In 1918 the Austro-Hungarian Empire split up and the Czechoslovak Republic came into existence. Josef Polák, a native of Prague, a graduate from Charles University, a lawyer and army officer, but above all a history lover, moved to Košice to protect museum artefacts, and to introduce and to develop a new categorisation of museum exhibits. He worked for the East Slovakian Museum for twenty years (1918-1938), and even used his wife’s dowry to enlarge its collections. He prepared 220 exhibitions, founded several associations, and wrote for the radio. He was an extremely active man, he spoke 5 languages. He was married three times. Until today museums use his system of registering artefacts. The documentary includes re-enacted scenes from his marriages.

A lecture will follow by

Pavol Salamon
Budapest City Archives

The lecture deals with the recurring issue of conditions and circumstances of the immigration of Jews to a free royal town at the beginning of the 1840s and prior to this date until the second Austrian census in 1857. The data captured and preserved in the conscriptions and censuses as well as in the files of the Town Council enable an in-depth analysis of the process and the dynamics of the settlement as well as the mobility of the new element in Košice (Koshitze). Jews added one more dimension to the multicultural, multiconfessional Košice and this process continued until 1944...

Pavol Salamon is a citizen of Košice which is his native town. This town is one of the Central European towns that belonged to different countries in the course of the long 20th century (Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and Slovakia.) He studied Latin and French at the Comenius University in Bratislava and later switched to archival studies. From 1976 he has been working at the County Archives in Košice where he became interested in historical demography. The study on the demographic development of Košice between 1848 and 1918 was published in Slovenská archeistika. In Budapest Mr. Salamon has worked as an archivist and reference archivist at the Open Society Archives and at the Budapest City Archives while simultaneously continuing his research in the demography of his native town, focusing on the Jewish population in particular.

Tuesday, January 17 at 6 p.m.
Gellner Room, Monument Building
Budapest, 1051 Nádor utca 9.

A reception will follow