Jewish Rashkov
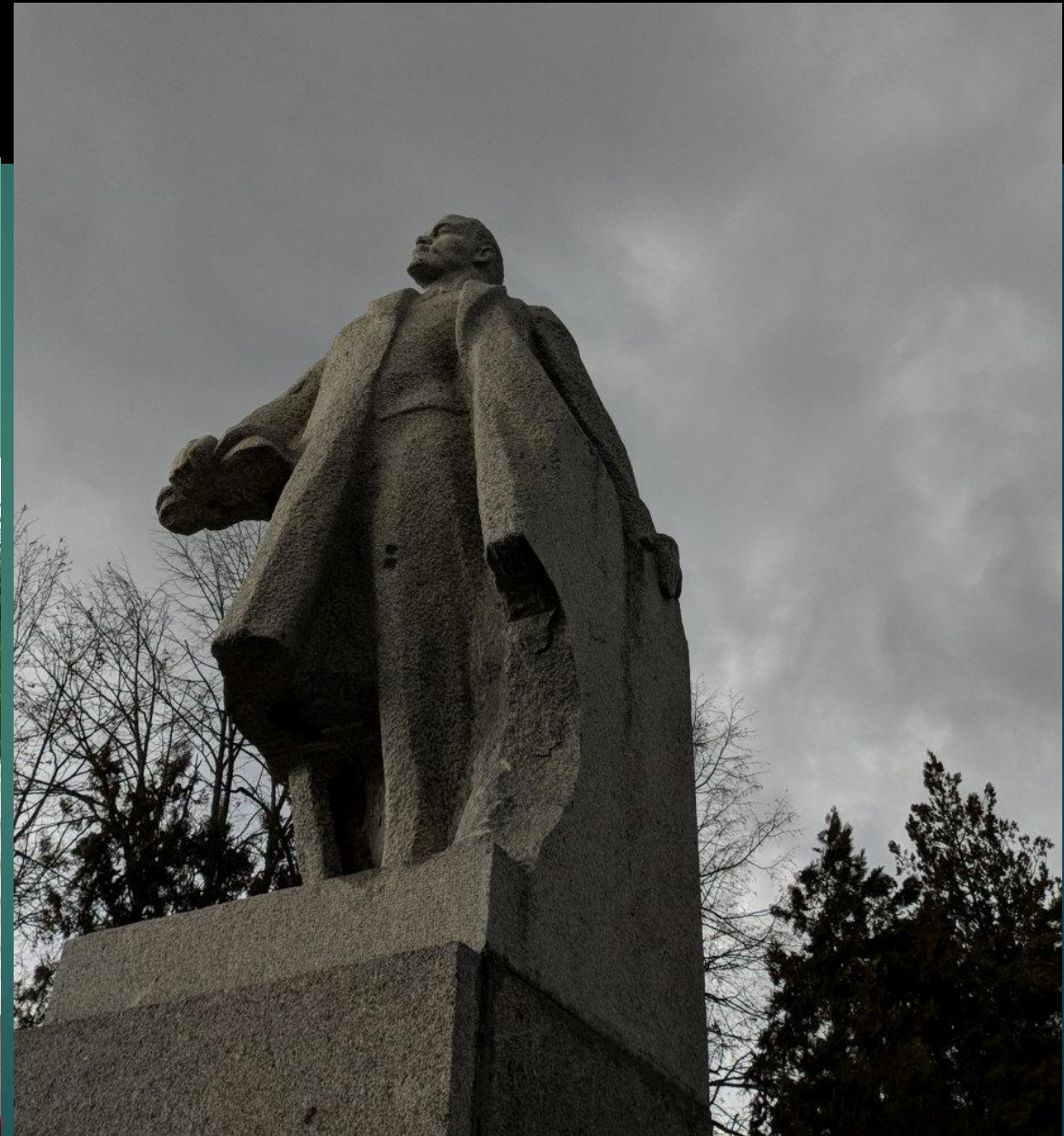### by Natalia Alkhazova and Michael Finckel

Market Square

Rashkov was a significant commercial hub conveniently located on the main trade-and-transport artery of the region - the Dniester River. Famous big fairs and market days were regularly held here. The market place was once the most crowded in town.
A significant part of commerce was carried out by Jews.

Center of Rashkov

Rashkov has been multinational. Throughout history, it was part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, then of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. It was under the rule of the Turkish Empire for 300 years, passed to the Russian Empire, then was part of the USSR. It became Moldovan when the republic gained its independence in 1991, and now is part of the unrecognized Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic.

Monument to the Victims of the Holocaust

The monument was erected in 2017 in memory of all the Jews of Rashkov who suffered during World War II. They were shot, drowned, driven away or tortured to death in ghettoes. The restored names of 126 people are carved on it, although in fact the number of victims is much higher.

Two Jewish Houses

As a rule, Jewish houses, like these two before us, had a high ground floor. They were well adapted for trade and/or small family businesses. The house had not only residential but also storage and utility rooms, almost always a basement.

"Old" Jewish Cemetery

In the old Jewish cemetery of Rashkov, the graves date back to the early 18th – mid-19th centuries. In 2022, a significant event took place, which became a fact of historical significance for all Orthodox Judaism. They identified the grave of Rabbi Shabtai ben Zvi-Hirsh, one of the outstanding disciples of the founder of Hasidism - Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov (Besht). The work was the initiative of Agudath Israel in Moldova and its head rabbi Pinchas Zaltzman in particular.

Catholic Cathedral of St. Cajetan

Before us is the oldest Catholic church in Moldova. In the manuscript "Act of founding the church in Rashkov", dated 1749, it is indicated that Prince Lubomirsky announced his decision to build a church of stone. The date of its construction should probably be considered 1786.

An example of the architecture of Polish Catholic churches of the 18th century with baroque elements.

In 1990, the building was handed over to the Catholic community.

Panska Krynica

In translation, Panska Krynica means "Hostess's Fountain" - the spring named in honor of Rashkov's owner in the 17th c. (since 1653), beautiful Ruxanda. She was the daughter of the Moldavian ruler Vasili Lupu, and married to Timothy Khmelnitsky, the son of Hetman Bogdan Khmelnitsky.

Great Synagogue

The temple is the oldest surviving in the region. It was built in 1749 with funds from the "box collection". The building is one of the 20 most beautiful religious edifices of the 18th century preserved in Europe. It is a formidable architectural monument created in the Baroque style with elements of Romanesque and Gothic; the decor is made in the Rococo style.

View of the Red Rock

A steep red mountain rises above the village, which the locals named Chervonna Skelea (Red Rock). It is called so because at sunset it takes on various shades of red - from pale pink to crimson. The western part of this mountain is a reservation.

"New"Jewish Cemetery

The "new" Jewish cemetery dates back to the beginning of the 19th century. Simultaneously with the burials in the old cemetery, they have been made here since 1820. The most recent grave in the new cemetery dates back to 2005.

Intercession Church

The oldest Orthodox temple in Transnistria, the Holy Intercession Church was built about 10 years before the Great Synagogue - in 1740. It was originally Greek Catholic (Uniate), and then became Orthodox. In the Soviet years, the church, like many other religious buildings of the region, was destroyed.

Zharchinsky Museum

The exposition reflects the life of the Hero of the Soviet Union, a native of Rashkov F.I. Zharchinsky. The museum also provides other detailed information about the history of the village.

Thanks for being with us virtually

and...

Welcome to Jewish Moldova in real life!

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