**Songs of the Persecuted - Transdisciplinary Colloquium Hermann Adler (May 27/28, 2019, Vilnius)**

The colloquium took place on the initiative of Rebekka Denz and Alexander Mionskowski at the University of Vilnius (Faculty of Philology, German Studies Room) as well as in the building of the cooperation partner Vilna Gaon-Jewish-State-Museum. German cooperation partners were the Center for Jewish Studies at the Otto Friedrich University of Bamberg, the Faculty of Cultural Studies at the University of Paderborn (Schirin Nowrousian) and the Goethe Institute Vilnius. The event was financed by funds from the Baltic-German University Liaison-Office Riga.

The colloquium brought together participants from other universities in Germany and Lithuania, as well as various disciplines (Judaists, Historians, Literary Researchers). The goals included: reconstructing Hermann Adler's extraordinary biography and making it known to academic and culturally interested circles, as well as relocating the poetry created in the Vilnius ghetto by the means of a guided literary city tour and a public reading in the Bak Museum. The time of internment in Vilnius and the successful escape was also conveyed by the screening of the film “Sergeant Schmid” (ZDF, 1968), for which Adler wrote the script based on his memories. The reading of his poems between the pictures of Samuel Bak who has been interned in the same ghetto in 1941 and the conversation with the painter living in the USA nowadays were very impressive.

The connection between image and writing was specifically addressed in two lectures (including by Sylvia Machein). The talks and discussions profited in particular by contributions from those who devoted themselves to the rediscovery of the largely forgotten Holocaust survivor in the past decade: Cornelius Hell (city tour), Schirin Nowrousian (reading and lecture), and the German-Slovakian PEN writer Paul Tischler, who emphasized the connection to Sládkovičovo, the city where Adler was born, in his opening lecture. Another substantial impetus came from Nikola Herweg of the German Literature Archive Marbach, who shared unknown details from Adler's unpublished correspondence with Hilde Domin. In the final discussion, the establishment of a Hermann Adler Society was taken in consideration.