

## **Moses Potgorowicz**

**Schlossstraße 12 (nowadays no. 10)**

Moses Potgorowicz (born 1890) came from Ostrow in Poland. As a young man he had settled in Burghaun and then walked as a street trader across the villages in the surrounding area. Mainly he sold animal skins but he ran a little business with some different things for the housework as well.

For a long time until the thirties he lived in the Ringstraße. "Upstairs in the house of Nathan Strauß he had a room, where he lived", remembered Inge Heiser née Nußbaum. He was called Moische, and he was not married. The Jewish families looked after him and offered him a hot lunch in turns. Mrs. Heiser: "Yes, every Saturday he ate with us and he sat at the top of the table. My grandparents had already taken care of him so. When my mother married she said that she would take it on. Moische was like a grandfather for us children. He sold different little things: shoe polish and other everyday items."

In the last years he lived in the house of Mendel Braunschweiger and his wife Erna, nowadays the home of the Treber family here in Schlossstraße 10. In the course of the „Kristallnacht“ (night of broken glass) on November 1938, Moses Potgorowicz was arrested and deported to the concentration camp Buchenwald. He had to stay there under most disgraceful circumstances for several weeks, before the Nazis let him return back to Burghaun in January 1939. In November 1939 he still was present in Mendel Braunschweiger's house, then his track was lost.

Although Moses Potgorowicz had been living in Burghaun for many years he never got the German citizenship. Because he was stateless, he was constantly monitored by the "Secret State Police" (GESTAPO) when the war began. Probably he was deported to the East (Poland or Russia) before December 1941, from where he never came back.

Josef Strauss from Hünfeld said that he did not survive the Holocaust. Nobody knows neither the place and the time nor the circumstances of his death.

In the memorial book of the Jewish Holocaust victims (Koblenz 1985) you can read: missing in the East.