

**History of the House by the Park
(DŮM U PARKU) (1887–2010)**

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Introduction

The story of our house is inseparably linked with the history of Nová Ulice. If we went deep into the past, however, we would not encounter this name. Within today's cadastral territory there once existed several villages, or rather suburban streets, lying along important roads leading west from Olomouc. From the beginning of the 16th century these suburban localities were collectively known as the Middle Suburb (Střední Předměstí). Along the road beginning at the Litovel city gate (today the end of Riegrova Street and 8. května Street) and leading northwest toward Litovel and further into Bohemia, a suburb called **Vozovka** (Wagendrüssel) emerged in the first half of the 15th century. Most inhabitants of Vozovka earned their livelihood through agriculture. However, during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648), these suburban areas suffered from military operations and, for strategic reasons, were several times razed to the ground. In the second half of the 17th century the settlements were rebuilt. A small number of wealthier burghers and nobles used the local fields and gardens not only as a source of agricultural products but also as places for modest country residences, used especially in the summer months for rest and social representation.

A significant turning point in the development of all Olomouc suburbs came with Empress Maria Theresa's decision to strengthen the city's fortification system. For this purpose, it was necessary to create an approximately 1-kilometre-wide defensive foreground free of stone or more substantial buildings. Therefore, the military administration purchased the land under most of the houses in the Middle Suburb and the houses were subsequently demolished. The local inhabitants either moved into Olomouc or settled in suburban villages that were relocated further away from the city — **Nová Střední Ulice** (today the central section of I. P. Pavlova Street with its centre at the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help) and **Nová Zelená Ulice** (today the central part of Brněnská Street). As a result, settlement along the road to Litovel disappeared for a long 120 years.

The unification of the western suburban parts into two homogeneous localities led to the gradual use of the shortened name "*Die neue Gasse*" or simply "*Neugasse*." A complication for inhabitants living near Olomouc, particularly near the fortress, was the construction restrictions, which allowed only low, simple single-storey houses built mainly of unburnt brick. At the beginning of the 19th century the construction ban was further tightened with the introduction of the so-called **demolition clause (demoliční revers)**. Anyone wishing to build a residential or farm building had to sign this document, pledging to dismantle the structure at their own expense within four weeks upon the army's command. For a long time the only building southwest of Olomouc was **Rudolf's and Johann's Park**, created in the 1820s at the initiative of the Archbishop of Olomouc and Austrian Archduke Rudolf Johann (1788–1831). He also stood at the beginnings of the Rudolf Ironworks, later known as the Vítkovice Ironworks. This park, located on the cadastral territory of Olomouc, formed the border between the city and the village of Nová Ulice (politically an autonomous municipality from 1848).

Military-administrative obstacles prevented urban development not only in Nová Ulice but also in Olomouc itself until the fortress was abolished. In the second half of the 19th century,

voices calling for the removal of the fortifications and the release of construction near the historic centre grew stronger. The demolition of the gates began first. The Litovel Gate was torn down in 1882. The Olomouc fortress itself was officially abolished in 1886, ending the restrictions associated with the demolition clause.

It was at the beginning of the 1880s that the development of Nová Ulice began — until then the village had stretched exclusively along the imperial road from Olomouc to Prostějov and further to Vienna. A renowned coaching inn, **U černého orla**, had long been the only such establishment in Nová Ulice. The demolition of the Litovel Gate improved access to the city. Before that, the main entrance for arrivals from the west had been the Middle, or Terezian, Gate. Following the breakthrough of the Litovel Gate, a street named **Stromořadí** (Allestrasse, today Palackého Street) was built, connecting at the corner of Lower Fröhlichova (today Krapkova Street) with the imperial road. This important route connected Olomouc with Vienna and Prague. It led from the southwest through Nová Ulice (today I. P. Pavlova Street), the Avenue of the Crown Prince Rudolf (today Wolkerova Street), and at the corner of this street and Dolní Fröhlichova there was a junction with a turnoff to the Terezian Gate and into Olomouc. From there the road to Prague continued along Dolní Fröhlichova past the park and then up Horní Fröhlichova (today Litovelská Street) toward Litovel (see Appendix 1).

This confirms that **our house was built at a very lucrative crossroads of the imperial road**. The importance of this location was further enhanced by the construction of the railway line from Olomouc to Senice na Hané in 1883, later extended all the way to Prostějov.

Johann and Amalie Englisch (1879–1910)

The future importance of this location was certainly recognized by the restaurateur Johann Englisch (1839–1893), the first owner and builder of the House by the Park. On 19 October 1879, several years before the demolition of the Litovel Gate itself, he purchased plots of land (Nos. 419, 419/1, 420/1, 420/2, 420/3, 433/3) and building parcels (Nos. 106/1, 106/2, 106/3, 105, 153, and 179) on which the house was later built. Due to construction restrictions, he erected only a tavern (Schankhäuser) with a covered skittle alley and a glass pavilion (Glashaus) on plots Nos. 419 and 420, all in half-timbered construction, in order to comply with the still strict requirements of the army. He naturally had to sign a demolition bond (30 September 1881) and deposit collateral worth 207 gulden. This earliest building can be seen on the 1883 regulatory plan by the builder Karl Starý (see Appendix No. 2).

Englich's rural restaurant, around which no larger developments yet stood, was used—especially in the summer months—for smaller or larger social events hosted by the Olomouc bourgeoisie. Among the significant ones was, for example, the farewell celebration for the Olomouc officers and leading German associations in honour of the departing commander of the local garrison, Colonel and Knight Johann von Neuwirth, in July 1886. For this occasion, the restaurant's garden was decorated with lanterns, and the music was provided by a military band which, among other pieces, played a march composed specifically for the event—the Neuwirth March. The departing commander received many gifts from his subordinates.

According to newspaper reports, as the evening progressed, much “wildness” mixed into the official programme. Everything culminated in a firework display that concluded this part of the garden festivities. Afterward, the participants proceeded to Café Hirsch on the Upper Square, accompanied by the sound of a military carillon and a lantern procession. Smaller representational events of German bourgeois associations were also held here. Members of the Olomouc Men’s Choral Society (Männergesangverein) met here several times, and the mayor of Olomouc welcomed representatives of Brno’s German associations at this venue.

Besides meetings of German associations, gatherings of Czech organizations also took place here. In 1885 a meeting was held in Englisch’s restaurant at which the prominent Czech liberal-conservative politician František Ladislav Rieger (1818–1903) spoke. On this occasion, a demand was made for the construction of a Czech National House in Olomouc. Until the beginning of the 20th century, however, Czech associations held their events mainly at the nearby inn *U města Prahy* (“At the City of Prague,” today the post office at the corner of Svornost Avenue and Litovelská Street; until 2006 the Lípa cinema).

It appears, however, that not all guests viewed the quality of this garden restaurant positively at this time. For example, in July 1882 *Die Neue Zeit*, an Olomouc newspaper, published an article about an outing of members of the German gymnastics association Turnverein—so-called “Turners”—who, after outdoor exercise, retired to Englisch’s restaurant. The author complained that the comfort of the establishment had been overshadowed by a spontaneous musical performance and recommended that the proprietor should not tolerate such entertainment, otherwise the number of his guests might drop to zero. But let us now leave Johann Englisch’s rural inn for a moment and take a closer look at Johann himself and his family.

Johann was born on 25 May 1839 in Šumperk as the sixth child of Josef Alois and Františka Englisch. His father was a farmer and owned a farmstead No. 271 in the suburb of Šumperk (today Slovanská Street). The Englisch family came here in the late 1820s from Břidličná, where Johann’s grandfather Franz Englisch had been the hereditary reeve (*Rychtář*), one of the most powerful and wealthiest peasants in the village. Johann probably moved to Olomouc sometime before 1868. One of the main reasons for choosing Olomouc was likely the fact that his older brother Josef Englisch (born 1831) already lived there. Josef was a merchant (Spezereiwarenhändler) and in 1867 purchased for 31,000 Austrian gulden a house at the corner of the Lower Square and Lower Street (today Lafayettova) No. 51/38. He also successfully engaged in local politics. From 1880 to 1892 he was a member of the municipal committee. As was common at the time, political life was closely tied to association life. Josef Englisch was a prominent member of the German Turnverein and also one of the founders of the *Gewerbe-Verein des Olmützer Handelskammerbezirkes* (Trade Association of the Olomouc Chamber of Commerce District). We can only speculate whether his older brother’s position helped Johann Englisch obtain important information about future municipal development plans or facilitated negotiations over the purchase of land in Nová Ulice.

Unlike his brother, Johann Englisch did not engage actively in local politics. We know little about his association activities, but he seems to have been a respected member of Olomouc’s

bourgeois society. Given his business activities near Johann's Park, it is no surprise that he was an active member of the *Society of Park Friends* (Die Gesellschaft der Parkfreunde). His standing within the local middle class is also shown by the fact that throughout the 1870s and early 1880s he was continuously elected to the jury of the Olomouc Regional Court.

Besides his brother's help, he could also rely on the family of his wife, particularly their financial background. At the age of twenty-nine Johann married Amálie Prosser (1846–1929), seven years his junior and the adopted daughter of the widow Josefína Griebler. Amálie had been born to the family of the princely cooper master Ignác and Amálie Prosser of Moravská Třebová. Josefína Griebler was Amálie's maternal aunt. She adopted her niece because, due to a late marriage and her husband's early death, she had no children of her own. Josefína inherited from her husband a brewing-right house No. 206/2 in Michalská Street valued at 22,000 Austrian gulden. The adoption ensured that her niece would inherit property that she could offer her future husband as a dowry.

Johann Englisch and Amálie Prosser were married in the parish church of St. Michael on 18 August 1868. The young couple lived in the aforementioned house No. 206/2. In the ground floor of this house Johann operated an inn serving Pilsner beer, Austrian wines, and offering table games. The history of this house and its taproom reaches at least as far back as the 15th century. Unlike today, the inn was entered not from Ztracená Street but from Michalská Street. From the 1880s onward Johann no longer ran the inn himself but leased it to various local innkeepers. In the 1890s the inn bore the name *Erste Pilsner Bierhalle*, and from the early 20th century it was known as *U Brejníka* or *U Englischů*. It was called *U Brejníka* because at that time the restaurant was leased to Johann Brejník. The last tenant during the Englisch family's ownership was Julius Baumgarten. When the Englisch family fell into financial distress, the house and inn were sold to their largest creditor, the Olomouc Savings Bank (*Olmützer Sparkasse*). Since about 1997, the restaurant *U Kejkliře* has operated here.

Johann and Amálie had five children—two sons, Artur (born 1869) and Johann (born 1871), and three daughters, Amálie (born 1873), Josefína (born 1875), and the youngest, Hedwiga (born 1888). Both sons followed their father's profession. The eldest, Artur, initially managed the restaurant in the House by the Park during his father's illness in the early 1890s, and in 1894 moved to Budapest, the capital of the Kingdom of Hungary, where he worked as a waiter. Nothing further is known about him. The younger Johann, by contrast, remained in Olomouc. From 1902 he briefly managed his mother's restaurant in the House by the Park. After the First World War he appears as the tenant of an inn in Lafayettova Street No. 9. At this time he also Czechicized his name to Jan Englisch. Later, in the late 1930s, he operated a restaurant on the same street in house No. 10 (today Rockstar Café & Bar).

With the exception of Josefína, the fates of the other daughters remain unknown. In 1895, at the age of twenty, Josefína married the seven-years-older druggist Hugo Przerovský of St. Pölten in Lower Austria. The Przerovský family came from the town of Brumov near Valašské Klobouky. Josefína and Hugo's wedding was also attended by Hugo's uncle, the prominent Moravian liberal politician and lawyer Adolf Promber (1843–1899), who travelled

from Brno. His presence attracted the attention of the local German press. After the wedding, Josefina moved with her husband to St. Pölten.

According to the 1880 census, the Englisch household in the Michalská Street house consisted, besides Johann's immediate family, of eleven additional persons. These were mainly people associated with running the inn: two waiters, a hospitality apprentice, a labourer, a cook, two helpers in the inn, a kitchen helper, and three maids who most likely cared only for the household itself. Among small tradesmen like Johann Englisch, it was common for employees to live in their employer's household. German was spoken in the family; only two persons listed their everyday language as "Slavisch," most likely referring to the Haná dialect. Also living in the house was the adoptive mother, Josefina Greisler. Other tenants occupied the remaining parts of the building.

As already mentioned above, Johann Englisch had been running a garden restaurant in Nová Ulice since the late 1870s. In 1881, he purchased the land on which this restaurant stood. During the period when the demolition waiver was in force, Johann Englisch could not even consider building a more elegant restaurant or any other structure. However, in the first half of the 1880s, the municipal council of Nová Ulice began planning the future development of this part of the village. There were considerations that a villa district ("cottage-viertel") should be built near the newly established Stromořadí Street and the railway line. A similar goal was pursued by the German association Fortschritt ("Progress") of Nová Ulice, whose statute stated that "the association seeks in the territory of Nová Ulice: the establishment of attractive building sites, the creation of healthier dwellings with gardens, the introduction of communal lighting and sewerage, the creation of spaces suited both to the needs of pedestrians and to the requirements for public streets and squares planted with trees."

All these intentions were aimed at creating a modern villa district in this area, in accordance with contemporary standards and tastes. The models were sought primarily in the villa quarters of imperial Vienna. The actual implementation of these plans only took place on the initiative of the Savings and Loan Consortium of the General Austrian Association of Civil Servants in Olomouc (Spar- und Vorschussconsorcium des I. allgem. österr. Beamtenvereines). In 1882, it commissioned the Czech architect and builder Karel Starý (1843–1929) to draw up an urban plan for the locality. Starý built his own family villa here in 1885 (today Litovelská 7). Finally, in 1886, the consortium purchased a large part of the building plots from the municipality of Nová Ulice near today's Olomouc město railway station, where, according to the urban plan, a new district soon began to take shape. It was given the name the Civil Servants' Quarter (Beamtenviertel) after the initiator of this construction project.

At the very time when the highest governmental and military circles were negotiating the abolition of the Olomouc fortress, and after Karel Starý had drawn up the urban plan, Johann Englisch decided to build, based on the design of Franz Langer, a three-storey palatial residential building with a restaurant on the ground floor on his land. In March 1887, he applied to the municipality of Nová Ulice for a building permit. The municipality had no

objections and issued the appropriate approval. However, the situation soon became complicated when the city of Olomouc strongly objected to this decision and lodged an appeal against it. The Olomouc self-government objected mainly to the fact that Langer's design did not respect the future alignment of Stromořadí Street, since the front of the building did not run parallel to the street but was slightly trapezoidal.

During the summer, Englisch turned to Emil Schnizer von Lindenstamm (1857–1921), a native of Nitra in Slovakia, with a request for a new design. From September 1887 to spring 1888, Franz Langer completed, according to this new design, a new two-storey building. On the ground floor was the restaurant, which included in its rear part a glazed "Glass Salon"; the upper two floors contained residential apartments. The symmetrical main façade with its accentuated central section drew inspiration from the Renaissance with Mannerist details. There were also farm buildings next to the new house, which further enhanced its rural character. They housed a small number of farm animals – a horse, goats, cows, and pigs – and the courtyard even contained two dozen beehives. On the upper floors of the house, several rental apartments were created. Let us now recall some of their residents.

According to the 1890 census, a total of 30 people lived in the entire building, divided into seven households/apartments. The owner of the house, Johann Englisch, and his wife Amalie did not live here, however. They still resided in their house on Michalská Street in Olomouc. The house manager and head of the restaurant was Johann's eldest son, Artur. Among the other residents were tradespeople such as the innkeeper Wenzel Wikopal, the fruit seller Františka Jahnová, and the large family of the builder Franz Langer, who had designed the Englisch House. In the 1890s, Langer built several grand villas in the Civil Servants' Quarter. One of them was his own Baroque-style home from 1894–1895 (today Mozartova 6).

The remaining tenants were moderately well-off members of the intelligentsia. They included the senior railway engineer Leo Weber, his wife, and their maid. Another household belonged to Moritz Reiniger (1855–1913), a professor of Jewish religion at the Olomouc municipal school. Another apartment was occupied by the family of Professor Emil Seyss (1841–1920). Seyss was born in Jaroslav in Galicia. He first taught at the gymnasium in Villach, Carinthia, where he met his future wife Augusta. From there, the family moved in 1882 to Jihlava. Seyss's career culminated in 1889 when he was appointed director of the German state gymnasium in Olomouc. In 1907, the family moved to Vienna, where Emil Seyss later died.

Professor Seyss's family gained notorious fame through his youngest son, Artur Seyss-Inquart (1892–1946; see Appendix No. 3). He studied at the gymnasium in Olomouc and, after the family moved to Vienna, studied law at the university there. During the First World War, he served in the Austro-Hungarian army, achieving the rank of lieutenant colonel in the reserves. From 1921, he practiced law. He was also politically active in the First Austrian Republic from the early 1920s. His political career flourished in the 1930s. Artur Seyss-Inquart became active in Austrian organisations close to the National Socialist movement and the German NSDAP. In 1938, he joined the party and became one of its leading figures in Austria. In March of that year, under pressure from Adolf Hitler, the Austrian prime minister was forced to appoint Seyss-Inquart minister of the interior. Shortly afterwards, the prime minister

himself had to resign under pressure from Nazi Germany, and Seyss-Inquart became the new head of government. Just two days later, he proclaimed the so-called Anschluss, i.e., the annexation of Austria to Nazi Germany. He then became a Reich minister without portfolio and entered the elite SS, where he achieved the rank of SS-Obergruppenführer. During the Second World War, he served as Reich Commissioner of the occupied Netherlands, where he was responsible for the deportation of local Jews (around 100,000) and the organisation of forced labour. In his last will, dated April 1945, Adolf Hitler even appointed Seyss-Inquart minister of foreign affairs. After the war, he was tried by the Nuremberg Tribunal, which sentenced him to death by hanging. The sentence was carried out on 16 October 1946.

According to the 1900 census, the House by the Park had almost the same number of residents. At that time, 25 people lived here. However, the number of apartments – or rather households – decreased. Instead of the seven apartments recorded in 1890, only five households were registered at the beginning of the new century. Moreover, over the course of a decade, the composition of the tenants had changed significantly. Only the family of the Jewish teacher Moritz Reiniger remained; the other residents had moved in during the 1890s.

The owner's family also moved into the House by the Park, headed by the 53-year-old widow Amalie Englisch. Their household included the cook, thirty-year-old Hermína Daniel from the Boskovice region, and sixteen-year-old Paulina Ott, who worked as a shop assistant in Amalie Englisch's tobacco shop located at No. 132 on Stromořadí Street (today the pub U Fleka). The widow Amalie continued running the restaurant on the ground floor of the house. At the beginning of the 20th century, the restaurant was managed by Jakob Meixner (born 1854) from Holešov, who also lived in the house with his large family. Also living here was Major Ernst Juch of the Austro-Hungarian army with his wife and maid. And finally, the last of the new tenants was the Jewish family of David Adolf Grätzer. As we shall see below, this family played an important role in the later history of the House by the Park.

At the time of the census, Amalie Englisch had already been the owner of the House by the Park for more than seven years. Her husband died at the age of fifty-four in September 1893 in Luhačovice, where he had been undergoing medical treatment. According to the medical examination, the cause of death was a heart defect. We know that he had been seriously ill at least since late 1890, which prevented him from properly managing his restaurant. Perhaps for this reason, he rented out the restaurant to a certain Emanuel Krejčík, who ran it only until August 1892, after which Johann Englisch again operated it himself.

Englich's funeral once again demonstrates the esteem and respect this family enjoyed in Olomouc. After the priest from St. Michael's blessed the body in the house on Michalská Street and the coffin, adorned with splendid wreaths, was placed on the hearse of the funeral society Pietas, an impressive funeral procession, as reported by the local newspapers, followed the cart. At the front walked members of the funeral society carrying wreaths, followed by clergy from the Capuchin monastery and St. Michael's. Behind the coffin marched mourning family members and a large number of funeral guests. The procession passed through the Upper Square and along Terežská Street (today Pavelčáková Street) to the

imperial road (today Havlíčkova Street) leading to the municipal cemetery (today the Flora Exhibition Grounds), where the coffin was laid in the family tomb.

After her husband's death, in March 1896, Amalie decided once again to lease the restaurant in the House by the Park, this time to Florian Fleischer, who had previously worked as a waiter in the prominent Olomouc hotels Goliath and Lauer on the Upper Square. We also know that the preparation of the local dishes was handled by his wife, and that drinks included Pilsner, Dolany Märzen beer, and Austrian and Hungarian wines. During the summer months, musical accompaniment was provided by the military band of the 93rd Infantry Regiment.

Based on the design of the architect Jacob Gartner (1861–1921), Amalie Englisch decided in 1896 to add a courtyard wing with a representative social and theatre hall to the existing residential building, thereby increasing the attractiveness of the restaurant. The substructure of the hall was designed as a modern reinforced concrete construction with anticipated commercial use. In addition, a new bowling alley was built in the garden. During March and April of the same year, the old hall was demolished, and the new one was completed in the autumn. Construction work was carried out by the firm Aulegk und Zapletal.

The designer, Jacob Gartner, was of Jewish origin (born in Prostějov) and before World War I was one of the prominent Austrian architects. In Olomouc, he designed several notable buildings, most importantly the Olomouc synagogue built between 1895 and 1897 in the historicising, so-called Moorish-Oriental style (today the car park on Palach Square). He designed other synagogues for Jewish communities in many towns in Moravia, Silesia, and Austria – in Hlohovec (1890), Trnava (1891), Vienna (1891), Holešov (1891–1893), Opava (1892–1896), Přerov (1898), Vienna-Simmering (1898–1899), Vienna-Brigittenau (1899–1901), Bohumín (1899–1901), Prostějov (1895–1897), Vienna-Margareten (1899–1901), and finally Kroměříž (1909–1910). Unfortunately, many of these buildings were destroyed during the Nazi regime. Such was the fate of the Olomouc synagogue, which was burned down in March 1939 and later demolished. Furthermore, between 1894 and 1899, Gartner designed the building of the Count Pöttingen Institute for the Education of Girls in Olomouc.

Besides these public buildings, Gartner also participated in the construction of private houses in Olomouc. Most notably the villa (today Vídeňská 2) of Eduard Hamburger (1834–1901), owner of the Nová Ulice malt house and long-standing head of the local Jewish community.

He constructed additional apartment buildings and villas in cooperation with the builder Moritz Fischer on what is now Masarykova Avenue and Vídeňská Street.

After Florián Fleischer, the Englisch restaurant was operated from 1898 by Karel Strnad, who had previously managed restaurants at the Grandhotel and Hotel Radecky in Brno, as well as the officers' casino in Lviv. Strnad announced his takeover of the Englisch restaurant in the Olomouc newspapers. From the advertisement we learn, among other things, what visitors could look forward to: “Alongside wines of the finest local and foreign varieties, the excellent Märzen beer from the brewery of the burgher brewers in Olomouc will be tapped, and I most warmly recommend the well-known good Viennese cuisine.”

After Strnad, the inn was run for several years by the already mentioned Jakob Meixner, and after him it was briefly managed by Amálie's son Johann. From February 1906 the restaurant was leased to the Karviná brewery of Heinrich Count Larisch-Mönnich (1850–1918).

Members of this Silesian family were among the prominent Silesian entrepreneurs of the 19th and first half of the 20th century. Besides the food industry, they were also active in black coal mining, owning several mines in the Ostrava–Karviná region. They also engaged in coke production and the chemical industry. Some members of this family even reached high political positions.

After the Englisch restaurant had been leased to the Karviná brewery, the establishment bore the name Karviná Beer Hall (Die Karwiner Bierhall). It was managed by the Viennese restaurateur Viktor Gruber. Visitors were offered Karviná beers of the Kaiserbier or Granatbräu brands, as well as Pilsner Urquell and Lower Austrian wines. Viennese cuisine was served—dishes originating from various parts of Austria-Hungary.

Since the construction of the House by the Park, the Englisch restaurant had been a popular destination not only for lovers of good beer, wine, local cuisine, or bowling, but also a place with a rich social and cultural life. Based on newspaper reports, we can follow the cultural events held here and the associations that used the venue for their meetings and celebrations. Very often, concerts by local military bands were held here on Saturdays. Even before the construction of the new representative hall, performances by itinerant theatre troupes took place several times a year. For example, in July 1892 the troupe of the musical comedian Josef Steidler (1846–1923; see appendix), from Vienna, performed here. It was mostly popular entertainment and cabaret, with folk songs and short acting sketches, and further amusements provided by other members of Steidler's ensemble—a ventriloquist, a mime, and other skilled performers. In 1906 a permanent German popular theatre, called Deutsches Volkstheater, was even based here, with plans to stage simple plays, farces, comedies, and operettas. Unfortunately, nothing more is known about its further existence.

Various, mostly German, associations from Nová Ulice and Olomouc held meetings and dances here. The aforementioned Nová Ulice association named Progress (Fortschritt) organized several gatherings and dances at Englisch's in the early 1890s. In October 1896, for instance, a dance soirée of this association was held on the occasion of the opening of the newly built hall. Dance evenings of the social club Fidelio were occasionally held here as well. Military bands from the Olomouc garrison usually played at all these events.

The history of cycling in Olomouc is also connected with the Englisch restaurant. The local First Olomouc Cycling Club (I. Olmützer Radfahrerclub) often held its meetings and sporting events here until a cycling track was built. In 1896 a cycling race was organized on Litovelská Street, and a temporary grandstand was even erected at the starting line. After the race, the participants moved to the nearby restaurant, where the winners were decorated, and a dance was held in the evening. In 1896 a large gathering of North Moravian cycling clubs was also held at Englisch's, and in 1897 part of the celebration of the blessing of the club banner and, above all, the opening of the new cycling track (today the area between the Clarion Hotel and the Albert store) took place here.

Other associations that frequently met at Englisch's included the women's section of the First Olomouc Military Veterans' Association (I. Olmützer Militär-Veteranenverein), the Barbers' Club (Friseurklub), and the League of German Northern Moravia (Bund der deutschen Nordmährens).

All these associations and organizations clearly illustrate that at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries the Englisch restaurant, and later the Karviná Beer Hall, was a gathering place primarily for the German middle-class inhabitants of Olomouc and Nová Ulice. Occasionally, German newspapers even referred to the Karviná Beer Hall as a "German pub" ("deutsche Gastwirtschaft"). This may also have been influenced by the fact that the owner of the Karviná brewery and tenant of the restaurant, Heinrich Count Larisch-Mönnich, belonged to the leading German entrepreneurs and politicians of the monarchy.

However, in 1908 the situation changed fundamentally. Once again, as many times before, the leaseholder of the Englisch restaurant changed. Count Larisch-Mönnich decided to sublet his concession to the Haná Agricultural Brewery in Těšetice, Inc. A January 1908 advertisement promoted the newly opened Těšetice Restaurant (later called the Těšetice Beer Hall) with the following text: "The former Karviná, now the Těšetice Restaurant in the Civil Servants' Quarter in Olomouc (Englisch House), offers its large elegant hall for Shrovetide festivities. Excellent beer, cosy restaurant rooms."

This joint-stock company was founded in 1898 as an association of municipalities from the Těšetice region. Such enterprises owned by Czech municipalities and savings banks had great political significance in the competition with Moravian Germans. Although the Czech ethnic group made up almost two-thirds of the population of Moravia before World War I, due to the electoral system—where voters paying higher taxes had a stronger vote than their less affluent neighbours—Czechs had less political influence than the wealthier German minority. Therefore, supporting Czech entrepreneurs and businesses was also a political matter. Put simply: the wealthier and more successful the Czech people and Czech companies were, the stronger the political power of the Czech nation became. For these reasons, Czech entrepreneurial activities were often viewed by the German minority as attempts to limit their political power.

This may explain why something as ordinary as a change in the leaseholder of the Englisch restaurant was judged extremely negatively by some German journalists. The German daily *Mährisches Tagblatt* wrote that as a result of leasing the Englisch restaurant to the Těšetice brewery, the local Germans had lost yet another inn where German associations could hold their gatherings, and it feared that the new tenant would make life difficult for local Germans, similarly to the neighbouring Czech inn *U města Prahy*. In response, the Czech newspaper *Našinec* published a laconic but apt note: "The Karviná Beer Hall has been leased to the Těšetice brewery from 1 January 1908. Thus a new Czech hospitality business has emerged in Olomouc."

And indeed, after the Těšetice brewery took over the Englisch restaurant, German associations completely lost interest in the place. On the other hand, we observe from 1908 an increased interest from Czech organizations, although we cannot say that Czech associations

had previously avoided the venue. For example, in 1904 two sporting events of the Czech Athletic Club were held here. It seems, however, that Czechs preferred other inns in Nová Ulice, such as *U zlaté koule* or *U města Prahy*. These places were mainly frequented by political and cultural associations from the bourgeois milieu of small tradesmen, small shopkeepers, and members of the intelligentsia (clerks, teachers, lawyers, clergy, etc.). This is confirmed by a statement from the innkeeper of *U města Prahy* in one application, where he noted that, unlike the Těšetice Beer Hall, “the associations of the middle classes are concentrated in this establishment.”

From the 1860s onwards, however, an opposition gradually formed within the Czech lands against these established representatives of the Czech nation—an opposition coming from the working class, organized both in individual trade unions and in political parties such as the Czechoslavonic Social Democratic Workers’ Party in Austria (founded in 1878; its successor is today’s Czech Social Democratic Party). In 1872 the Slavic Workers’ Association was founded, one of the very first workers’ associations in Olomouc, whose activities were non-political and focused on the social education of its members. Czech workers’ organizations experienced their greatest expansion in Olomouc in the first decade of the 20th century, when more than a dozen were established. Most were local branches of larger unions active throughout the Czech lands.

From 1908 the meetings of local Czech workers’ associations took place in the Těšetice Beer Hall. For example, in March of that year a mass meeting was held here, with the following items on the agenda: “Sunday and holiday rest; Shortening of working hours.” The Workers’ Gymnastics Association (DTJ), founded in 1908, used the courtyard for public exercises. The prominent Social Democratic politician and journalist Rudolf Bechyně (1881–1948; see appendix) also delivered several speeches here. Originally a mechanical locksmith by trade, he later became a capable journalist and politician. At this time he was an editor of the *Voice of the People* in Prostějov, and in 1911 he became a member of the national parliament. Throughout the First Czechoslovak Republic he remained a deputy and even served in several governments as a minister. After the occupation of Czechoslovakia he fled to England, where he became active in the resistance.

The popularity of the local beer hall—by then a place of numerous demonstrations, lectures, and mass gatherings—eventually led to the fact that from 1908, in official correspondence and newspaper reports, we increasingly encounter the alternative name of the Těšetice Beer Hall: the Workers’ House (*Arbeiterheim*). Around this time the Workers’ House Cooperative in Olomouc was established, bringing together over 20 trade-union workers’ organizations. In 1910 this association entered into a dispute with the German municipal administration of Nová Ulice, which several times refused permission for dance events in the Těšetice Beer Hall due to concerns about disturbing the night-time peace in the Civil Servants’ Quarter. Besides the workers, the innkeepers of both the Těšetice Beer Hall and *U města Prahy* also appealed this decision. We cannot overlook that behind this conflict lay the contemporary animosity between the German political leadership of Nová Ulice and the dynamically developing Czech associations.

The Grätzer Family (1910 – 1921)

At the time when Englisch's originally middle-class restaurant was gradually becoming a center of the Olomouc workers' movement, its owner found herself in financial distress. In 1908, Amalie Englisch had to sell the house and tavern in Michalská Street to the Olmützer Sparkasse. It was precisely with this financial institution that her late husband had taken out large loans to build our House by the Park. His inability to meet his obligations to the Olomouc savings bank and other smaller creditors eventually led, in the autumn of 1909, to foreclosure on the house in Nová Ulice. The total claims registered on the House by the Park amounted to approximately 97,000 Austro-Hungarian crowns. In March 1910, the property was acquired at auction by the Jewish entrepreneurial family Grätzer. More precisely, it was the company named Salomon Grätzer, which paid 104,100 Austro-Hungarian crowns for it.

The founder of this company, Salomon Grätzer (1835–1894), was born in Jevíčko to David and Rosa Grätzer. In the early 1860s, he married Ernestine Borg (1840–1916), originally from Vienna. By this time, the newlyweds were already living in Mohelnice, where their sons David Adolf (1862–1920), Leopold (1866–1942), Heinrich (1873–?), and daughters Katarina (1875–?) and Jeanette (?) were born. Sometime before 1885, the family moved to Litovel.

Sources do not indicate what Salomon did for a living in the 1860s and 1870s. The first mention of his entrepreneurial activities in the commercial register comes only from the mid-1880s. In 1885, a company named Salomon Grätzer was registered at the regional court in Olomouc. It specialized in paper production and, from the early 20th century on, also in cardboard and tar products. The paper mill, and thus the company's headquarters, were located in Litovel (today an industrial site at Karlovská 967). In the same premises, a second company owned by Salomon Grätzer later operated, producing and selling Christmas ornaments. The exact date of its establishment is unknown, but it likely emerged between 1885 and 1894. The first information on this company appears in the commercial register only from 1905.

By the time the company Salomon Grätzer purchased the House by the Park, its founder had already been dead for more than ten years. After their father's death, his sons David Adolf (together with his wife Emilie) and Leopold took over the management of both enterprises. In 1914, the property was divided between the two brothers: David retained the Christmas-ornament company, while Leopold kept the Litovel paper mill.

Most likely immediately after acquiring the property, the Grätzers began considering how to use the storage rooms beneath the hall. The problem, however, was the small size of the under-hall space. For this reason, they undertook an expansion of the existing commercial premises in 1912. The Grätzers originally intended to build an extensive two-storey storage and production building that would divide the courtyard into two parts. They also planned to construct a one-storey residential building in the gateway to the courtyard and to convert the ground-floor area—including the restaurant—into company offices (see Appendices 6–8). In the end, however, the project in this form was abandoned for unknown reasons, and only a

relatively modest alteration of the courtyard storage areas was carried out, along with a reconstruction of the existing Gartner wing, which was extended toward the courtyard. A new staircase leading to the hall and a refreshment counter serving the garden were built in the basement. On the upper floor, a flat-ceilinged anteroom was created. During 1913, the production of Christmas ornaments was moved into the ground-floor rooms beneath the hall, where it remained until 1921. Let us now mention the later fates of Salomon's two sons.

Salomon's eldest son, David Adolf Grätzer, married Emilie, née Grätzer (1869–1915), in 1887. Until 1893, they lived in Litovel, then moved first to Olomouc and, five years later, to Nová Ulice, into our house. They had two sons—Richard (b. 1889) and Walter (b. 1893)—who trained in commercial professions and worked in this field in Olomouc after World War I. Richard later established himself as a merchant in Loštice, while Walter left to seek his fortune in Vienna. In addition to owning the Christmas-ornament company from 1914 onward, David founded, in 1905, a factory in Mohelnice producing cardboard, tar products, and insulation materials, as well as a subsidiary paper mill in Vlčice near Loštice. Shortly before his death in 1920, he transferred both firms to his two sons. During the difficult postwar years, these enterprises declined, and in 1922 they were placed under bankruptcy proceedings. In 1926, both companies were permanently removed from the commercial register.

The business of David's younger brother, Leopold, was considerably more successful. In 1895, he married Kamila (Camille) Spitzer (1873–1942), originally from Jevíčko, the birthplace of his father, Salomon. For more than fifteen years they lived in a house adjacent to the Litovel paper mill. They moved to Nová Ulice only after acquiring the House by the Park in 1910. In Litovel, they had two sons—Siegfried (later Vítězslav, 1896–1942) and Otto (1903–1939)—and three daughters, Helena (1897–?), Elsa (1899–?), and Irena (1901–?). After Leopold assumed management of the Litovel paper mill in 1914, the business prospered, enabling him in 1920 to build a modern villa at the corner of Dvořákova and Žilinská Streets (today Žilinského 126/7). From 1935 onward, Leopold's two sons, Siegfried and Otto, became official partners in the business.

After the Munich Crisis and the establishment of the so-called Second Republic, the position of Jewish inhabitants in the Czech lands became increasingly precarious. The Grätzer family tried to save their business by attempting, in early March 1939—just days before the arrival of Nazi troops and the declaration of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia—to have Emil Tylšar appointed as an independent authorized signatory for the company by the regional court. This, however, never came to pass, even though Siegfried submitted a petition to the regional court in September 1939 requesting its resolution. After the Nazi occupation, strict anti-Jewish laws—the so-called Nuremberg Laws—were enforced. Beginning in June 1939, these laws were applied to Jewish property in the Protectorate. It was confiscated and placed under non-Jewish trustees, and later sold to new owners through the process of Aryanization. In October 1939, the Grätzer paper mill in Litovel was placed under compulsory administration, initially under Rudolf Ziegler and later Hugo Patsch. In 1940, the mill was sold to Josef Eisenmaier.

At the same time, the Grätzer family suffered physical persecution and shared the fate of millions of Jews and other victims of Nazi brutality. In July 1942, Leopold, his wife Kamila, and their son Siegfried were deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp, where they were separated and later sent to various extermination camps in present-day Poland and Belarus, where all were murdered. The younger son, Otto, had already been deported from Olomouc in September 1939 to the German camp Buchenwald, where his trail ends.

Fortunately, part of the Grätzer family survived the catastrophic war years. In 1947, Siegfried Grätzer's daughters—Eva Weinstein and the minors Anita and Brigita, represented by their guardians—applied for the property confiscated by the Nazis. After the war, the paper mill was placed under national administration based on the so-called Beneš Decrees. However, due to political changes after February 1948, restitution never took place. In 1951, the Litovel paper mill ceased to exist altogether.

During the period when the House by the Park was owned by the Grätzer family, the premises were also sought out by Czech theatre performers. The reason was that the Czech pub U města Prahy in Nová Ulice—where Czech travelling theatre troupes traditionally staged performances—had been purchased in 1911 by the German municipal government of Nová Ulice and renamed Stadthof (“City Court”). The new owner strictly refused to lend the premises to Czech societies and theatre groups. This led to the idea that the hall of the Těšetice Tavern might become the new venue for Czech theatrical performances. However, the Czech side from the Official District failed to acquire Englisch's house at the foreclosure auction, having been outbid by the Jewish firm Salomon Grätzer, which purchased the property in 1910. Fortunately, the change of ownership did not lead—unlike at the U města Prahy tavern—to the exclusion of Czech theatre. The Grätzers allowed the ambitious theatre director Bedřich Jeřábek (1883–1933) to transfer the tradition of travelling theatre performances into the new space.

Jeřábek founded his company in 1909. Before that, he had worked as an actor and director, especially at the Urania Theatre in Prague. His troupe focused primarily on classical dramas by William Shakespeare and Friedrich Schiller, as well as on serious works by contemporary authors such as Henrik Ibsen, Gerhart Hauptmann, Maurice Maeterlinck, and others. Original Czech plays were performed only rarely.

This travelling company entered the history of Czech theatre in Olomouc with a guest performance held in the autumn of 1911 in the courtyard of our house. Before beginning performances, Bedřich Jeřábek had to erect an improvised stage in the courtyard, most likely connected to the existing outdoor music salon. The original outdoor stage had to be enlarged, and electric lighting was installed. The auditorium had seating for 300, standing room for 400 on the ground floor, and standing room for 300 in the gallery. By arrangement, trams were to wait after performances for visitors from Hodolany, Holice, and the surrounding area. The troupe first performed comedies by contemporary Czech and foreign authors. These lighter plays were supplemented with an extensive program of serious dramas by L. N. Tolstoy, Hermann Sudermann, and Henrik Ibsen. Audience reactions to Jeřábek's repertoire were rather lukewarm. Many performances had low attendance, and one had to be cancelled.

Newspaper reviews attributed the lack of success mainly to competition from other travelling troupes and to the growing public interest in cinematography. Another problem was the technically unsuitable hall—poor acoustics and a small stage. No further theatre company performed there afterward.

We also have surviving references from before World War I indicating that the House by the Park's hall was occasionally used as a cinema. In the early days, permanent cinemas did not yet exist; the first entrepreneurs in this field travelled from town to town. This was the case, for example, in the spring and summer of 1911, when the travelling company Elektrische Theater (previously known under the grand name The Electricity King of London), owned by Ignác Mück of Brno, screened films in the hall of our house. Another place in Nová Ulice that served as a venue for film screenings was the already-mentioned tavern U města Prahy, whose hall was later converted into a permanent cinema—first called Kino Apollo and, from 1948 onward, Kino Lípa.

The tremendous success and popularity of film performances eventually led to the separation of filmmaking from other forms of entertainment of the time. This development was also reflected in the cinema trade, as permanent movie theatres increasingly emerged. Legislation and state authorities also played a role: they viewed all travelling entertainment enterprises—including the very phenomenon of film, and thus cinemas themselves—with suspicion. Operating a cinema was not a free trade; entrepreneurs had to apply to state authorities for a time-limited license, which gave the authorities significant power to regulate this industry.

In 1912, David Grätzer, then the owner of the House by the Park, also obtained such a cinema license. In the following years, the license continued to be granted to him. It seems that Grätzer originally intended to establish a permanent cinema in the hall, but due to the war, this never materialized. This was likely the reason why, at the beginning of 1918, he leased the license for 10,000 crowns to M. Chovanec. The municipal council of Nová Ulice strongly supported the establishment of a permanent cinema, recognizing the cultural importance of such an institution. The municipality frequently clashed with state authorities, which sought to regulate the field more strictly.

Trade Unionists (1921-2010)

The financial difficulties of David Adolf Grätzer and his sons in the early 1920s naturally affected our house as well. In March 1921, a loan of 160,000 Kč from the Central Agricultural Savings Bank in Olomouc was registered on the property, which the Grätzer brothers most likely used to try to extinguish an older mortgage from the Wiener Bankverein and unpaid debts for coal supplies for their enterprises. In the summer of 1921, they ultimately decided to resolve their financial problems by selling the House by the Park. It is no surprise that Olomouc workers' organizations expressed strong interest in the building, as they had made it their informal centre before the First World War, as shown above. In August 1921, an agreement was reached between the company S. Grätzer and the Union of Metalworkers in

the Czechoslovak Republic for the purchase of the property. The sale price amounted to 470,000 Kč. At this point, let us say something about the history of this significant trade union association.

The metalworkers' trade-union movement ranks among the oldest trade-union organizations in the Czech lands. Workers' mutual-aid societies had existed as early as the 1860s, but only the 1867 Association Act and Coalition Act legalized the establishment and further existence of these associations. The first metalworkers' unions naturally arose in centres of the mechanical industry such as Liberec, Brno, and Prague. In the 1890s, local associations began to group into regional or even empire-wide organizations. In 1908, an independent Czech organization called the Union of Czech Metalworkers in Austria (later the Union of Metalworkers in the Czechoslovak Republic) was founded, which was umbrellaed by the Czechoslavonic Trade-Union Association. This gradually became the strongest platform of the Czech—and after 1918 also Czechoslovak—trade-union movement. Several important First-Republic Social Democratic politicians and ministers also came from metalworking circles.

During the Protectorate, all trade-union organizations were unified into one. This structure then continued into the post-war period, when the only central trade-union body was the Central Trade-Union Council, which in 1946 was transformed into the Revolutionary Trade-Union Movement (ROH), headed by the future communist president Antonín Zápotocký (1884–1957). Instead of defending workers' rights, ROH gradually became a compliant tool of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and its political regime. Only at the beginning of 1990 was ROH dissolved and its powers and property transferred to successor organizations, newly united under the Bohemian-Moravian Chamber of Trade-Union Federations (since 1993). To administer the property of the various unions, the Property, Administrative and Delimitation Union of Trade-Union Federations (MSDU OS) was established in 1990, and between 1990 and 2010 it also managed our House by the Park.

Metalworkers' unions developed in Olomouc relatively late compared to more advanced Czech industrial centres. This was mainly due to the long-standing absence of any engineering plant, caused in part by local specific conditions. On the one hand, the city's fortress character greatly hindered the development of modern industrial enterprise, leading businesses to arise rather in the surrounding area. On the other hand, in the final decades of the 19th century, Olomouc and its surroundings became a centre of the food industry. Other sectors long played only a marginal role. This began to change shortly before World War I, when in 1907–1908 the Moravian Steelworks and Ironworks were founded on the meadows behind Řepčín. They initially specialized in producing forged pitchforks and wagon axles, later expanding with a grey-iron foundry and, in 1913, a steel foundry. In the close vicinity of Olomouc—and of our House by the Park—a major metallurgical enterprise thus arose, employing over a hundred workers by 1914. The Moravian Ironworks were not the only such project near Olomouc: around the same time a foundry also arose in Hodolany (since 1947 part of the national enterprise Sigma-pumps). Only this industrial development created a favourable environment for the establishment of the Olomouc metalworkers' union, which later joined the national Metalworkers' Union. Until purchasing the House by the Park, local metalworkers were based in Řepčín.

In their newly acquired building, the Metalworkers' Union placed the offices of its own organization and those of other trade-union associations. The Grätzer brothers thus committed themselves in the purchase agreement to vacate three rooms with two antechambers on the ground floor immediately, and to vacate the ground-floor hall by January 1922, as well as all rooms on the first floor, the garden with the veranda, and finally the social hall. For this reason, the production of Christmas ornaments by S. Grätzer had to vacate the sub-hall and adjacent rooms. The conversion of residential areas into offices was also made possible by the fact that far fewer tenants lived here than before the war. According to the 1921 census, there were only three households in the building. Walter Grätzer still lived here with his wife, a maid, and a shop assistant. Another apartment was rented by the widow Rosa Bernt and her daughters. The last flat was occupied by Captain Engelbert Balzer of the Czechoslovak Army, his wife, and a young woman living as their lodger.

The representative hall continued to be used during the First Republic for various social events: balls, Saturday dance evenings, “afternoon social teas,” and New Year’s Eve festivities organised by both German and Czech associations. Various dance teachers rented the premises for teaching social dances: for example, the “Dance School” of ballet master Luis Moran Lehký or “maître de danse” Beppo Rašín, who in 1926 published a book entitled *Tango: Theory of the Most Popular Modern Dance in the International Style*. In the second half of the 20th century, these rooms were used mainly for trade-union conferences and training sessions.

The restaurant in the House by the Park did not disappear under the new owners. The Metalworkers' Union, like the previous proprietors, leased the pub to local innkeepers. It is not known exactly when the tenancy of the Těšetice brewery ended, but in 1913 the Těšetice Pub moved to the ground floor of the building at today’s corner of Palackého and Krapkova Streets (now the “U Fleka” restaurant). During the 1920s–1940s, many innkeepers operated the establishment: 1918–1924 Aloisie Bejczy, 1924–1928 Karel Pelišek, 1928–1931 Ottilie Kolaříková, 1931–1936 Václav Lintner, and 1936–1946 Karel Straka (who, however, sublet his licence). The last tenant-innkeeper was Antonín Němec (1946–1949).

After February 1948, independent small tradespeople were liquidated: they were either forced to join municipal enterprises or had to close their trades because the economic plan did not account for them. This led to a general decline of crafts, commerce, and licensed trades. This restructuring affected the restaurant in the House of the Unions as well. At the turn of 1949–1950 it was most likely closed, and later, in 1952, the kitchen, bar, and restaurant spaces were converted into a clubhouse for the Regional Club of Technicians and Innovators. This is evident in the 1951 floor plan (see Appendix No. 9), where some restaurant walls were removed to create a fairly large meeting room. Offices were also set up in the front part of the former restaurant. As early as 1946, the covered wooden garden terrace (Appendices 10–11), located beside the courtyard entrance, was removed and replaced with garages.

Hospitality in the House by the Park was revived only at the beginning of the 1990s, though in a completely different location. In 1992, the rear courtyard wing (on the site of the former Valihrach printing works—see Appendices 12–14) was remodelled, and a café and wine bar

were opened, initially run by the unions themselves. In 1996, these spaces were leased to Kamil Buchta, who turned the business into a pub called *Pod padákem* (“Under the Parachute”). At this time, a wooden structure with a bar and outdoor seating was built in the courtyard. In 2000, the pub was renamed *Wild West Ranch Restaurant*. That same year it hosted, among other things, the Olomouc music festival *Los Bigbítos*, previously held at the Summer Cinema. However, the event did not remain here for long, as local residents complained about loud music and general noise. Later, the declining restaurant became a bar with slot machines. After the unions sold the entire property to the company *Dům u parku*, s.r.o. in 2010, and the extensive reconstruction of the courtyard wing began, the pub ceased to exist.

From 1924 onward, the letterpress printing works *Linografie* was also located here, in the storage rooms connected to the one-storey rear wing built by Gartner. The company was registered the same year at the Regional Court in Olomouc as a public partnership. Its partners were initially Bohumil (also called Bohuš) Valihrač and František Tomeček, both typographers from Hodolany; later they were joined by Josef Sýkora, a machine operator from Olomouc. From 1932 until its closure, Bohumil Valihrač was its sole owner. According to surviving statistics, it was a very small printing house focusing on small books, posters, and printed matter (Appendix 15). Some works from Valihrač’s printing house are still highly valued by bibliophiles and collectors of *ex libris* today. Among them are *Song of Songs: The Great Song of Solomon* (1934), *A Bull Here and a Grey Donkey There* (1937), *Christmas 1939: B.V.O.F.B* (1939), *From Haná* (1940), *The Sharpened Scythe* (1947), *The Calendar Seller and the Walker* (1948), and *Ethnographic Images from Bohemia and Moravia* (1948).

A few days after the February 1948 events, national administration was imposed on all private printing houses and typographic enterprises in Olomouc. By the end of 1950, Valihrač’s printing works also ceased operations.

Following the merger of the Olomouc and Šumperk regions, the Regional Trade-Union Council in Olomouc had to expand its secretariats into additional rooms, which particularly affected commercial tenants who had storage spaces in the building. In 1949, partition walls with a corridor were built into the ground floor under the hall for this purpose, turning the original open space into a confusing series of offices with a central, unlit corridor. The reconstruction was designed by the Czechoslovak Construction Works, Prostějov branch. The name also changed: instead of House of the Unions or Workers’ House, the new designation House of Trade-Union Services came into use. The building housed mainly ROH units. For example, in the 1960s and 1970s the Leather-Industry Cooperative had its warehouses here, and according to a late-1980s telephone directory, offices located here included: ROH—District Trade-Union Council Olomouc (chairman, political-organizational division, worker welfare, statistics and information, economic and financial departments), chairman of OVOS—Education, District Sickness-Insurance Administration, workplace health and safety, OVOS—Agriculture, and finally the ROH Press and Literature Centre.

The House by the Park was administered from 1946 to 1960 by the Regional Trade-Union Council in Olomouc; after the merger of the Olomouc and Ostrava regions into the North-

Moravian Region headquartered in Ostrava, management was transferred to the Ostrava Regional Trade-Union Council. After the dissolution of ROH in 1990, the property passed to MSDU OS, which sold it in 2010 to the company Dům u parku as part of the unions' economic restructuring.

Conclusion

With this, we arrive in the history of our house at its modern present. As we have seen, from the very beginning the existence of the building was closely linked with the development of Olomouc, especially Nová Ulice. The construction of the House by the Park virtually marks the start of an urban boom that transformed the western outskirts of Olomouc beyond recognition. Villas, rental houses, and public buildings sprang up on both sides of Čech and Smetana Parks, reflecting contemporary ideas about healthy living in a modern city not only in architectural terms, but also in terms of urban planning. We have also seen that lively social activity took place within the walls and garden of the local restaurant. Gatherings over good beer, food, or music were often intertwined with the political, social, and national movements and questions of the time. Restaurants, pubs, and cafés became central venues of political life, where “ordinary” citizens could become familiar with contemporary ideas, opinions, and personalities of regional or national significance. The establishment in the House by the Park went through an interesting evolution—from a German middle-class rural restaurant to a Czech workers' or trade-union pub—which also influenced how the building was perceived. The working-class character, which ultimately prevailed, thus (un)intentionally pushed memories of earlier events and former residents into the background of local memory. We humbly hope that this text has helped to illuminate some overlooked aspects of the history of the House by the Park.

List of Tenants and Operators of the Restaurant *House by the Park*

- 1879–1890 – Johann Englisch Sr.
- 1890–1892 – Emanuel Krejčík
- 1892–1893 – Johann Englisch Sr.
- 1893–1895 – Johann Englisch / Jan Engliš Jr.
- 1895–1896 – Josef Piskoř
- 1896–1898 – Florián Fleischer
- 1898–1900 – Karel Strnad
- 1900–1902 – Jakob Meixner

- 1902–??? – Johann Englisch / Jan Engliš Jr.
- 1906–1908 – Karviná Brewery of Count Larisch-Mönnich
- 1908–1913 – Haná Agricultural Brewery in Těšetice
- 1913–1918 – ???
- 1918–1924 – Aloisie Bejczy
- 1924–1928 – Karel Pelišek
- 1928–1931 – Ottilie Kolaříková
- 1931–1936 – Václav Lintner
- 1936–1946 – Karel Straka and his wife
- 1946–1949 – Antonín Němec
- 1992–1996 – trade union members
- 1996–2010 – Kamil Buchta

Currency and Wages

Austro-Hungarian Empire 1867–1918

Currency:

From 1857 to 1892, payments were made in the Austrian gulden (Gulden österreichischer Währung, abbrev. ö. W.). One gulden equaled 100 kreutzers.

In 1892 (with an eight-year transitional period), the crown currency was introduced: one Austrian crown equaled 100 hellers. The conversion rate between the old and new currency was 1:2, i.e., 1 gulden = 2 crowns. From this comes the colloquial expression “pětka” (“a five”) for 10 crowns.

Wages:

Most information on wages comes from the period before World War I.

In the textile industry around 1900, the average wage was 1 crown per day, though some factories paid up to 3 crowns per day.

From 1906, wages increased, and most textile workers earned between 11 and 17 crowns per week.

In construction, wage levels at the beginning of the 20th century varied by trade and region. For example:

- bricklayers earned 3.80 crowns per day in Prague, and 3 crowns in České Budějovice,

- construction helpers earned 2.60 crowns per day in Prague and 2.20 crowns in České Budějovice.

Other professions:

- brewery workers: 2.20 crowns/day
- engineering workers: 4.20 crowns/day
- shoemakers: 3 crowns/day
- glassblowers: 60–80 crowns/week
- steelworkers: 4.15 crowns/day
- miners: (missing number in original – likely daily wage)

For comparison, in 1910 in Prague, 1 kg of black rye bread cost 30 hellers.

In agriculture:

- a young farmhand earned 40–80 crowns per year (with accommodation and food),
- a maid up to 115 crowns per year,
- a senior farmhand 165–350 crowns per year.

Higher wages were earned by clerks:

- estate manager: 150 crowns/month,
- office clerk: 90 crowns/month.

Czechoslovak Republic 1918–1939

Average wage (1919):

- miners: 155–600 Kč/month, depending on job category
- white-collar employees: 135–260 Kč/month
- agricultural workers: 50–90 Kč/month + payment in kind (deputát)

War Damage and the Trade Union House

Report of the Regional Trade Union Council (KOR) on war damage to the Trade Union House, dated 27 September 1946:

“We justify all damage listed in the questionnaire, which the Regional Trade Union Council in Olomouc suffered as a result of extraordinary circumstances, as follows:

On 18 May 1945, the Regional Trade Union Council received an order from the National Committee (Dr. Řehulka) to vacate immediately the building in which it had its office premises, for the Red Army. The occupation of the building and all rooms happened so quickly that it was impossible to remove items from the offices or secure them against being damaged or stolen.

Therefore, after the building was vacated again, we did not find the cash kept in the desk of the secretary or the portable suitcase-type machine, as well as many other small items that we did not even list in the damage report.

As the occupation of the building lasted almost two months, additional major damage occurred, mainly to inventory and office equipment. All doors, cabinets, and desks that could not be opened in the hasty evacuation were forced open, causing great damage to the furniture.

The long accommodation of troops in the offices also damaged the walls to such an extent that after the troops left, all offices had to be repainted.

Damage to glass and roofing occurred during the liberation battles for Olomouc.”

List of Archival and Printed Sources

State District Archive Olomouc:

- Fonds Archive of the Town of Nová Ulice (AM Nová Ulice), box: Assemblies and Associations 1886–1918
- AM Nová Ulice, box: Culture 1863–1919
- AM Nová Ulice, box: Industry in the Municipality 1869–1919
- AM Nová Ulice, box: Physical Education and Sports 1886–1913
- AM Nová Ulice, box: Private Construction 1862–1885
- AM Nová Ulice, census book 1890
- AM Nová Ulice, census book 1900
- AM Nová Ulice, census book 1910
- AM Nová Ulice, Tanzlizenzen 1893–1896

- AM Nová Ulice, Tanzlizenz 1897–1899
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