

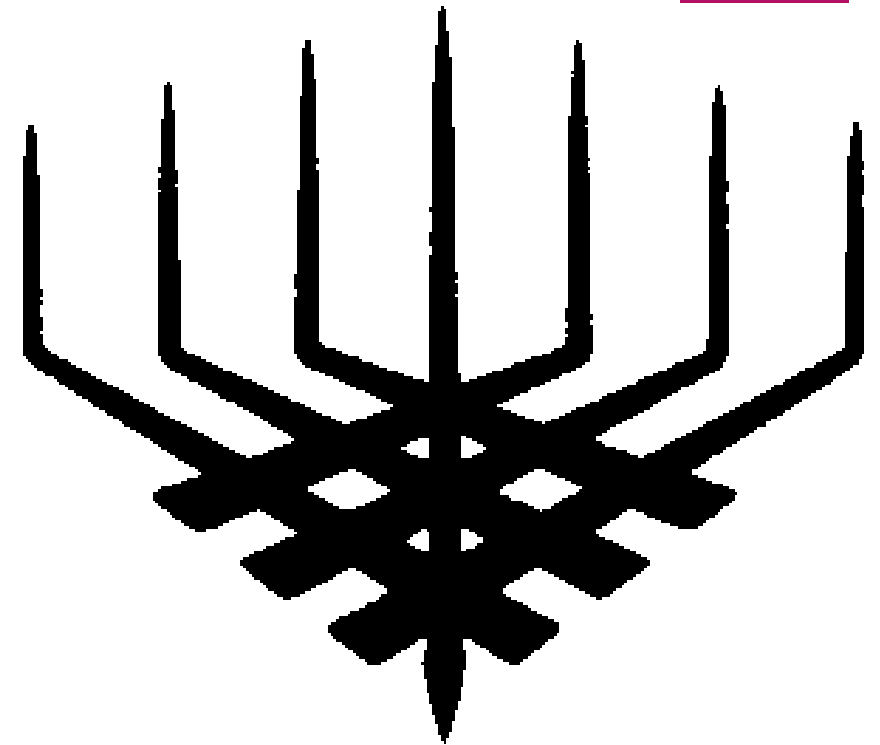
Synagogue music

-An Analysis of Liturgical changes in
19th century Jewish Worship

Tuesday 24/12/24
18:35

Cantor Dr. Paul Heller
Belsize Square Synagogue

Limmud 2024



The Haskala (Enlightenment) brought major changes to a fossilised religion and people.

1. Abolishment of ghettos, the Rabbi ceased to be a judge and became a teacher and preacher.

2. Participation in the academic world. Jews became accustomed to live in high culture, began to compare the forms of religious practice. The florid interpretation of the Hazzan seemed more an individual performance than an act of prayer.

3. Conversely the church provided appealing music of an organ, which led to music changes in the Synagogue

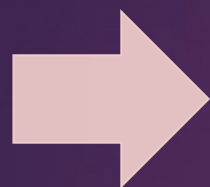
Congregational hymns, maintaining tempo, melody and harmony with still the roots in nusach (modes of prayer)

Historical Background

After pogroms great masses of Eastern Jews set out to western countries, of course accompanied with their rabbis and chazzanim who brought with them meshoreim (choirboys).

Eighteen century enlightenment broke the monopoly of Christianity over intellectual life. The radical reformers discarded the role of the chazzan altogether

Sulzer in Vienna developed a balance between traditional cantorial nusach and Western Choral music as did Samuel Naumbourg in Paris and Louis Lewandowski in Berlin !.



More on their
predecessors



The pioneers of what
Salomon Sulzer and
Louis Lewandowski
composed were
renaissance ,
baroque classic and
romantic composers

Salamone Rossi (1570–1630), Carlo Grossi , Lodovico Saladin (1690)
Giuseppe Vita Clave (fl.–1730) Christiano Giuseppe Lidarti (1730–1794)

Schubert, (1797-1828) F. Liszt, (1811-1831, Beethoven (1770-1827),)
Haydn, Mozart between others

ITALY



Main purpose: Integrating traditional and progressive elements in synagogue services

▶ Austria – Stadstempel



Brief introduction to the Viennese Synagogue Rite and the Hamburg reform at the beginning of the XIX Century

Key figures: Isak Noa Mannheimer and Salomon Sulzer Vienna
Louis Lewandowski ,Berlin

Sulzer as Lewandowski believed to infuse the Synagogue with dignity, order and beauty and thereby elevate the status of the Jew at a time when Jewish communities in Central Europe were struggling to achieve true emancipation.

► Changes

Removal of Piyutim (Liturgical Poems)

Reasons for removal:

Difficulty in understanding

Messianic references uncomfortable for reformers

Time-saving for lengthy sermons

Minimal changes to fixed prayers (keva), adjusted for censorship

- Examples:
 - "Le'ovdei fesilim" to "Le'ovdei zarim"
 - Translation of "shelo asani goy, who did not make me part of other people" as "who has made me a Jew- Sheasani Israel"

Salomon Sulzer's Impact on Jewish Music



Salomon Sulzer (1804-1890)

S. Sulzer

How Sulzer's compositions influenced liturgical music in Vienna



Comparing Liturgical Changes

▶ Germany and Hungary

Influence of the moderate Vienna Rite (Wiener Ritus)

Use of organs and instruments traditionally forbidden are implemented in Germany, Hungary and abroad

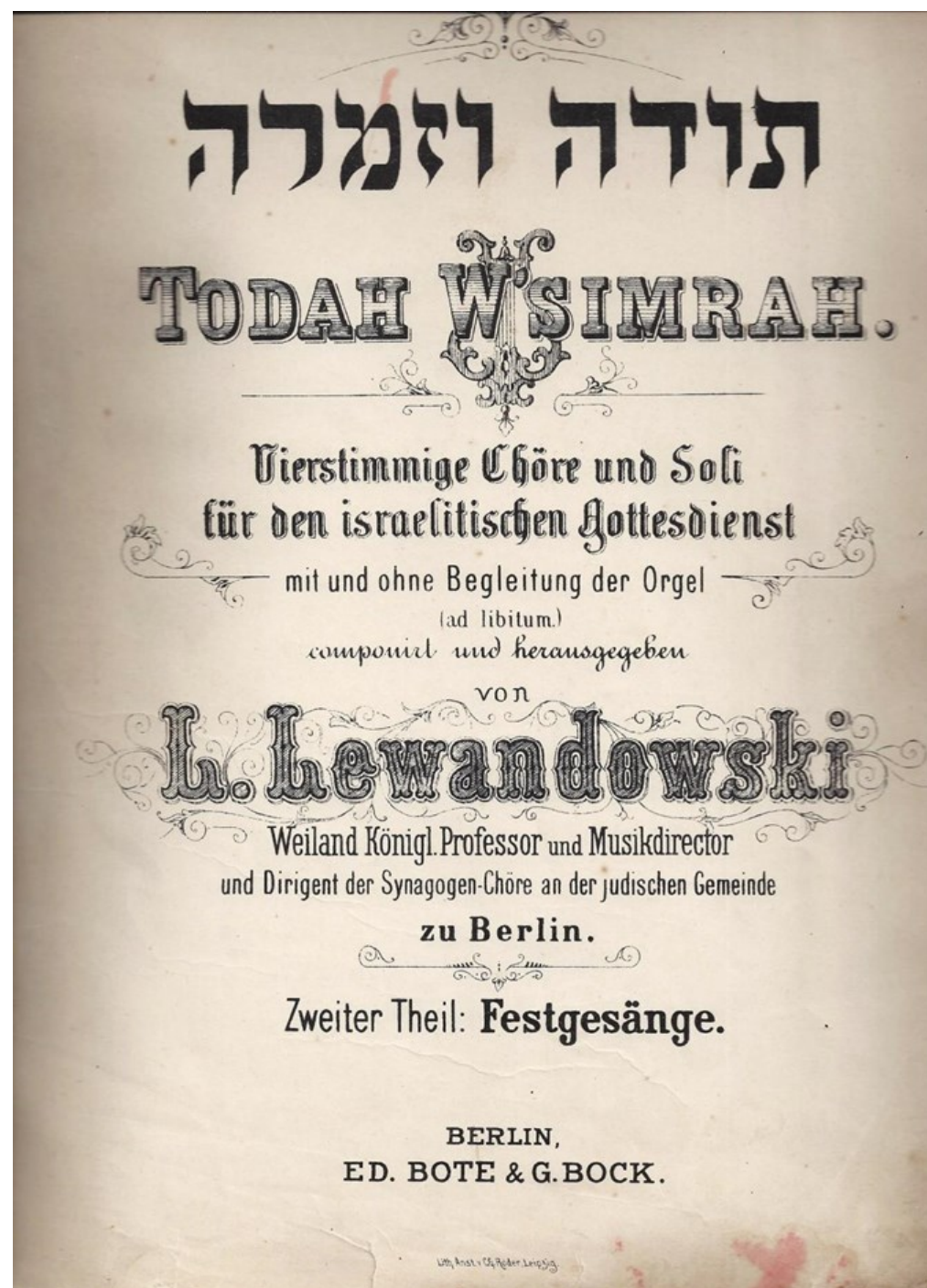


► The Dohany Street Synagogue built 1854



Louis Lazarus Lewandowski

(1821 - 1894)



This institution could suffice for smaller congregations, but for larger ones it is insufficient, the choir cannot find support and backing in the choir alone, it cannot create even as large it is the material strength that would be needed to control and lead large masses.

If before the introduction to choral singing the evils and harms were caused by the prayer leader in this case the choral singing will cause the same evil to the singing of thousands, and to find support for communal singing what better representation then in the organ?

.....The organ, the instrument of instruments, is alone capable of controlling and leading large masses in large spaces.. And bringing it together with the old style of singing will inevitably have a marvellous effect”





DIE NEUE SYNAGOGUE ZU BERLIN.

des Reichthums in Berlin

Architekturbild, 1870

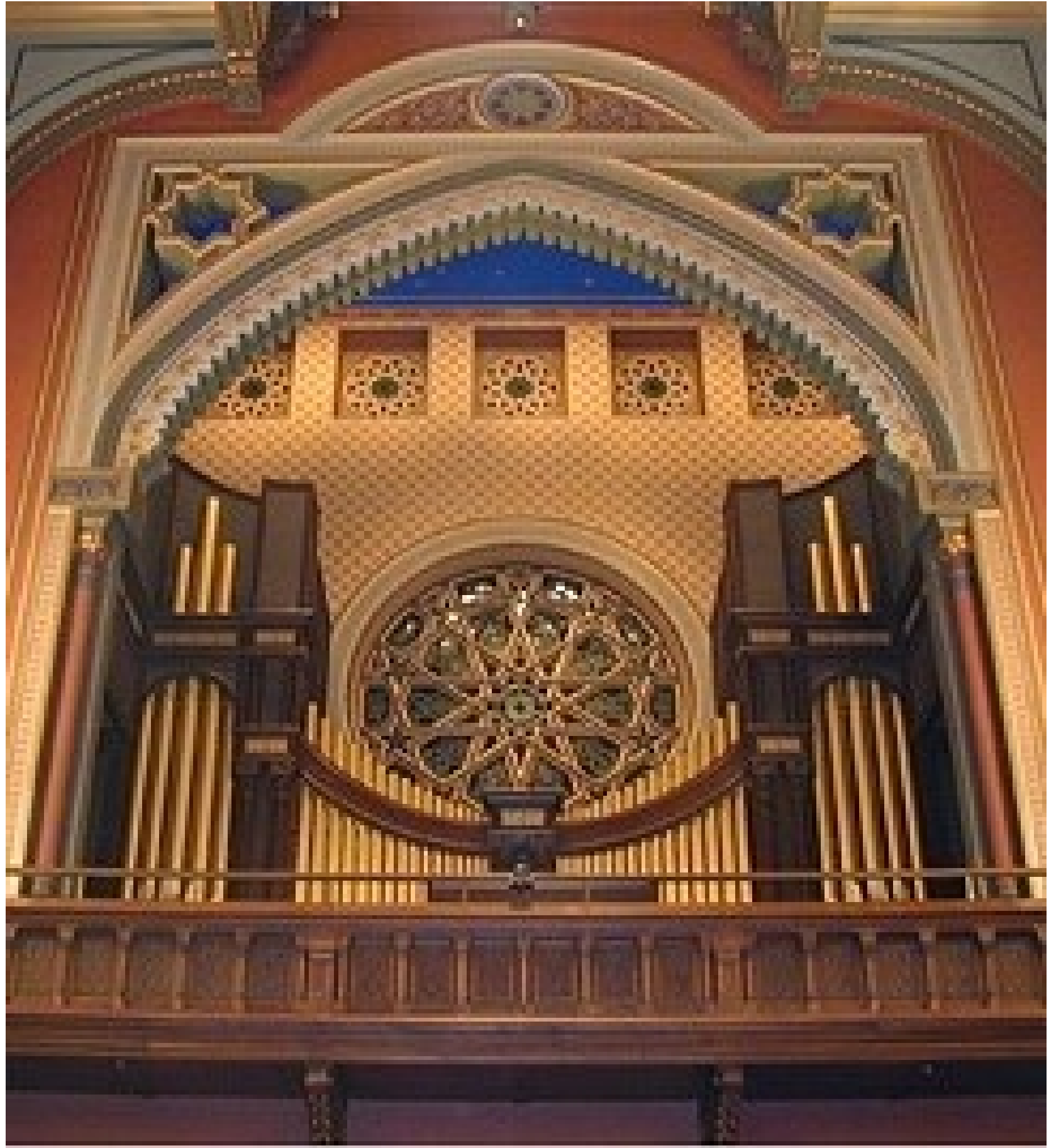
Great Synagogue of Stockholm (built 1870)



Eichal Shlomo -Great Synagogue Jerusalem







Evolution – Inclusions -Influences

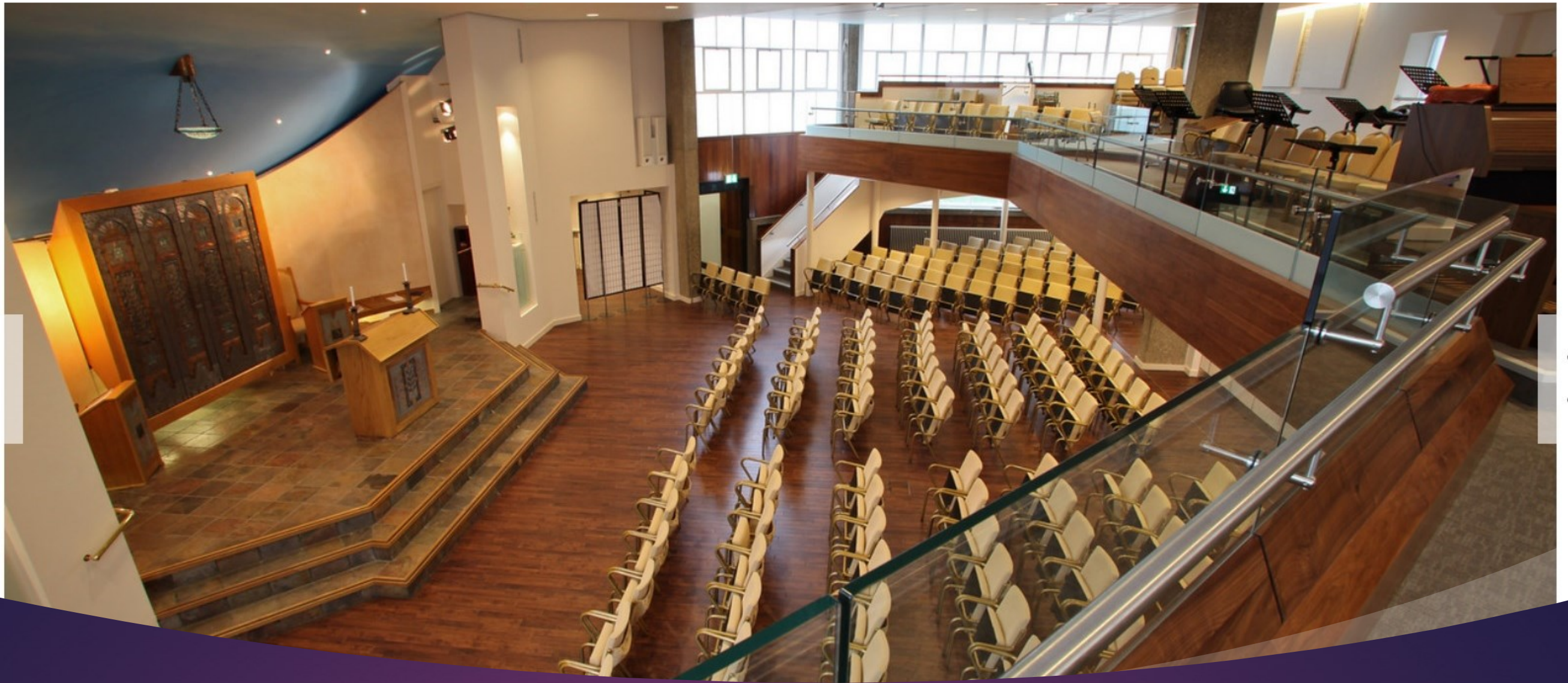
Printing had enormous influence. Whose influence came through? the printers and publishers!



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Organ of the synagogue of Mulhouse



► Conclusion



► Legacy of the Viennese Synagogue Rite and the Liberale German Synagogue in modern Jewish communities

Discussion/Questions



Open floor for questions or further discussion on topics covered