Bialystock
Bromberg
Gombin
Horochow
Jaslo
Kattowice
Loboml
Lodz
Lvov
Przedborz
Rawicz
Tarnow
Vilnius
Volpa
Warsaw – Tlomackie Street Synagogue
Zablodow

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Bratislava
Ceske Budejovice
Karlovy Vary
Kesmark
Marianske Lazne
Olmutz
Teplitz
Vranov

LATVIA

Jelgava
Riga

LITHUANIA

Kretinga
Tesiiai
Varniai – Stone Synagogue
Varniai – Wooden Synagogue

ESTONIA

Tartu

BELARUS

Gomel

ROMANIA

Chernovotsi
Wiznitz

CROATIA

Slavonski Brod
Vukovar

Political map of Europe, 2008

* Place names are accurate for 1935



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Competition

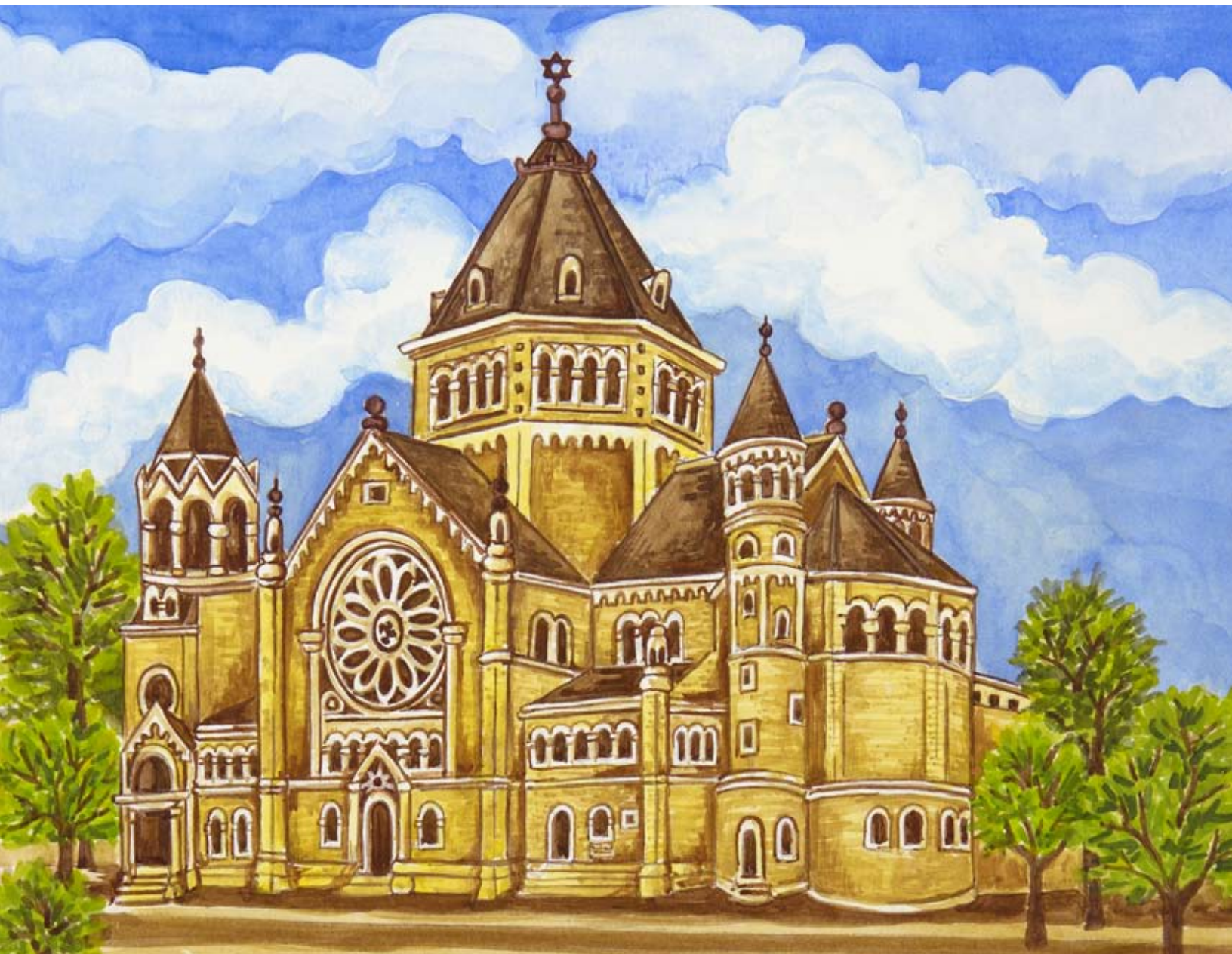
There is no other book that combines accurate, artistic imagery with historical information to create a sense of the synagogue landscape in Europe prior to World War II. This project is unique.

The only book that comes close in terms of subject matter is Carol Herselle Krinsky's **Synagogues of Europe: Architecture, History, Meaning** (MIT Press, 1985), which describes the architecture of Europe's synagogues—some existing and some destroyed—in a scholarly manner.

Judging by the number of illustrated books on synagogues in general, interest in the subject is vast. **American Synagogues: A Century of Architecture and Jewish Community** by Sam Gruber (Rizzoli, 2003) explores the architecture of American synagogues in the twentieth century. Neil Folberg's **And I Shall Dwell Among Them** (Aperture, 1995) exhibits photos of existing synagogues around the world. **Synagogue Architecture in America** by Henry Stolzman (The Images Publishing Group of Australia, 2004) looks at the architecture of synagogues in America, while **Synagogues** by Dominique Jarasse (New Line Books, 2005) looks at how the architecture of synagogues around the world relates to history and the Jewish faith. **Synagogues** (MetroBooks 1999) by S. D. Gruber looks at the architecture of synagogues around the world.

Market

Although the obvious market for this book is Jews all over the world, it will have great appeal for anyone interested in Europe, then and now. The art, strong enough to stand on its own, will attract art and architecture lovers. Historians and educators will see the book as a new way to look at and interpret history and specifically the history of the Jews in Europe. History buffs will have a new slant on European life of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. As a beautiful object, the book will draw interest from everyone loving beautiful books.



Marketing/Publicity

The project is multi-platform. Currently scheduled or in the works:

Traveling Exhibition.

We are in discussions with museum curators to mount a show of the work at various museums world-wide.

Documentary.

We are in discussions with documentary filmmakers.

Other platforms.

lostsynagoguesofeurope.com is under construction.

The Museum of Family History currently has an exhibit of the work at

Museumoffamilyhistory.com/prom-lse.htm.

An exhibit of the paintings is scheduled for early 2010 at the JCC of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Discussions and tours of the JCC exhibit are scheduled with a church in Stillwater, Minnesota.

An exhibit of the paintings is scheduled for early 2010 in Bloomfield, Michigan.

Discussions and tours of the Bloomfield exhibit are scheduled with various local groups.

Giclees of the paintings, note cards and postcards will be available for sale at each venue.

Postcards of the work are available for sale at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

Ceramic tiles of the paintings are available at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City.

Postcards and note cards are being sold in France through Yad Layeled of Paris, France.

We have also garnered a lot of interest in the form of speaking requests from history professors and will market the book to professors and teachers at all levels, librarians in various public and private libraries including religious institutions, and WWII history buffs and genealogists.



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The team for **The Lost Synagogues of Europe** includes two high-level public relations people with connections at The New York Times, The New Yorker, New York Magazine, and The Wall Street Journal. We also have connections with important Jewish publications and institutions, including United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Hadassah, Yad Leyeled, The Forward, The Jewish Week, and Commentary.

Biographies

ANDREA STRONGWATER (artist, author) is a well-known New York-based artist who creates a wide range of art. Her Jewish-themed art has been used to decorate the interior of a synagogue in Atlanta and sells through stores around the country. Prints, postcards, and note cards of the lost synagogues are sold through the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, and a similar group in Paris, France.

Strongwater graduated from Cornell University's College of Architecture, Art and Planning with a BFA in 1970. Her paintings have been shown in many areas of the United States, including Dallas, Texas, Long Beach, California, Jupiter, Florida and Westchester County, New York. She is represented in New York City by Cheryl Pelavin Fine Arts.

Strongwater has been a custom clothing designer with her own label and a consultant to spinning mills in the United States and Scotland. She continues to pursue her love of textiles by working with women in Afghanistan to create embroidered items for personal, household and Jewish ritual use.

Strongwater's work can be found in the collections of Insignia/Douglas Elliman NY, the University Medical Center of Princeton, New Jersey, The Herbert F Johnson Museum, Ithaca, NY, and the Georges Cziffra Foundation in Senlis France. Her work was chosen for use by VSA Arts, an Affiliate of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, in Washington, DC in 2008.



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KAREN LEHRMAN BLOCH (editor, producer) is editorial director of Grafia Books, a book and exhibition production company dedicated to the discovery of important new art, design, and ideas. Grafia Books include: **Juan Montoya** (The Monacelli Press, 2009); **Travel + Leisure's Best of 2007: The World's Greatest Hotels, Resorts, + Spas** (American Express Publishing, 2007); and **Donghia: The Artistry of Luxury & Style** (Bulfinch, 2006). Author of **The Lipstick Proviso: Women, Sex & Power in the Real World** (Doubleday, 1997), Karen Lehrman Bloch has edited numerous acclaimed books, including **No Smoking**, by Luc Sante; **Portraits of the New Architecture**, by Paul Goldberger and Richard Schulman; and **Lost Africa**, by Cyril Christo. Lehrman Bloch has also been an editor at The New York Times, The New Republic, The Washington Post, and The Wilson Quarterly.

ELLEN NYGAARD (designer) is principal of ENd, a graphic design studio with an emphasis on luxury art book design. Previously, Nygaard was senior associate art director at Harry N Abrams (1995-2004) and art director of special projects at Rodale (2004-2006).

Nygaard has been the recipient of numerous design awards, from such venues as PRINT Magazine, the Bookbinders' Guild of New York, Museum Publications, and Parents' Choice. Current clients include Harry N Abrams, Metropolis, Houghton Mifflin, Harper Collins, Wenner Books, Workman Publishing, Rodale, American Federation of Art, Rock n Roll Hall of Fame, and the College Arts Association.

Book projects include: **Andy Warhol: 365 Takes** (The Andy Warhol Museum, 2004); **Tiffany Flora and Fauna**, by John Loring (Abrams, 2003); **Tiffany in Fashion**, by John Loring (Abrams, 2003); **Tiffany Timepieces**, by John Loring (Abrams, 2004); **Greetings from Any Warhol: Christmas at Tiffany's**, by John Loring (Abrams, 2004); **Martin Scorsese Presents the Blues: A Musical Journey** (Harper Collins/Amistad, 2003); **Hirschfeld's New York**, by Clare Bell and Frank Rich (Abrams, 2001); **The Houses of Greenwich Village**, by Kevin P. Murphy (Abrams, 2008); **Aaron Rose: Photographs**, by Alfred Corn (Abrams, 2001); **Hunt Slonem: A Life Rich and Strange**, by Donald Kuspit, (Abrams, 2002); **Laurie Anderson**, by RoseLee Goldberg, (Abrams, 2000); and **Farm Aid: A Song for America**, by Holly G. Warren (Rodale, 2005); **New Treehouses of the World**, by Pete Nelson (Abrams 2009); **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction catalogues** 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009.