

FEATURES OF THE SYNAGOGUE

Prayer-stool or stand of the Creglingen synagogue about 1800

The building contract in 1799 mentions 29 rows and 29 stands in the synagogue. All were carved from wood, painted blue and numbered with oil-based paint.

Each stand had a plate with an iron thorn for candles. The shelf with the sliding door was for storage of prayer books, prayer shawls (tallit) and phylacteries (tefillin). The bar on the surface of the stand allowed opening and comparing two books simultaneously. Portable stands of that kind were common in rural synagogues. They were purchased by the members of the community. In Creglingen, 250 guilders of the construction costs for the synagogue were financed by the sale of the stands. According to witnesses, the shown prayer stand belonged Hermann Stern, who was killed in the pogrom of 1933. Probably in 1938 the stand, along with a second one, became the possession of the Naser family, next door neighbors of the synagogue. The stand, initially in the family's storage room, was used as a writing desk, later in the family's apartment as secretary for phone calls. The blue color was renewed twice. By the intercession of the Protestant pastor Maerkel, the book rest went to the Stadtarchiv Creglingen.

Torah curtain from the Synagogue of Creglingen 1908

Jewish Community of Stuttgart, Synagogue Hospitalstr.
Photo: Lothar Bladt, Markgröningen

The embroidered velvet Torah curtain (parochet) once decorated the Torah ark (aron hakodesh) of the Synagogue in Creglingen. In 1908 it was donated by the Jewish women's association of Creglingen. It is still unknown how the curtain came to Stuttgart.

Double page of a Hebrew prayer book Schneider Family, Creglingen

The pages belong to a Sidur ("order"). It contains the all-year order of prayer and readings in distinction from a Machzor ("return"), which is used for specific Jewish festivals. The four pages from the beginning of the prayer book contain the initial passages from the book of Genesis, read out loud during the synagogue service. The removed pages were found in the attic of the former synagogue in the early 1980s.

**A nine-branched menorah from the synagogue of Creglingen as documented
by Theo Harburger**

Jewish Museum New York

Photo: Theodor Harburger

October 11. 1928, CAHJP Jerusalem

Candlesticks like this menorah are used during the eight-day festival of Chanukkah, also known as Festival of Lights, commemorating the second reconsecration of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Each day an additional light is kindled until there are eight lights on the last day. The candlestick proves that the prohibition of figurative illustrations at times actually was disregarded even on synagogal cult objects.