

Editorial

We are proud to devote this issue, almost in its entirety, to articles connected with the 24th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy that will take place in Jerusalem in July 2004/ Tammuz 5764. Our conscientious volunteers are busily working day and night (yes, even at night!) preparing special projects, setting up a Conference Internet web page, scheduling the lectures, inviting the speakers as well as additional distinctive programs during the Conference itself. They are not overlooking even the minutest of details but have involved themselves with the hotel rooms, transportation, food, security and numerous other details. We all want to support them and wish them and the upcoming Conference great success.

In mentioning assistance in preparation for the upcoming Conference, we have the pleasant task at this point of thanking all who have helped and are continuing to help us, in every corner of the world, to publicize the Conference and the plans for it. We thank them for their continued support and encouragement: the Jewish Genealogical Societies around the world; journals and in particular *Avotaynu*; the various Special Interest Groups (SIGs) of JEWISHGEN, and countless individuals. May each and every one of you be blessed and we hope to see you in the month of Tammuz in Jerusalem along with all the others who will be attending the Conference.

Opening this issue is the article by Jean Pierre Stoweis, one of the three chairmen of the Conference organization committee. It is based on his most successful address given at the Washington Conference in 2003, in which he gives a detailed and moving account of the 2004 Conference, the programs that are being developed and the City of Jerusalem.

An important contribution, overflowing, as usual, with details, is that of Attorney Shmuel Shamir, describing the censuses taken in Eretz Yisrael at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries. The census, as is well known, is one of the most important primary sources for genealogists. I am certain that the vast scope of information found in this piece will be of great assistance to the Conference participants and other researchers. We thank Mr. Shamir for his readiness to write this article in anticipation of the Conference.

Cemeteries are another primary source, no less important, for genealogists. Often, they provide information found no place else. The comprehensive contribution by Mathilde Tagger describes Jerusalem's ancient and new cemeteries.

Two pieces focus on projects underway in preparation for the Conference. Mathilde Tagger describes seven of them. Rose Feldman and Ellen Stepak are engaged in one that is certainly unique. They are photographing all of the memorials erected for towns destroyed in the Holocaust. While most of them are generally concentrated in cemeteries, some are found in other locations. In the opinion of Yad Vashem officials, this is the first time that cataloging of these monuments on such a vast scale has been undertaken.

Three items in this issue do not have a direct bearing on the Conference. Yehuda Klausner provides us with the final section of a series of articles dealing with the recording of genealogical details. The first part appeared in Volume 16, Number 4, and in each issue of *Sharsheret Hadorot* since another chapter has been published. Chanan Rapaport gives us pointers on how to conduct genealogical interviews of the elderly and of members of various *Landsmanschaft* organizations, while Arnon Herskowitz, who heads the "Family Roots Forum" on the Internet site Tapuz, details its activities, whose participants include men and women as well as the young and the old from all over Israel.

Our regular features are Harriet Kasow's column "Notes from the Library," new books announcements and abstracts of foreign journals.

Saving the best news for the last, beginning with this issue *Sharsheret Hadorot* is now a quarterly that will appear in February, May, August and November. We thank Chana Furman, president of the IGS (Israel Genealogical Society) and our treasurer Avraham Sfadia as well as the members of the Executive Committee who all along have continued to be of help. We also thank the editorial staff who are willing to undertake the challenge of publishing an additional issue each year.

As these lines are being written, we are approaching the end of the secular year. I hope that all of our readers will have a good and productive new year; one in which each in his own area derives satisfaction from his work.

Yocheved Klausner

From the Desk of Chana Furman
President of the Israel Genealogical Society

With issue 18:1, we begin a new tradition, as it is the first installment of the four annual issues that our Society will now publish. The idea to change *Sharsheret Hadorot* to a quarterly journal has been in the works for a long time and was recently discussed at length. The additional financial obligation required to make this a reality is made possible by the gratifying fact that we have added new members to the IGS. Additionally, there is interest from abroad. The outcome informs us that the *Sharsheret Hadorot* circulation has succeeded in reaching far and wide. We wish further continued success to all involved.

The year 5764 (September 2003 – August 2004) is exceptional in that the Society's activities are naturally occupied with preparations for the upcoming Conference, which takes place in Jerusalem this summer. Along with this, our branch activities are continuing at their usual tempo and the quality of the lectures adds to the content of our meetings. We must continue to endeavor to expand the circle of those interested in genealogy while at the same time increase our membership.

The annual meeting of the Society for 2003 took place on 13 Kislev 5764 – 8 December 2003, in Tel Aviv.

The terms of the present officers of the organization were extended through the coming year.

The 24th Annual International Conference of Jewish Genealogy in Jerusalem

15th through the 20th of Tammuz - July 4-9, 2004. Preparations for the Conference are fully underway in every area. The central committees and sub-committees continue

with determination. It is appropriate to note that the number of volunteers is growing slowly but steadily in all of our branches.

The Conference web page – www.ortra.com/jgen2004 has the most up to date information and you can forward requests and have any questions answered. Do not hesitate to sign up for SIG Jerusalem 2004 (Instructions on the Conference web page). You can also obtain details from the IGS web page – www.isragen.org.il – on the home page you will find clear guidelines to all of the details. Information is also available at www.jewishgen.org/jerusalem2004.

The success of the Conference depends on each and every one of us. From what we learned in Washington, our members will have to 'gird their loins' and be ready to be mobilized whenever help is needed. This assistance can be in any area of preparations before the Conference, the committees working to schedule volunteers at the various archives or other jobs during the Conference itself. We urge our members not to hesitate and to let us know in which way they can lend a hand. You are requested to send your responses to Martha Lev Zion – martha@bgumail.bgu.ac.il or to Billie Stein – billie@012.net.il

Please note that these responses are to be in English. You can respond in Hebrew to my address – ehfurman@netvision.net.il or P.O. Box 86, Kiryat Gat 82100 or call me at 08-6880884.

We thank you for your cooperation!



Come Meet Your Israeli Relatives; They Are Searching for You!*

A Preview of Jerusalem 2004 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

Jean-Pierre Stroweis

Based on the presentation given at the 23rd International Conference
on Jewish Genealogy in Washington, DC, 2003

As this conference is drawing to a close, let me express my deep appreciation to the organizers and volunteers of the Greater Washington JGS. They did a fantastic job. They established a very high standard of perfection, and a challenge for all future conferences.

In 2004, the IAJGS conference will be held in Israel, in the city of Jerusalem.

The Israel Genealogical Society is delighted to invite you to the 24th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, to be held in Jerusalem from the 4th to the 9th July 2004, at the Renaissance Hotel. I am thrilled to be here and to provide you, on the behalf of IGS, with the most up-to-date information on the Jerusalem 2004 conference. This is our first public preview, and I will now tell you about some of the surprises we have planned for you.

The goal of this presentation is not just to inform, but primarily to convince – to convince you to come to Jerusalem next year. For this, I will speak to your mind and also to your heart. I hope the presentation will address most of the questions you may have. Otherwise, please feel free to ask after the talk.

For Jewish genealogists, the IAJGS conference is the most important event of the year, a gathering where you can hear the leading speakers, where you can learn about the latest resources in Jewish genealogy, a place where you can first meet face-to-face with your new friends met through E-mail and the internet. And, in this regard, the Jerusalem 2004 conference will be no exception.

But a Jewish genealogy conference held in the Holy Land is much more than this.

The Land of Israel is the cradle of the Jewish People. It all started there. Our common roots are there. Nowhere else can you feel so

deeply the diversity of the Jewish people, the wealth of the Jewish world, the tremendous dynamics of a Jewish society. In the conference, but also in the street outside!

Today, the State of Israel is the home of some:

- 5 million Jews whose daily language is Hebrew (or Yiddish or Ladino),
- 5 million Jews whose daily life is marked by the rhythm of the Jewish calendar and the Jewish holidays – no matter their attitude towards religious observance,
- 5 million Jews whose children learn the history and traditions of the Jewish people,
- 5 million Jews who give us another measure of the loss of 6 million other Jews,
- 5 million Jews who themselves, or their parents or their grand-parents left their former country of origin to establish themselves here, among Jews.

And among these 5 million Jews living in this tiny country, some of them are your relatives, your known or your unknown cousins!

Israel is the only place on earth

- Where you'll find a synagogue on the campus of an aerospace company,
- Where members of a kibbutz (Lohamei HaGetaot, Yad Mordechai) carry the legacy of the ghetto fighters,
- Where you'll find a high-tech industrial park next door to the Mea Shearim Orthodox neighborhood,
- Where there is no problem to find a hotel for the conference that provides Kosher food.

Jerusalem is the spiritual center of the Jewish world, since King David established

* This article was published in the Fall issue of *Avotaynu* and is reprinted here by permission.

some 3000 years ago, what would today be called the federal capital of a country made of twelve tribes. His son, King Solomon, established the Temple in Jerusalem.

What does our tradition say about Jerusalem? I selected a few sayings about the city of Jerusalem.

“The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. Yea, thou shalt see thy children’s children and peace upon Israel.” Psalms, 128, 5-6.

“If I forget you Jerusalem, let my right hand wither...” (Psalms 137)

“Leshana Haba’a birushalayim”, Next year in Jerusalem...as we say, as all our ancestors said, every year during the Passover Seder. Well, my fellow genealogists, you can make this saying true!

Why? Why so much focus on this place?

Jerusalem is an outstanding city. Our Sages have caught the complexity of this city and its multiple facets; that is why they gave Jerusalem 70 different names. Among them Zion, Yefe Nof (beautiful view), The City of Peace, Bet El (The House of the Lord) and many more to express its beauty and its sanctity. The Talmud says: out of ten degrees of beauty on earth, Jerusalem alone received nine.

Jerusalem is the center, the soul of the Jewish people. It is filled with countless, biblical, archeological and historical landmarks, and world-renowned museums. It is a wonderful place to visit. Be sure to plan your stay to have some time to stroll around and explore it.

Personally, after spending 22 years in Jerusalem, the city still retains its power of attraction, of mystery, of magic, of the unexpected; a city of deep contrasts; a city with hundreds of synagogues, churches and mosques.

Not all Israelis agree on this. Some claim that the nicest place in Jerusalem is the road to Tel Aviv. And indeed, Tel-Aviv and the Mediterranean Sea are just a one-hour drive. But all agree that this city is one of the best places in the world for doing Jewish genealogical research!

Two international conferences on Jewish Genealogy were held in Jerusalem, in 1984 and 1994. But coming to Jerusalem once every ten years is far from being representative of what the city and the country offer for Jewish genealogists.

Many things have changed since 1994:

1. In 2004, for the first time, the conference is organized by the local JGS, the Israel Genealogical Society. We are proud to present Israeli and Jerusalem assets from an Israeli perspective. For example, the program and the audience will deal with all the Jewish communities, to match Israeli demography. We will try to attract the Israelis and the Jews from the Diaspora, the veteran Israelis as well as the new immigrants, the adults and youth.

2. The conditions for doing research have greatly improved, all the archives have significantly expanded their collections, and, most important, the archivists and librarians have learned to better serve genealogists. Recently, there has been a tremendous rise of interest in genealogy among Israelis.

3. Since 1991, nearly one million new immigrants have come, mostly from the former Soviet Union. Even if many among them are not Jews, more than half a million Jews came from Russia, Moldavia, Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltic States, the Caucasian States and others parts of the former USSR. This large-scale immigration to our small country provides you with a high potential for discovering and encountering new living cousins. I will come back to this later.

4. Last but not least, the political situation in the Middle East has greatly evolved. Let me address the security issue now, before going into the details of the conference, because it is a legitimate concern for all of you here who are considering coming to Jerusalem next year.

It is true that the peace process has not produced the just, final and comprehensive peace that many among us had hoped to reach. Let us have a short review of the major events.

In 1979, Israel signed a peace treaty with Egypt, its Southern neighbor. In October 1994, Israel signed a peace treaty with the

Kingdom of Jordan, our neighbor on our Eastern border. In July 2000, Tzahal, the Israeli Army withdrew from Southern Lebanon after years of occupation; this move brought quiet to our Northern border, quiet but not peace. These three events are very significant and positive changes. On the Northeast border, Israel has not yet settled its conflict with Syria about the Golan Heights. But, this border has been silent for 30 years.

As you know, the negotiations with the Palestinians have failed. Since October 2000, the Palestinians launched an armed intifada, which resulted in many acts of terror and victims among civilians. This wiped out the former advances of the peace process. During nearly three years, the political, military and economic situation of both Palestinians and Israelis has gotten worse and worse. Nothing and no one was able to alter this trend.

However, during the last three months, the war in Iraq and the creation of the post of a Palestinian Prime Minister have created new, favorable conditions to reverse this trend, for the first time since 2000. There are several political, military and economic signs of a détente. Israeli and Palestinian leaders have started to meet face to face and to negotiate, supported by the USA and Egypt.

But, I am neither a political analyst, nor a prophet, so I would not forecast what is going to happen. I am only hoping that the coming year will be quieter than the former ones. I do not want to minimize the impact of the conflict, but let me remind you that it sometimes looks worse from afar. Even last year, Israel had more casualties caused by car accidents than by acts of violence. What I want to say to you is that, we, Israelis, are there to stay. We are in Israel to live and not just to survive. And if our hobby in life is genealogy, we will continue to do genealogy. We will take more security precautions, but will continue to lead our normal daily lives. This is our best answer to our enemies. And we will run this genealogy conference in Jerusalem with you no matter what.

Could we postpone the conference? No, nothing ensures us that, in three years from now, it will be better. Could we transfer it? No, the archival resources in Jerusalem and the Israeli population are so unique that we cannot transfer this conference, say, to a neighboring country such as Cyprus.

So let us do it as planned.

I want to tell you a secret. Not only the Middle East has changed since 1994, the whole world has changed. We are here today in Washington, DC, after the terrible 9/11 events that occurred in this country and in this very city. What would have happened had this conference been planned for two months after 9/11? What would have happened at last year IAJGS conference in Toronto, had the SARS disease erupted a few months earlier? And did the high crime rate in Washington, DC, one of the highest in the U.S.A. prevent more than one thousand genealogists from coming here?

My friends, the 21st century has brought a lot of uncertainty; the global village has brought us the speed of information with CNN and the Internet, but it has also spread problems such as viruses and terror worldwide at the same speed. No one anywhere is completely safe or unaffected by what goes on elsewhere on this planet.

As Jewish genealogists, your participation in Jerusalem's conference will be your way to affirm: "Kol Israel Areivim Zeh Lazeh" (all Israel has a responsibility for one another), yes we stand next to our Israeli brothers and sisters – business as usual. Well, nearly as usual.

And if I spent so much time on this issue, it is because your personal safety is our first priority. Be assured that the Israel Genealogical Society will take every measure to make you feel comfortable and secure. We Israelis, unfortunately know how to handle security risks better than anyone else in the world. For this kind of conference, with the attendees we hope to attract, we will be protecting you the best that anyone knows how. The conference will be held in a small, enclosed area. None of the venues are security risks. In the conference material, we will advise those of

you that are not familiar with Jerusalem what to do and what not to do, where to go and where not to go alone. I hope that the security issue will not be the reason for not attending next year's conference.

Let me now switch back to the main subject of this presentation and give you more practical details about the conference. My colleagues of the Israel Genealogical Society and I have assembled a great program.

The conference will take place in July, before Tisha B'Av, the day we commemorate the destruction of the Temples of Jerusalem. We chose July because this is the time of school holidays.

July is hot in Israel. But in Jerusalem, being located on the Judean Hills at 800 m (2400 ft.) above sea level, the temperature is cooler and the climate is not as humid as it is here or in New York. Sometimes evenings can be even chilly. Don't expect any rain.

The official language of the conference will be English, with simultaneous translation to and from Hebrew. In the main archives, our volunteers will be there to translate the items you researched. The material of the conference and the web site will be in English, of course.

We have hired the services of a conference organizing company. This will ensure you will get the highest quality of services provided by professionals who organize international conferences. This applies to logistics, registration, audio-visual equipment, publications, tours, conference web site and many more. The conference will be held at the Renaissance Jerusalem Hotel, a first-class, affordable, glatt kosher hotel with 650 rooms. The hotel belongs to the Marriott chain like this one.

The hotel offers many facilities: dairy and meat restaurants, bars, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, fitness center, tennis court, parking lot, banking services and shopping arcade. Its large convention center, which has easy access for the disabled, is ideal for the conference since the lecture halls are grouped in a secure restricted area. The hotel entrance and parking lot has around-the-clock security controls. All rooms and suites are equipped with phone, cable TV, radio

and individual climate control; most of them have a safety deposit box.

The hotel is centrally located in the Western part of the city, near major archives, such as the Central Zionist Archives (CZA), the Jewish National and University Library (JNUL), the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) Archives, which are all only a walk away.

No other place on earth possesses the wealth of Jewish archival material that is available in Jerusalem! One only scratches the surface when one mentions Yad Vashem, the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (CAHJP), Yad Ben Zvi, Israel State Archives, Jerusalem Municipal Archives, Leo Baeck Institute.

All major attractions and main transportation arteries are within easy access. Hopefully by July 2004, the first light train line will be opened to transport you from the hotel to Yad Vashem or to downtown.

The map of the city will show us the major centers of interest for the conference:

The main archives, the Old City, the Western Wall, the City of David, the Jewish Quarter, the Christian, Muslim and Armenian Quarters, the Mount Scopus, the Mount of Olives.

The main tourist attractions: the Israel Museum, the Bible Land's Museum, the Knesset and the Complex of Government Offices, the Botanical Garden, the Hadassah Hospital(s), the Second Temple Model at the Holyland Hotel, Mea Shearim, Ein Karem.

When planning for a visit to Jerusalem, consider staying a few more days before or after the conference, to visit this amazing country, to meet your relatives, to search in the archives quietly, far from the crowd.

The structure of the program of the conference will be similar to all IAJGS conferences including this one. During the day, there will be 3 parallel tracks, 2 in English, one in English or Hebrew translation. Altogether, more than 100 lectures. The program will include lectures by leading international and Israeli experts, some new to the genealogical community.

The Organizing Committee will spare no effort in making this event a resounding

success. The conference will provide an ideal stage for exchanging information and ideas regarding the ever-increasing influence and role of genealogical research in our time. Following its success in DC, researchers will be able to register for "Ask The Experts" sessions and small group tutorials designed to facilitate a productive interchange of research tips on a variety of topics.

The conference will offer a Resource Room, a Computer (Internet) Room, a Video Room and a Vendor Room. Exhibitions will be on display. A Family Finder will be available. Keynote addresses by top speakers will be given at the opening evening and at the closing banquet.

Let me outline some of our special themes and topics.

Leading experts will present lectures or participate in forums on the cutting edge of Jewish genealogy. We will bring top Israeli speakers who previously never spoke to any genealogy conference.

Israel's diverse demography will be well represented at the conference with wide ranging lectures covering many areas of Sephardic and Oriental Jewish genealogy, including many lesser-known communities.

Quoting Dan Rottenberg's famous book: Most Diaspora Jews visit Israel to discover their roots in a general sense. But is it also an extremely good place to discover your specific roots! In order for you to make the most of your research time, we have arranged for introductory lectures by the chief archivists to guide you in utilizing their repositories during the special hours we have arranged for on-site research.

Jews have come to Israel from all over the world. As I said earlier, Israel has recently absorbed nearly one million new immigrants, most of them originating from the former Soviet Union. **Come and meet your Israeli relatives, they are searching for you!** They yearn to locate descendants of their family members who emigrated from the "Old Country!" This is your perfect opportunity to trace those hard-to-find ancestors who remained behind! The contrary is also true: every Israeli has

overseas relatives. No one is in a better position to help search for them than Jewish genealogists! This meeting can be seen as an "ingathering of the Jewish genealogist exiles." To this end, several lectures will cover the various aspects of the consecutive waves of immigration to Eretz Israel. Special arrangements with the Central Zionist Archives will allow access to the records of what formerly was known as the Jewish Agency Search Bureau for Missing Relatives. We are working on various paths to help you locate your immigrant relatives. As an appetizer, let me briefly show you the result of a very interesting demographic study based on figures issued by the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics.

Number of Immigrants	% Immigrants	Districts Where Settled
170,000	26%	Southern district (Ashqelon, Ashdod)
135,000	20%	Central district (Netanya, Petah Tikva, Rehovot)
120,000	18%	Haifa district
95,000	14%	Northern district (Akko, Upper Nazareth)
108,000	16%	Tel Aviv district
32,500	6%	Jerusalem district

Russian Immigrants follow clear patterns of migration. There is a significant correlation between the immigrants' original country of residence in Soviet Union and the locality where they settled in Israel. Does this sound familiar to you? Sure! The same thing happened to your ancestors who came to America 100 years ago or after the Holocaust.

Guided visits and field trips will be organized to sites of genealogical interest, such as Beit Hatfutsot (The Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv)... and the cemetery on Mount of Olives.

As said earlier, many resources are a walking distance from the Hotel. For some of the major archives, we will provide secure transportation back and forth to the hotel.

There is one place for a potential field trip of immense genealogical significance that is a security risk: the 3,000 years old Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives. You do not have to go. But if you do, we will have armed guards protecting the group on the field trip to the Mount of Olives.

Coincident with our conference, Yad Vashem, Israel's Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary since its founding in 1954. In 2004, they will open the new 3,500 sq. meter Historical Museum and the Hall of Names. Together with its vast expansion, Yad Vashem is digitizing many of its repositories to databases. Their library and archives represent the world's largest documentation of the Shoah. Conference participants will be offered extra hours to research at Yad Vashem, as well as a special event at the Valley of the Communities.

To make the best of these unique repositories, there will be a few resources available:

- First, the *Jewish Genealogical Resources in Israel*, co-authored by Sallyann Amdur Sack and by the Israel Genealogical Society, and published by Avotaynu in 1994. Much of the information is still valid and very valuable. Avotaynu will offer to ship the book to the first 100 North Americans who register directly to their homes before the conference so that you will be able to prepare yourself ahead of time. Thank you Gary and Sallyann!

- Second, on the Jerusalem 2004 conference web site, you can find updated contact information, update on the contents to all the repositories mentioned by the 1994 book, together with a coverage of many additional sources.

Here is another unique feature of this conference.

The volunteers of IGS have started on several medium and large-scale indexing projects that will be made available at the conference. We chose subjects of universal Jewish interest. Let me tell you about some of these projects:

- *The Memorials of Vanished Communities*. The MVC project aims to

document the many dispersed monuments erected in Israel in memory of the Jewish Communities that were destroyed during the Shoah. Survivors who moved to Israel had an urgent need to perpetuate the memory of their communities. For the vast majority of the victims, there is no grave. Each monument expresses in its own style the grief and pain for the mourned friends, neighbors, relatives, and community. To our knowledge, this is the first comprehensive effort to have been made to establish a catalog (pictures, lists of victims) of these memorials in Israel.

- *Index of the Montefiore 1875 census*. This is the latest of the six censuses that were conducted in Eretz Israel and Egypt. They list the Jews who benefited from Sir Moses Montefiore's generous philanthropy. To get some control over how his money was spent, Montefiore requested a list of the names of those Jews studying in the institutions he subsidized. The original censuses are kept at the British Museum in London, and microfilmed copies are available at the Jewish National University Library in Jerusalem. The 1875 census gives us the best snapshot of who lived in Eretz Israel before the start of the Zionist movement. It includes Ashkenazim (Kollelim), Sephardim and Oriental Jews as well. Our volunteers have created an index of the Jews listed in this census. This is a specially challenging project, due to the large number of Hebrew abbreviations and variety of origins.

- *Helkat Mehokek Database*. Helkat Mehokek ("The Legislator's Land Plot") is a set of booklets published in Hebrew in 1906 listing the names of 8,000 Jews buried in the Mount of Olives cemetery since 1740. It provides a wealth of genealogical information, including the father's name, place of origin, date of death and the location of the tombstone. The symbolic importance of this very old cemetery is well known: many Jews wished to be buried there, facing the Temple Mount, near the place where the Messiah is supposed to come and bring them back to life.

Since the publication of the book, many

tombstones have been destroyed or damaged. Each booklet covers a given section of the cemetery, row by row. Each section is used by a dedicated Hevra Kaddisha (burial society) to serve a distinct community (e.g. Sephardim, Hassidim, Mitnagdim). A comprehensive index has never been established. We have undertaken to extract all the information contained in the book, transcribe the Hebrew names into the Latin alphabet and create a searchable database, that covers 8,000 tombstone inscriptions. Many of the buried persons are of what is today called Belarusian origin.

• *Indexing of Paul Jacobi's Archives.* The late Israeli genealogist Dr. Paul Jacobi, a long-time member of the Israel Genealogical Society, left some 120-manuscript monographs that encapsulate his many years of research on European Jewish genealogy. Each monograph covers the history of a given family over many generations. It is a treasure of information for genealogists. Over the years, despite (or perhaps because of) the lack of computer tools, Jacobi developed an extremely simple, yet powerful, methodology of documenting family histories, including a universal dating and identification system. The Jacobi family donated these monographs to the Jewish National University Library (JNUL) archives. Our volunteers are now creating an index of all the individuals mentioned in these monographs. This index will allow consultation of the Jacobi Archives to be quick and productive.

We will offer a large variety of guided tours, field trips of genealogical or general interest including archeology, hiking, diving. You will not want to miss the opportunity to visit

the Holy Land. Optional tours and excursions will be arranged.

To summarize:

1. City of Peace, City of Light, Soul of the Jewish People
2. Easily accessible one-of-a-kind archives
3. Yad Vashem marks 50 years. Come be a part of it.
4. Biblical sites, world-renowned museums, the Chagall Windows, guided visits and field trips, the cemetery on the Mount of Olives.
5. First-rate networking opportunities. Immigrants from 80 countries, genealogists from all over the world – and your cousins.
6. Renowned speakers from all over the world, what is new, wide scope of topics for all.
7. Not as expensive as you think
8. Security will be a top priority.
9. Reunite our families.
10. Share the dream of 2,000 years: Next Year in Jerusalem!

We wish to offer you and your family this unique opportunity to join us in Jerusalem in July 2004, and to make it an unforgettable experience. We look forward to seeing you in Israel.

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Jean-Pierre Stoweis is co-chair of the coming 24th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. An electrical and computer science engineer, he is a past president of the Israel Genealogical Society (IGS) and the current president of the Jerusalem branch of the IGS. He is JRI-Poland Shtetl-COOP leader for Staszow, a town near Kielce.



The Main Genealogical Projects of the Israel Genealogical Society

Prepared for the 24th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

Jerusalem, 4 – 9 July 2004

Mathilde A. Tagger

The conference organizing committee has decided to undertake several projects of indexing sources, to be ready for the IAJGS conference. It is hoped that these projects will constitute an important addition to the existing genealogical resources that are found in Israel in general and in her capital Jerusalem, in particular. I hope with all my heart that the present summary of these special activities will prompt Jewish genealogists to come to Jerusalem and to participate in this fabulous conference.

1. The Memorials to the Vanished Communities

Prepared by Ellen Stepak, Chana Furman, Rose Feldman and other Volunteers

Memorials to the Vanished Communities are found primarily in the cemeteries of Israel, particularly in that of Holon (near Tel Aviv), which contains some 300 monuments. Although they are generally grouped in certain areas of the cemeteries, one also finds them scattered throughout. These monuments commemorate one or several communities, sometimes of an entire region or country, such as the Memorial to Hungary on which the names of all the Jewish communities of that country are engraved. The names of tiny villages, otherwise forgotten by history, are sometimes found in the inscriptions. The memorial may appear as a forest planted in memory of the victims. This is the theme chosen for Belgium, Estonia, France and Latvia. The most impressive monument is certainly the one dedicated to the memory of the community of Wlodawa (Poland) and the surrounding localities, in memory of victims of the death camp of Sobibor. These memorials were erected with profound affection in memory of loved ones who disappeared during the Shoah, martyrs – victims of pogroms who

found their deaths without the right to even the simplest grave. Numerous monuments are superlative. Moved by intense emotions, the architects were able to transfer them into a remarkable creation. There is one common feature – they all possess an urn containing ashes brought back from the collective killing fields or from the death camps scattered throughout Eastern Europe. On some monuments, one can find a list of names of the victims engraved. The majority of these memorials is dedicated to the communities of Poland, the Ukraine, Lithuania and Belarus.

The Israeli associations of people from a same community or region, known by their Yiddish name of Landsmanschaften, each year organize commemorative ceremonies at their respective memorials. However, the number of survivors, originating in these communities is diminishing year by year, so that over the past several years, these annual commemorations have become more and more rare.

The database will be published on CD-ROM in time for the International Conference of July 2004, and for each memorial it will include: one or several color photographs, the names of the communities such as they are inscribed in Hebrew letters with a transliteration in Latin letters, the modern names, based upon *Where Once We Walked** and upon ancient maps accompanied by the name of the province or 'gubernia' and of the country according to actual boundaries, the date of the annual commemorations, the exact coordinates to the memorial (the name of the cemetery, the zone and the section) and finally a comments column. At this time, a list of some 1,300 indexed communities can be found on the Internet site of our Association: www.isragen.org/ROS/mvc-1.html

Thanks to the details noted, those who wish to gather at one of these memorials will be able to find it easily.

**Where Once We Walked.* By Amdur Sack, Sallyann and Gary Mokotoff. Bergenfield, NJ, Avotaynu, 2003. 2nd edition

2. The Last Population Census Ordered by Sir Moses Montefiore in 1875

Prepared by Meriam Haringman and Jean-Pierre Stroweis

The population census of the Jews residing in the Holy Land in 1875 is the last of a series of five censuses ordered by Sir Moses Montefiore and carried out in the course of the 19th century, starting in 1839. This is the first time in history that one of these censuses has been entirely deciphered, transcribed, translated, indexed and computerized.

For the Ashkenazi part of the population, the census was done according to Kolel (Talmudic school). These Kolelim (plural of Koleh) carry the names of the communities where the students originally came from, such as: Minsk, Volhynia, Vilna, Karlin, Zamut-Courland, Germany-Holland, Austria but also according to specific groups such as "Prushim"* and "Habad."** It is interesting to note that some students worked at the same time as they studied. The Sephardic and Oriental population were enumerated en bloc without any distinction or subdivision. There are also lists of community leaders, of widows and of orphans.

The personal details included: family name, first name, age, date of immigration (Aliyah), place of birth (Eastern Europe for the Ashkenazi community while for the Sephardic Jews, North Africa, the Ottoman Empire, Iraq, Georgia and other countries of the Orient), family status, the first name of the spouse, the number of children and their ages, profession, financial state. An additional column titled 'Notes' included details that were not covered under the other headings.

This project, in the form of an easily searchable database, will be ready in July

2004 and published on the Conference CD-ROM.

Notes: *Prushim, also known as Mitnagdim, is the sect opposed to Hasidism. **Habad is another term used for the Lubavitch Hasidim.

3. Helkat Mehokek - Translation and Index of 8,000 Inscriptions from Tombstones in Hebrew from the Cemetery of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem for the Period between 1740 to 1906

Prepared by Mathilde Tagger

Helkat Mehokek (Deut. 33:21) is the title of four booklets published in Jerusalem between the years 1906 and 1913 by Rabbi Asher Leib Brisk, a Yeshiva student. In 1913, these booklets were bound into a single volume containing the Hebrew tombstone inscriptions of 8,000 graves of the Mount of Olives Cemetery in Jerusalem, the most ancient Jewish cemetery in the world. This work has been entirely translated, transcribed, indexed and computerized in a searchable and easily useable database, which will be published on CD-ROM.

The 8,000 inscriptions cover the period between 1740-1906, and are classified by parcels and rows, with certain parcels being reserved for the tombs of the sages. These tombstone inscriptions include those of men, women and children, of whom 1,500 are Sephardim and 6,500 Ashkenazim. In addition to family names, first names, first names of father, dates of death and burial, this database is enriched by the places of origin or birth. The latter especially mention the communities of the Ottoman Empire and North Africa for the Sephardic Jews and the communities of Eastern Europe for the Ashkenazic Jews.

4. Index of Names Researched by the Late Dr. Paul Jacobi which are Found in the Numerous Monographs Published by the Author

Prepared by Dr. Chanan Rapaport, Esther Ramon and Dr. Yehuda Klausner

An International Center of Jewish Genealogy in the memory of Dr. Paul Jacobi z"l is part of the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem.

The Center contains the printed monographs and many of Jacobi's manuscripts, works covering nearly fifty years of genealogical and historical research. There are also excellent works by other authors who specialized in the genealogy of all the regions of the Ashkenazi world. The rich library, of which numerous books deal with genealogy, was collected by Paul Jacobi during his long years of work and it also forms a part of the Center. The Center was created to give the public access to the collections of Dr. Jacobi, to foster an interest in genealogical and historic research in a university milieu and to promote teaching programs in the primary and secondary schools.

The present project is to index all the names of the people appearing on the 400 genealogical trees prepared and published by Paul Jacobi. This index will allow direct access to these precious monographs.

5. Update of the List of Archives of Israel which Contain Documents Related to Genealogy

Prepared by Meriam Haringman and other volunteers

Ten years have passed since the publication of the book *A Guide to Jewish Genealogical Research in Israel* by Sallyann Amdur Sack and the Israel Genealogical Society. An update of this document has become urgent for those who wish to proceed with deeper genealogical research in Israel.

A Committee of volunteers has thus been created to this end. Aside from updating practical information (addresses, hours, telephone, Internet) and the description of new collections available in each archive, the committee has equally undertaken to cover the archives formerly not listed in the older book. Each member of the committee has been assigned a museum or archives. He is responsible for suggesting which resources and collections are the most useful to index and database, in order to make them

available to the participants of the Conference. The work is presently in progress at many archives in Jerusalem. Research also continues in archives outside the capital.

All the information will be the object of a special database.

6. A Guide to Sephardic and Oriental Genealogical Sources in Israel

Prepared by Yitzchak Kerem and Mathilde Tagger

The aim of this project is to cover all the information available in Israel on Sephardic and Oriental Jews (Jews originating in Arab and Muslim countries and countries of the Far East).

The research institutes, the archives, the libraries, the museums, the associations for new immigrants (olim), the Sephardic Communal Councils, the funeral societies of ethnic non-Ashkenazi (Hevrot Kadisha), the kibbutzim and the community villages (moshavim) founded by groups of Sephardic and/or Oriental immigrants are carefully inventoried.

Documents relative to the Sephardic and Oriental Jews are found in the following archives which will be the object of a meticulously detailed compilation: The Jewish National and University Library, the Library of the Ben Zvi Institute, the Central Archives of the History of the Jewish People, the Municipal Archives of the City of Jerusalem, Yad Tabenkin and the Research Center for Italian Judaism.

This study will also treat various aspects of genealogical research in Israel, for example, Sephardic and Oriental Jews in the Shoah.

The facts will be grouped by country and will cover the entire Mediterranean Basin, the Balkans, Bukhara (Uzbekistan), Georgia (Asia) Afghanistan, Iran, India, Northern Europe and the Caribbean region. Finally, the alphabets in Hebrew, Arabic, Ottoman Turk, Greek, Cyrillic, Judeo-Arabic and Judeo-Spanish will be added to facilitate the work of the researcher. A general index will aid the reader to find easily that which he searches. This innovative project will supply

material in addition to that found in books, articles, discussion groups and Internet sites.

7. Index of Family and Personal Archives found in the Central Archives of the History of the Jewish People (CAHJP) in Jerusalem

Prepared by Suzanne Solomon and Mathilde Tagger

This project is, in fact, the result of the detailed analysis of diverse collections making up the Central Archives, analysis executed by the "Archives Committee" mentioned above.

The Central Archives of the History of the Jewish People holds some two thousand private and family archives. The detailed computerized index of this rich collection will furnish all the important genealogical information such as names of family, first names, places of origin, the periods covered, the types of archives, the genealogical tree included, the language of the documents, etc. This index will also be put onto the CD-ROM.

In Conclusion

All of these works are being done by numerous volunteers, members of the Israel Genealogical Society, who trek through the country to photograph the memorials in all the cemeteries, or to discover the Archives not yet indexed or else they are slaving during countless hours in front of their computers. All are moved by one sole motivation: the success of this Conference. Participation in the Conference will be the best way of thanking them.

The Internet site of the Conference is: www.ortra.com/jgen2004.

Mathilde Tagger has an MA degree in Library & Information Sciences from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and is involved in genealogical research since 1986. She specializes in the genealogy of the Sephardic Jews and is currently engaged in building research tools for the genealogy of the Sephardic community. Her work can be seen at : www.sephardicstudies.org/entrance.html



Memorial to the Community of Slonim, destroyed in the Shoa. (See article on page XXIV.)

Censuses in Eretz Yisrael

End of 19th Century - 20th Century

Shmuel Shamir

Population registers and censuses are an important tool in genealogical research. A number of censuses have been carried out in Eretz Yisrael at different times – toward the end of the Ottoman rule, during the British Mandate and in the State of Israel.

End of the Ottoman Empire Period

The Nafus Books

These books contain the censuses taken in Eretz Yisrael between 1875 and 1918. They are written in Turkish, in Arabic characters. Together with the Books of the Mukhtars, [mukhtar = head of village or community] the records of the Consuls and the records of the Muslim Courts and the Christian Churches, they provide personal details on the population in this country during the 45 years preceding the British Mandate.

In 1977, the Israel State Archives published a study on these censuses by Jonathan Fagis. Fagis states that the Ottoman censuses and the Nafus books are one of the most important sources for the research of demography and economics, and the understanding of the reality of life, in Eretz Yisrael in those years. 463 Nafus books are deposited in the State Archives, in the form of microfilm, open to the public.

These books contain rich and accurate information: records of marriages, divorces, change of address, information about the military, details on local and foreign population and their addresses abroad, as well as religious, communal and institutional affiliation. The books are arranged by locations: districts, towns, villages, suburbs, and communities. In some of them, the distinction between the Ashkenazi and Sephardi population is also recorded, and even between Hasidim and others, especially in Jerusalem.

The Censuses Recorded in the Nafus Books

In 1884, the census was carried out only in the Old City, including Mount Zion (Har Tzion). The Muslim residents were recorded according to the Quarters of the City, the Jews and Christians by community affiliation only.

Other censuses were taken by the Ottoman authorities in 1905, 1911, 1912 and 1915. The best, although partial, is the one of 1905, because of its accuracy and the amount of material it contains. This census was supplemented by the censuses of 1911 and 1912. In 1915 the census was taken in the "New City" (outside the walls) of Jerusalem and only among the Jewish population, and it concerns mainly the appeal of the Jewish leaders to adopt Ottoman citizenship. As mentioned, these censuses are important for the study of demographics and economics of the times.

The Cataloguing of the Nafus Books

- a. 101 early books of population census contain the following details: name of town, settlement, village or suburb, name of quarter, name of the head of family, profession, religion, year of birth and details about the other members of the family.
- b. 225 basic books contain complete lists of the questionnaires used in all censuses since 1905. The recording was done on a large page, so that it was possible to add on the margin details about the newly born children, people that moved to the same courtyard, as well as houses built after the census was taken.
- c. 38 books contain details of births, deaths, marriages and divorces. These data were recorded according to the date that was given by the person who notified the regional office about the event, and this was not always the real

date of the event. In the book of births only the surname appears, in most cases, and not the first name of the newborn.

- d. Other books contain lists of persons serving in the army, lists of foreign residents and "Mukhtar books" that were not recorded in the lists of the former censuses.

The Census of Jewish Residents

In March-July 1916, a census was taken by the "American Aid Committee" that was part of the Eretz Yisrael Office of the New Zionist Organization. It was taken for administrative reasons, to enable orderly distribution of the produce and money that was sent from the United States in May 1915 as aid to the Jewish population. In Jerusalem 50,000 individuals were recorded: 24,445 Ashkenazi, 22,207 Sephardi and 3,340 Yemenites. Details about the census and aid distribution are found in the book by the journalist Avraham Almaliyah *Eretz Yisrael and Syria during the World War*, Vol. II p. 166. Another number (26,605) for the Jewish population in Jerusalem is given by D. Gurevich, in *Counting the Jews of Judea, Samaria and Galilee*, brochure 1, and *The Population of Jerusalem*, 1940. p. 14.

This census, which was a sort of Population Register of the Jewish Residents at that period, is mentioned as well in the book by Shmuel Moshayoff (who was the secretary of the Aid Committee): *Within Jerusalem*, p.48-53.

The Department of Statistics and Information, established by "The Board of Delegates" (Va'ad Hatzirim) in January 1920 continued processing the material (see Survey of the Activities of Va'ad Hatzirim of Eretz Yisrael, 1921, p. 27).

Censuses during the British Mandate

The first census was taken on 22 October 1922. The census lasted 6 days and comprised 757,206 residents. This number was amended by Prof. Roberto Bachi to 763,600 persons, in his book *The Population of Israel*, 1977, p. 366.

According to the condition imposed by the Arab Executive Committee before the census began, the residents that were abroad on the day of the census were counted as well. 757,182 individuals were recorded. Of them, 83,000 (11%) were Jews.

This was a "de facto" census, concise and somewhat primitive, and the entire population was recorded, including soldiers and foreign citizens. Its main purpose was to establish the community affiliation of the residents of Eretz Yisrael, in view of the approaching elections for the legislative council. Since the Arabs boycotted the elections, the Mandate Government rejected the idea as well and decided to establish a "Council of Eretz Yisrael" instead, whose members were to be appointed by the government.

The census was under the supervision of J.B. Baron, the Director of Customs and Commerce. He published the results in his "Palestine Report and General Abstract of the Census of 1922. Jerusalem, 1923."

This census was performed somewhat hastily and was not properly prepared (see E Schmeltz, *Cathedra* 36, p. 133).

The second census in Eretz Yisrael during the British Mandate was taken on 18 November 1931. In this census, 1,035,154 persons were recorded: 175,606 Jews (about 17% of the residents counted), 759,952 Muslims, 90,607 Christians and 9,589 others.

It is believed that this census is reliable and without significant errors. It was supervised by E. Mills. His report is "Census of Palestine 1931, Population of Towns and Villages and Administration Areas. Jerusalem, 1932."

The census registers of 1922 and 1931 were stored in the library of the Department of Statistics. During the War of Independence, the library was transferred, under fire, to a safe place. The material was stuffed in bags, and was apparently left in one of the rooms of the present Department of Statistics, without supervision. It is doubtful whether it is possible at the present to use the material and study it.

Census of the Jewish Adults of "Kneset Yisrael" [Kneset Yisrael = the organized Jewish Community under the Mandate]. This is a census of "Jewish volunteers in the service of the people," and was performed by the *Yishuv* (the Jewish population in Eretz Yisrael before the establishment of the State) on 12 September 1939, and 136,000 Jewish residents were counted.

The records of this census are stored at the Central Zionist Archives, and are marked J/4. In Jerusalem the data of the census were recorded by neighborhoods and streets.

The list of adults of "Kneset Yisrael" 1942, arranged alphabetically, can be found at the CZA as well, marked J1/2332. The Jewish population in Eretz Yisrael was then 457,000 persons. In Jerusalem 80,850 persons were recorded (75,150 + 5,700 from Agudat Yisrael), which is 61% of the population in Jerusalem.

Censuses in the State of Israel

In Israel censuses are taken approximately every 10 years.

On 8 November 1948 a census of the entire population of Israel was performed, in collaboration with the Department of Statistics, for the purpose of establishing a *Population Register*. The result of the census was 782,000 souls, 713,000 Jews and 69,000 Arabs (according to the Hebrew Encyclopedia the result was 716,678 persons).

Following this census, the list of voters for the first Kneset (Parliament) was prepared and identification cards were issued. The records include surname and first name, details about parents and children, date and place of birth and death, sex, family status, date of Aliya, citizenship, nationality, religion, language, literacy, profession, residence and work address, family status – marriage, divorce, adoption and guardianship, time spent outside the country. For details see the Residents Register of the Department of Statistics 8.11.1948, Volume II Ch. 5.

A detailed analysis of the mass aliya (immigration) to Israel during 1948-1953, its extent and its influence on the Israeli population was done by Moshe Sikron.

The second census in the State of Israel was taken on 21 May 1961, in conformance with the Law of Population Register. 2,234,200 persons were counted, of them 1,981,700 Jews, 174,900 Muslims, 51,300 Christians and 26,340 Druse. The data recorded served also to update the addresses in the Residents Index.

Individual sheets of this census are deposited in the Israel State Archives.

The data of both censuses are classified, except for the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Defense, the Attorney General, the Chief of Police, the Marriages Registrar and others who were authorized by a court of justice.

The regulations (from 1975) concerning the retrieval of data from the population register state that a person who has apparent interest is allowed to receive the following data: name of parents, location of birth, family status, sex, nationality, date of entering Israel, identification number, birth certificate and death certificate.

A third census was taken on 22 May 1972. 3,225,000 persons were counted, 2,752,700 Jews and 472,300 non-Jews.

A fourth census was performed on 4 June 1983 and 4,037,600 souls, 3,349,900 Jews (83% of the population) and 687,600 non-Jews (10.6%).

A fifth census was performed on 5 November 1995. The result was 5,612,300 souls, 4,522,300 Jews (80.6%) and 1,090,000 non-Jews. In Jerusalem it reported a total of 602,700, 420,900 Jews (69.82), 181,800 non-Jews (30.2%).

A census in Judea, Samaria, Gaza and Northern Sinai was performed in September 1967 by the military administration and the result was 600,000

persons in Judea and Samaria and 38,000 in the Gaza region and Northern Sinai. In East Jerusalem 68,600 persons, non-Jews, were counted. The census was taken under the direction of Prof. Bachi, Mrs. Even-Tov, R. Bar-On, Rotter, and Dr. Schmeltz.

In the census in the territory annexed to Israel a status of Permanent Resident was granted to those who fulfilled the following two conditions: (1) physical presence in the area at the time of the census (2) was a resident in the area. The result of this census was 598,637 in Judea and Samaria, 33,441 in Northern Sinai, 356,261 in Gaza and 6,396 in the Golan Heights – 994,735 persons altogether. Residents of East Jerusalem who were temporarily abroad at the time of the census, were not counted.

Population Censuses in East Jerusalem during the Rule of the Hashemite Kingdom

Two censuses were taken under the Hashemite rule, in 1952 and 1961. In November 1961, 75,000 individuals were counted in East Jerusalem under Jordanian rule: 54,081 Muslims, 10,795 Christians and 981 persons of other religions, as well as 96 Jews in the compound of the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus (all this in the framework of the political-geographic situation at that time).

Details about these censuses can be found in E. Schmeltz: *The Arab Population in Jerusalem since the Mandate 1918 to 1990*, in *Hamizrah Hehadash* (The New Orient) 1992, 35, p.6-43.

Databases - Sources Open to the Public with no Limitations

Various databases contain a large amount of helpful material that enables the researcher to cross-reference information and receive additional non-classified details from the censuses.

Registers of Voters to the Kneset, Municipalities and Regional Councils.

These registers contain limited information, such as age, residence and nationality. It is possible to cross-reference this information according to identification numbers and/or addresses of residence. These registers are stored in the archives of the municipalities and regional councils.

Registers of Real Estate Records. These registers contain information about property rights of real estate. The information retrieval is limited to a particular property or a particular individual, and is obtained from real estate books where the numbers of the lot and the individual are recorded.

Telephone Directories. They contain the phone numbers and addresses, except for some classified numbers that are unlisted.

Who's Who Books. These books appear once a year, and contain original material, often verified, about the person, his family and his work. The information in the books is limited to persons of prominent families or those occupying a high social position. The information is in most cases accurate, and it is assumed that it was checked by the person listed. Sometimes, though, we can find unnecessary exaggeration and self-praise. The books can be examined in the Bibliographical Service of the National and University Library at the Givat Ram campus, Jerusalem, and in the other University Libraries in Israel.

The Hevrot Kadisha [burial societies] **Registers.** These registers contain information on the deceased, starting from 150 years ago. Sometimes information about family members and addresses are included.

Information in the Media. This is information published in print or other media. It often deals with sensations, political and criminal matters, or other matters of daily life, and should be checked for accuracy. It can be nevertheless cross-referenced with other sources. It is found in the archives of the daily newspapers such as Haaretz, Ma'ariv, Yedi'ot Aharonot and Jerusalem Post.

The use of databases should be considered in the light of the Law of Protection of Privacy.

Law of Protection of Privacy 1981

This law brought about a reform in the matter of secrecy and privacy. Its purpose is to regulate the prohibitions and limitations on the use of information obtained from various databases by means of detective work, telephone tapping, photography, copying letters or other documents, as well as using the name, nickname, picture or voice of a person, or publishing matters concerning his personal life, his health, economic situation, professional status, opinions and beliefs, or anything obtained through violation of privacy.

The law states that the registrar must keep an orderly register of the database, and that data about a person can be retrieved by the person him/herself, his/her guardian, or representative by written authorization.

It is possible to obtain information from public institutions, within the framework of the law of protection of privacy, if the information is not classified by law or by rules of professional ethics.

Law of Freedom of Information

This law regulates the accessibility of information available at public authorities. It establishes the right of every citizen to obtain information – on tape, film, photographed or computerized – from the municipal or state authorities and from the

corporations controlled by them, concerning their activities and areas of responsibility. The law does not apply to the legislative, executive and judiciary authorities.

In conclusion, we should mention that the genealogical researcher can obtain information from the various censuses if he presents a written authorization from the person the information is about, or if he had received the information from another source. For a deceased person, the authorization is given by a close relative.

See also:

Great Britain. Military Hand Book on Palestine. Cairo, 1910.

Great Britain. Government of Palestine. Village Statistics, 1938, Jerusalem, 1938.

Great Britain. Government of Palestine. Village Statistics, 1945. Jerusalem, 1945.

Shmuel Shamir (Mizrachi), a Jerusalem native (b. 1923), was a member of the first graduating class of the Law School of the Hebrew University. An active attorney, his many outside interests include genealogy. A proficient journalist, he has published in numerous newspapers and journals including Haaretz, Davar, Haboker, Yideot Aharonot, Et-Mol, Bama'arakha, Karka, Lebeit Avotam and others. He has researched and traced his family's roots in Jerusalem from 1643 to the present day. Married to Marta, he is the father of Irit, Yael and Zvi.



The Jewish Cemeteries in Jerusalem*

Mathilde A. Tagger

From antiquity, people would choose a place outside the village or the settlement for burying the dead, the graves being quite close to each other. This is how cemeteries have been created.

Throughout history Jews lived in the Holy Land and especially in Jerusalem, the spiritual center of the Jewish People. In time, Jerusalem became holy to Christians and Muslims as well. Many cemeteries of all three monotheistic religions are located in Jerusalem, all of them outside the walls of the Old City.

This article will describe the Jewish cemeteries in our 3,000 year old city.

The Mount of Olives Cemetery is the holiest and most ancient Jewish cemetery, located on the Western slope of the Mount of Olives, opposite the Eastern wall of the Old City. The Kidron valley separates the City from the cemetery.

The holiness of the Mount of Olives has been observed for centuries, as, according to tradition, it was the last place where the Divine Presence resided before leaving with the destruction of the Temple. According to Zachariah's prophecy (Zach.14:4), the End of Days will take place on the Mount of Olives.

For dozens of generations, this cemetery has been chosen as a burial place by Jews from Eretz Yisrael, as well as by Jews from the Diaspora who came to die in the holy city of Jerusalem.

Some tombstones date from Biblical times – and are 3,000 years old. The famous 12th century traveler, Benjamin from Tudela, who traversed the Mediterranean Basin, arrived in Jerusalem in 1173. In the detailed and valuable report of his trip he relates that the Crusaders had destroyed many graves and used the stones as cheap building material. This sad situation continued throughout the following generations. Zeev Vilnai cites the book "Sfat Emet" (Language of Truth) by Rabbi M. Hages, who wrote in

1707 that Jerusalem Jews had to pay high sums of money to the Arabs in order to ensure that they did not spoil the tombstones in the Mount of Olives cemetery.

After the War of Independence in 1948 and until the Six-Day War in 1967, the Mount of Olives was under Jordanian rule. During this period not only were Jews not allowed to visit the burial places of their relatives but thousands of graves were totally destroyed. Since the 1967 war, many graves have been restored and Burial Societies have rehabilitated some of the plots. This cemetery, however, has a major maintenance problem. It is in close vicinity with the Arab village Silwan. Especially during the last two years of severe confrontation between Israelis and Arabs, marble covers of graves have been broken and many graves have been desecrated.

The Sambusky Cemetery is situated on the eastern slope of Mount Zion, close to the Zion Gate of the Old City. It was impossible to find any written material about it. All the information and details I have were obtained by oral communication from R' Elazar Gelbstein, Deputy-Director of the General Burial Society (Hevra Kadisha) in Jerusalem. The cemetery is 300-400 years old and the last burials were 200 years ago. Here too many graves have been vandalized during the Jordanian rule between 1948 and 1967. No Burial Society in Jerusalem is responsible for the care of this cemetery today.

R'Gelbstein said that, as far as he knows, only Doron Herzog, a private researcher, has made a detailed survey of this cemetery. From a conversation with M. Herzog, it appears that the cemetery has been mostly used for very poor people who could not afford burial in the Mount of Olives cemetery. In 1972 he found 214 tombstones with very short inscriptions. To the question about the origin of the name "Sambusky," M. Herzog said that the only plausible

answer is that it derives from "sambusek," a typical Jewish oriental food. It is a salted pastry having the form of a crescent and stuffed with fried onions and mashed boiled chickpeas, the whole well peppered. Indeed this cemetery is in the form of a crescent...

The Sanhedria Cemetery is named after the neighborhood in which it is located and where the famous burying places of the members of the Sanhedrin** were excavated. It was situated on the city limit bordering the Jordanian controlled part of the city. Today it is no longer on the edge of the city, but is surrounded by the new neighborhoods of Ramat Eshkol, Maalot Dafna and Shmuel haNavi. It was opened in 1948 at the beginning of the War of Independence, because funerals on Mount of Olives cemetery became too dangerous, Arabs shooting anyone in sight.

The first burial there was in March 1948 for the 42 victims of the car bomb that exploded in Ben Yehuda Street, today part of the downtown pedestrian zone. Soldiers who at that time fell on the Jerusalem front were also buried there. Today one can find there the graves of many Israeli personalities. The cemetery is nearly full. The Jerusalem Burial Society is the only one that takes care of this cemetery. Records are fully computerized.

The Sheikh Badr (or Givat Ram) Cemetery is located near the new buildings of the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the Central-Western part of the city. It was also opened in 1948 when burials in Sanhedria Cemetery became too dangerous because of heavy bombing close to Mount Scopus. This cemetery includes some 2,000 tombstones.

When the Military Cemetery on Mount Herzl was established, all the soldiers who were buried in the Sheikh Badr cemetery were reinterred there, except for those whose families were against reopening the graves. On September 9, 1950 a funeral procession of nearly 200 fallen soldiers crossed the city to Mount Herzl, where they found their final resting place. The General Burial Society

and the Jerusalem Burial Society both take care of the cemetery.

The Shaare Zedek Plot. This plot is located in the yard of the Shaare Tzedek Hospital old building, close to the Mahane Yehuda Market on Jaffa Road. It includes some 70 graves, all under the supervision of the General Burial Society of Jerusalem. The first burial took place on July 20, 1948 and the cemetery was active for some two years. Since then very few burials have taken place there, the last of them this year (2003). All the computerized records can be found at the Burial Society office.

Mount Herzl can be divided into three parts:

Herzl's Grave. Theodor Herzl, the founder of the Zionism, died on 20 Tamuz 1904 in Austria and was buried in Vienna. His remains were transferred to Jerusalem, the capital of the Jewish State, on August 17, 1949, 45 years after his death. His grave is on the peak of the highest hill of the city (835m), on its West. Bags of earth from all the Israeli cities, villages and new immigrant camps, were brought to the burial place and emptied in the grave to cover it.

Close by are the graves of his parents, Yaakov and Janet née Diamant, and his sisters Paulina and Lena. Vladimir (Zeev) Jabotinsky, the Zionist Revisionist leader, his wife Johanna née Galperin and their son and daughter-in-law Eri and Aviva née Kagan are also buried on Mount Herzl, at the south of Herzl's grave.

The Plot of the Nation's Leaders is situated close to Herzl's grave, at its north. Here are buried:

1. All the Presidents of the State and their wives, except Chaim Weizmann and his wife Vera Rivka née Chatzman who are buried in Rehovot, in a special plot on the premises of the Weizmann Institute of Science.
2. The Prime Ministers and their wives, except David Ben Gurion and his wife Paula née Monbaz who are buried in Sde Boker in the Negev and Menahem Begin and his wife Aliza née Arnold

who are buried in the Mount of Olives cemetery.

3. The Knesset (Parliament) Speakers and their wives.

All the tombstones are identically designed except that of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who was murdered on November 5, 1998 as a violent reaction to the Oslo peace agreements.

The Mount Herzl Military Cemetery -

Located on the northern slope of Mount Herzl and close to the Memorial Mount of Yad Vashem, soldiers who fell in the battle fields of Jerusalem and Hebron during the War of Independence in 1948 were first to be buried here. There is a special memorial to the soldiers who fell during the cruel battle in the Old City of Jerusalem. Other memorials were built here like that in remembrance of Eretz Yisrael volunteers who served in the British army and that to commemorate the victims of Dakar, the submarine that sank in the Mediterranean Sea on its way to Haifa.

All the tombstones of the officers and soldiers are identically designed. This cemetery is totally under the care of the Department to Perpetuate the Memory of Fallen Soldiers (Hamahlaka Lehantzahat Hahayal), which is part of the Israel Ministry of Defense.

The Jewish soldiers who served in the British army during WW I and fell by the end of 1917 during the battle for the conquest of Eretz Yisrael, are buried in a special plot of the British Military Cemetery on Mount Scopus, close to Hadassah Hospital.

Har haMenuhot [Mount of Quietude] in Giv'at Shaul. This is the largest cemetery in Jerusalem and is situated at the entrance of the city, on a hill along the main Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. It opened in December 1951.

In Jerusalem funerals are conducted by several Burial Societies (Hevrot Kadisha), some of them are connected to specific

communities like the Babylonian (Iraqi) or the Yemenite community. Each Hevra Kadisha is allowed to bury only in plots fixed beforehand, in any of the two active cemeteries: Mount of Olives and Har haMenuhot.

The Burial Societies have registers in which the details of the deceased are recorded. They generally include the surname, the given name, the father's given name, the death/burial date and the grave plot/row. Some Societies keep their records for more than a century and many of them are already computerized or will be in the near future.

All the existing records throughout the country, not only in Jerusalem, are written in various Hebrew scripts, like Ashkenazi, Sephardic Solitreo and Oriental cursive handwritings. Generally the personnel of the different Burial Societies speak only Hebrew although Yiddish is spoken among the Ashkenazi personnel. Requests should be written in Hebrew, or in Yiddish for Ashkenazim, as most of them do not know English.

Note: **Sanhedrin was the legislative and executive authority from the times of the Second Temple. This Council was composed of seventy-one sages.

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Thanks to Rabbi Elazar Gelbstein and to M. Doron Herzog for the valuable information they shared with me.

* This article was published in the Fall issue of *Avotaynu* and is reprinted here by permission.

**Family Trees and Biographies:
A Contribution to the Individual and Society**
**Towards an active, wide and systematic approach to interview and collect
family trees and biographies of the Jewish people**
Chanan Rapaport

A basic tenet serves as the foundation of the proposed action.

Seniors and the aged in modern society, which worships youth, are considered to be "past their selling date." No one any longer needs their life-accumulated wisdom, or their deep understanding, which they achieved through life experience, all of which enables them to synthesize and harmonize different and controversial ideas.

There are many individuals – spread over the whole socio-economic gamut – who do not find any general voluntary activity or a familial or personal one for themselves. Such people may, sometimes, experience the feelings: "I am not needed anymore," "no one looks for my experience and understanding."

The outcome sometimes leads to the feeling: "My life is without rhyme or reason – what else remains?" and occasionally, even,.... "What is the point in continued living?"

Approaching these people, interviewing them and asking for details of their family trees and for accounts of their personal and familial biographies, may yield a few surprising and blessed dividends.

a. The interviewees might experience a positive psychotherapeutic influence. It is as if they say to themselves: "This is important to someone and later it might be important to my surviving family, to know who I was and who were the predecessors of my family." "Here, they want to learn from my life experiences and life findings and inferences." "Apparently, I still count to others."

b. The strengthening of familial cohesion. Sharing copies of the audio-cassettes of the biographical stories and the family trees

with the extended family of the interviewee, might lead to a renewed interest within the family in their backgrounds. These might result in an intensive study of their family history and could even bring new pride in the family. By listening and studying, they learn of the plight and revitalization of family members and acquire pride in the achievements of previous members of the family clan.

c. Reinforcement of the intergenerational bonds between grandparents, parents, children, grandchildren and other descendants.

d. A contribution to science by deepening the knowledge in the fields of psychology, sociology, history and anthropology, as well as important additions to the research of migratory movements and the study of interactions between groups of people from different ethnic backgrounds. No less important could be the contribution to medical-genetic research.

e. A contribution to Jewish Genealogy, worldwide, by widening of the Genealogical Data Bases.

f. A significant gain will be achieved by those organizations that motivate the volunteers to interview and collect Family Trees and Biographies among their own members. This activity could strengthen the ties between members and gain new esteem and respect for the organization itself. Based on the collected family trees and biographies, the organization might wish to publish its own "Who's Who" for the benefit of the organization and its membership.

g. A possible widening of membership for Jewish Genealogical Associations, worldwide.

A few principles of action can be determined resulting from the possible outcomes stated above:

1. We have to approach those organized groups, which contain the target populations, or those that are searching for a cause around which to activate their membership. Such organizations might be mutual aid organizations, pensioners and "landsmanschaftn."

2. We must convince the top echelon of leadership of these organizations, as well as the regional and local ones. The justification for these approaches would be the benefits that these organizations and their individual memberships will reap from these activities. No less important is the low-cost entailed. *

3. We have to recruit volunteers within the organization to engage in the specific induction and training in the art of conducting interviews and filling in of questionnaires.**

4. A methodical approach of all available members of these organizations must be implemented, so that none remain behind and every member feels that his/her family tree and biography is essential.

5. The benefits "paid" to the individual interviewee for his/her goodwill, efforts and time expended, would be through the preparation of copies of the audio-cassettes of his/her biography, as well as the printing of their family trees, to be made available to his/her extended family members, if they so desire. Another bonus would be the inclusion of their family tree and biography in the organizations' "Who's Who."

* I have refrained from submitting this paper for publication until I personally experienced the applicability of this idea, through the recruitment of organizations, their leaderships and volunteers.

Among the associations, which I approached so far, we can find a mutual aid organization such as *Yad Sarah*, a

national organization providing voluntarily and for the short term (all over Israel – to Jews and Arabs alike – in more than one hundred branches) many varied items of medical equipment for those in temporary need of such equipment. It also provides inexpensive meals to homes of bed-ridden and sick people and engages in many other activities such as free legal consultations, post-accident rehabilitation, geriatric dentistry etc.

Another example is the *National Religious Women Organization – Emunah* and the organization of *Veterans of the Haganah Underground*.

I have also approached the *Heritage Center of Iraqi Jewry* (the major organization for that community) and the *Organization of Central European Jewry* as examples for Landsmanschaft organizations.

Last, but not least, I approached the organization of pensioners of the *National Bezek*, Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Some of the above mentioned organizations are already engaged in the various stages of volunteer recruitment and training, while others have passed the stage of persuading their leadership.

** Many interviewees might not be able, or will not agree, to open their hearts and tell strangers about their personal experiences – positive or negative. Thus, it is advisable to begin an interview by filling a general questionnaire with genealogical information. This might lead, in its wake, to an opening of hearts, as, for example, when one is asked generally neutral questions about the dates of his migration from one country to another, or about the public offices he/she held or honorary titles he/she received.

The answers might serve as a springboard, by asking for more detailed information about the more personal experiences involved with those so-called neutral questions.

I have, therefore, prepared a concise detailed genealogical questionnaire and have advised the interviewers in their proper application.

Born in 1928, Dr. Chanan Rapaport served as an officer in the Haganah Underground, in the War of Independence and in the IDF. A PhD, he had post-doctoral training in clinical psychology, psychotherapy and research in the United States. He served as Director General of the Szold National Institute for Research in the behavioral sciences between 1965-1982, while

concomitantly was Adviser for Social Issues to the Prime Ministers of Israel Golda Meir and Yitzhak Rabin as well as research and psychological adviser to the Ministry of Education and Culture. He is currently the Director-General of "The Center for the Study of the Rapaport Family," established in Jerusalem in 1990. He is the literary executor and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Jacobi International Center for Research in Jewish Genealogy at the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem.



Memorials for the Vanished Communities (MVC)

Rose Feldman and Ellen Stepak

Israel is unusual in many ways. The history of Jewish settlement in Israel either deals with the period of 2,000 years ago or jumps to the period that started about 120 years ago. But throughout its history ties with Jews living in the Diaspora have never been severed. An example of this is the large number of memorials to be found throughout Israel for Jewish communities that no longer exist.

The Israel Genealogical Society has taken upon itself to document the Memorials for the Vanished Communities (MVC), in preparation for the 24th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Jerusalem. The project was initiated by Mathilde Tagger, and carried out by Rose Feldman, Chana Furman, Ellen Stepak and others.

The memorials in Israel are mainly located in cemeteries, in particular the one in Holon, but some are found in other locations as well. Some are grouped in cemeteries, whereas others may be found in isolated sites. Many towns appear on monuments that list several or more communities in a region. One of the most comprehensive and

impressive of these is the memorial in Holon for the Jewish community of Wlodawa (and for those killed at the nearby Sobibor concentration camp), Poland, and for other Jewish communities in the vicinity. Among the Jewish communities documented on these monuments are villages otherwise forgotten by history.

These memorials are a labor of love. They have been erected to memorialize loved ones lost either in the Holocaust or in other anti-Semitic acts, for whom there can be no true gravestone. Many of the monuments are beautiful, and are the product of much thought and creativity. Some of the memorials also list names of people murdered from that locality. The gravestones within cemeteries have symbolic ashes brought from killing fields and/or death camps. Countries particularly represented by the memorials themselves are today's Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania and Belarus. Some of the memorials represent entire countries, such as the Hungarian memorial, where many communities are listed. Some countries, such as Belgium, Holland and France, and some communities,

have forests planted in their names, instead of or in addition to memorials. Some community centers built in the earlier years of Israeli statehood are even named for vanished communities.

Many Landsmanschaften associations hold annual memorial ceremonies at the monuments for their towns, though as the communities of people who remember these towns and their people from before World War II dwindle, the annual observances have become less prevalent.

A CD of this documentation project is in preparation, which will include photographs of the memorials that have been taken within the last year. To our amazement, the number of memorials documented is far more than estimated, and they are spread over the whole of Israel. For this reason we have had to divide the project into stages. We hope to include in this CD all the memorials found within the cemeteries of Israel. The towns listed on these memorials will be posted as part of the description of this project on the 2004 conference site

www.ortra.com/jgen2004. The CD will be available at the 2004 IAJGS Conference.

Rose Feldman is the Head of the Computer Staff at the Yolanda & David Katz Faculty of the Arts at Tel-Aviv University. She is a member of the Israel Genealogical Society and has been keeper of her family tree since 1985, which includes descendants and spouses from 4 continents.

Ellen Stepak, a member of the Tel-Aviv branch of IGS has lived in Israel 34 years. She has been searching family roots for 8 years. She grew up in Huntington, Indiana in the United States and studied at the University of Wisconsin. Her forefathers immigrated to the United States from Hesse-Kassel in Germany, Poland (Lodz, Vohlin - Kremenets region, Pinsk), and Kupishok in Lithuania. One of the highlights of her story is that her gggrandmother's brother who was from Tennessee served in the Confederate Army during the American Civil War (and her great grandfather served in the Indian Wars).



Recording Genealogical Data V*

(This concludes the series)

Yehuda Klausner

6. Sources and References

The information we collect and record is obtained from different sources: oral communication, written communication (letters and other family-written material), official and semi-official institutions (various documents), books and booklets, etc.

All written material, photographs and other documents in our possession should be properly indexed by some identifying mark and filed accordingly for later use, while books and pamphlets should be recorded the way bibliography is usually recorded: author, title, publisher (possibly with his

address), year of publication, the page for the specific information and perhaps where the book may be found. All of this – to enable other people to use the information, and we ourselves could eventually return to those sources.

Any good genealogical software always has pre-established fields for recording sources and references. Some has fields to mark the degree of reliability of the sources, as well as the date the information was obtained.

7. Messages and Texts.

Genealogical software provides space for shorter and/or longer messages, to record for

each person impressions, stories, traditions and experiences that run in the family. More recent versions of software facilitate screening and recording of pictures of the person or his family environment, for later printing and reproduction.

The software usually provides means for concealing information on living persons that one would not like to be divulged (like dates of birth etc.), or information not likely to be disclosed even on a deceased person – known in the family as “skeletons.” The information or message line preceded by # or * or any other character specified by the software will not appear in print.

8. Miscellaneous

Software may also provide fields for specific recordings, like: brit-mila dates, bar/bat-mitzvah dates, marriage ceremony details, divorce/separation/annulled marriage data, address label (cluster of fields including phone, fax, mobile phone numbers, e-mail address), burial place (different from place of death), occupation, generation count, etc. and also facilitate the use of Hebrew letters and diacritics.

9. Final Remark

I would like to express my opinion on what I consider a foremost feature required from a software of Jewish genealogy, especially if it is aimed to facilitate a large database. A database of many generations would certainly include Rabbinic lineage, and deal with periods when surnames were not compulsory and/or not used. The name of a person was then specified by one or several of the following attributes: his given name, the given name of his father, the location of his activity, his major literary work, the acronym of his name, his tribal affiliation. A software that would satisfy the requirement of recording such details, should have its main field, the name field, long enough, 55-60 digit length, at least, to accommodate names like:

Menachem Nachum Dov b'Shalom Yosef
FRIEDMAN m'Sadegora (11)

YomTov Gershon Shaul Lipman b'Zvi
Natan HELLER HaLevi m'Krakow (3)
Shmuel Shmelke b'Zvi Yehoshua Arye
HOROVITZ HaLevi m'Rzeszow (30)
Meir b'Yitzchak KATZENELNBOGEN
m'Padua MAHARAM (8)
Yosef b'Avraham Yakov KLAUSNER
m'Hrubieszow BAHARAV (41)
Mordechay David b'Yosef Yehoshua Heshel
KLAUSNER m'Dabrowa (9)
Benyamin Simcha Bunim b'Yehuda Arye
Yakov MEISELS m'Mogilev (5)
Arye Mordechay b'Yehoshua David Asher
RABINOVITZ m'Zelechov (11)
Shmuel Yitzchak b'Pinchas Arye Leib
RAPPAPORT HaKohen m'Gniesno (10)
Mordechay b'Efraim Naftali UNKNOWN
m'Szczeberzeczyn (47)
Shmuel Eliezer b'Efraim Naftali
UNKNOWN m'Vladimir (65)
Eliyahu Yitzchak b'Chayim Matityahu Dov
WEISSMANDEL m'New York (1)

When searching the database for any of the above names most software programs require you to type the first given name and the surname and prompt “enter.” This will render a list of persons with the same first name and the same surname. The number of occurrences of the names in the above list is marked in the brackets () next to the names. So, for instance, by looking for R'YomTov Gershon Shaul Lipman HELLER, known as the Tosfot YomTov, one will type “YomTov HELLER” (most software programs do not discriminate between lower and upper case in typing a name) and get three names as follows:

YomTov Gershon Shaul Lipman b'Zvi
Natan HELLER 1579-1654
YomTov Lipman HELLER 1880-1942
YomTov HELLER (the father of Rivka
wife of Yeshaya b'Asher Zalman
HOROVITZ MUNK
1465-1516)

It is obvious which YomTov HELLER we were looking for. Even in cases where we might get a large number of choices, the chances of getting two identical names with the so many attributes as discriminants:

various given names of the person, various given names of the father, location, tribal affiliation, acronym, etc., are very slim.

Not only when searching for a person the large name field is advantageous, also when entering a new person, say again one new YomTov HELLER, we will go through the same routine. Then on getting the list of the three already existing YomTov HELLERS we compare the attributes of the new YomTov HELLER with the attributes of the three in the list. If it matches with the one of the existing persons then you let the new person go and just add the new source. If none of the existing YomTov HELLERS match the new one, you have a new person to record his whole data.

But the main benefit of an extended name field is in having a panoramic view of most of the person's attributes in one line. All this by keeping the rules of recording as outlined in the previous chapters.

Today there are software programs that have 100 characters for the name field.

In the present and previous installments, only the recording of data by genealogical software was discussed. The output of the software, namely printing and other statistical features was not the aim of this

work, but could be the topic of another work.

*The four installments of the series have been published:

Ch. 1. **General** and Ch. 2. **Notations** in Volume 16-4 2002.

Ch. 3. **Names** in Volume 17-1 2003.

Ch. 4. **Location names** in Volume 17-2 2003.

Ch. 5. **Dates** in Volume 17-3-4 2003.

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Mutual Help – A Reality

Arnon Herskowitz

Translated from the Hebrew

The "Family Roots Forum" on the Internet site Tapuz, connects, without being dependent on time or place, amateur genealogists who through it find a fascinating meeting place that enriches them and many others like them. This forum, in operation for a little more than two years, has attracted many surfers who have become regulars, with new people constantly joining. The warm atmosphere that reigns, resulting from the high level of the contributors, assists each and every one individually in his

research and enables every participant to help others by applying his own expertise. We all know that there is no such thing as not being able to help others, even with something seemingly minor – and in this way the principle of mutual help attains its high point in a tangible manner each and every day. Those involved include young and old, religious and secular, from every part of the country and occasionally with total anonymity – and it works fine.

So, how does it work? Forum is an Internet format in the framework of linked discussions. Each link is opened by one of the surfers and it is possible to add reactions, etc. to it. One can respond directly to each new posting by adding one's reaction. And, so it continues. The Forum operates in Hebrew. The discussions resulting from individual researchers and their interest in the area of genealogical study cover anything and everything connected with the topic. How to use the Internet, research in archives, perusal of literature, checking newspapers, searching databases, reading books, questions on history, announcement of conferences and lectures, interpreting pictures and their restoration – these are only some of the wide range of topics that are raised on the Forum every day and every hour. Accounts of success in genealogical research are a constant feature and most would have not come about except for the

great deal of mutual help extended to each other by the members of the Forum.

There is no charge for participation in the Forum, only a short registration procedure. Running the Forum is a challenge whose only reward is the ability to create a productive meeting place for all of us. Surrounding the Forum discussions, there are many tools that enrich the research capacity of the surfer: articles, connections, a picture gallery, hosting professional experts and even actual 'flesh and blood' meetings which are occasionally held in the real world.

Join us so we can be of mutual help:
<http://forums.tapuz.co.il/roots>.

Arnon Hershkowitz directs the Family Roots Forum of the Internet site "Tapuz."



Notes From the Library

Harriet Kasow

Before I review the new arrivals, I have two comments to make. One is a correction of a misspelling of the book *Hartuv Memories* that was reviewed in the last issue. Another is a comment on my visit to the Juedisch Friedhof at Weissensee in Berlin this past August. Since my previous visit in 1991, the cemetery has undergone a transformation that not only reveals the beauty but the amount of attention and monies spent on the repairs and landscaping of this very historic place. On this visit, I noticed a gravestone near the entrance that was dedicated to those Jews of Berlin whose place of burial was unknown. (See photograph in the Hebrew section.) There was a professional attendant who had spent several years in Israel and they were repairing the roads that lead up to this historic cemetery.

We wish to thank Rabbi Jack and Rhoda Cohen on their donation of more than 50 books and periodicals to the IGS library. As Rhoda had worked as an archivist with the Mormons, she collected a lot of important items that will enhance our collection immensely.

New Acquisitions: Books **BETWEEN GALICIA AND** **HUNGARY; THE JEWS OF** **STROPKOV.**

By Melody Amsel. Bergenfield, N.J. Avotaynu. 2002. 204 pp. (English) 86pp (Hebrew) illus. appendices. Glossary. Name index.

Stropkov in what is now Slovakia typically represents at least one of the towns from which Eastern European Jewry originated.

Its history, fate and current *judenfrei* status has happened to too many of the villages, towns and even cities of Eastern Europe. In the corner of Poland, Russia & Slovakia it is apparently named apparently after a landlord loyal to the Hungarian throne in the Middle Ages.

Melody Amsel, an IGS member toiled over this book for five years and the resulting work demonstrates it. As a book it is lovely to look at and easy to read. The documentation included can be sampled by the titles of the appendices: Spelling and Names, Bibliography, Further Research, Names & Fates of the Jews of Strophov, 1942-45, Glossary, and Indices of Places & Names. Forty pages of illustration and of course a substantial Hebrew translation. Much of the information contained had never been translated into English. Even the endpapers include a map of the town and a graphic depiction of menorahs from the synagogue.

The best compliment I could give this book is that it is in translation a primary source for scholars and family researchers.

SEPHARDIC GENEALOGY; DISCOVERING YOUR SEPHARDIC ANCESTORS AND THEIR WORLD.

By Jeffrey S. Malka. Bergenfield, N.J. Avotaynu. 2002. 363 pp. Websites. Appendices. Indices.

On turning to the acknowledgement page, we read thanks being given to our Mathilde Tagger, IGS Member, Jerusalem branch. To quote "Mathilde Tagger whose unselfish help and enthusiasm for Sephardic genealogy are models I attempted to follow." This book was purchased to honor the memory of Mathilde's son-in-law Ahiezer Racov who died at too early an age. Avotaynu has produced another fine specimen of a book. As a librarian I love reference sources that provide a basic but in depth survey of a particular subject. And that of course means extensive documentation. These types of works are called handbooks or manuals. I believe that Jewish genealogy has come of age when a

book like this one is published. To document what I just said, some of the chapter titles beginning with Chapter 1 "Who are the Sephardim?" tell the tale very well. "Spanish Diaspora, Andalusian-Moroccan-Jewish Universe, Jews under Islamic Rule, Amazon Journey, Geonim and Evolution of Sephardic Names." And that is just Part I. Part II is about Genealogy Basics, Part III Country Resources and Part IV the Internet. A sampling of the Appendices reveal "Sephardic Cursive Alphabet, Sephardic Register and Record Books at the Jewish National and University Library, Ottoman Records in Israel, Inquisition Tribunals in Spain" etc.

I happened to be talking to someone from the Museum of Art in Tel Aviv and she told me her maiden name was Ventura. I looked it up in the index and her name appears in the appendix entitled "Jewish Names in Printed Sources: and from the source Eincape, Nissim. Los Hijos de Ibero-Franconia. Buenos Aires: Ediciones la Luz. 1981. Obviously, I could go on and on.

The author has published on this subject before but in my eyes this work represents a culmination of all his previous efforts in the area of Sephardic genealogical research.

THE FUERTH-KATZENSTEIN FAMILY; BIOGRAPHIES AND GENEALOGIC CHARTS.

By Abraham Frank. Jerusalem. 2002. Includes introductory material, genealogic charts, and illustrations.

THE ESCHENHEIMER AND NACHMANN FAMILIES; BIOGRAPHIES AND GENEALOGICAL CHARTS.

By Abraham Frank and Gerhard Buck. Jerusalem. 2003. Includes introductory material, survey and genealogical charts, illustrations and scanned documents.

Mr. Frank has been interested in the history of the Jews of Germany. He is especially motivated to document those who perished in the Holocaust. He has therefore undertaken in his retirement to pursue this

research as well as that of his ancestors. His intention is to publish six volumes of which these are the first two. Although self-published with spiral binding, the arrangement and organization is very convenient for the researcher. We are proud to have been given these as gift for our library.

**THESE ARE THE GENERATIONS...
THE SCHAMROTHS FROM
KRAKOW.**

By Julian Schamroth. Kiryat Yearim, Israel. 2002. 600pp. Includes a family tree on CD-rom.

This is another self-published work reflecting 10 years of detailed research. It is bound and includes a great deal of textual material. It is well organized with photos and scanned items interspersed with the text. Samuel and his wife Sarah gave birth to a daughter Tamar in 1811 and from here the story begins. The family trees, which are arranged both in a schematic tree and in a detailed descendant report provide as much family data as possible.

THE FAMILY MANN. By Nir Mann. Tel Aviv. 2002. 49 pp. charts.

THE FAMILY SAMARAGAD - SMARAGAD. By Nir Mann. Tel Aviv. 2002. 59 pp. charts. Includes text and family trees.

These are gifts to the IGS library and are entirely in Hebrew. I hope the transliterations are correct for those that may be researching these families.

Periodicals and Series

JEWISH ANCESTORS? A Beginner's Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Great Britain, A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Germany & Austria, A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Latvia and Estonia. London. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain. 2000-2001. Approximately 80 pp. each.

These are 3 publications in the series, *A Guide to Jewish Genealogy*, published under the auspices of the JGS of Great Britain. The first one is edited by Rosemary Wenzel with contributions by members of the Society. The guide to Germany and Austria is edited by Thea Skyte, of the Society's German SIG, Randol Schoenberg who is a member of the JewishGen Bohemia-Moravia SIG as well as Rosemary Wenzel. The third booklet is edited by Arlene Beare of the Society's Latvian SIG. The formats are readable, portable (convenient to carry from place to place) and filled with a great deal of information, sites, maps, bibliography and indices. These guides are an absolute must for any JGS library or for that matter any library that caters to genealogy and local history research needs.

B'NAI GOMBIN has resumed publication and the Library has the latest 2 issues.

This publication is the newsletter of the Gombin (Poland) Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society. The latest issue is number 14, dated June 2003. Newsletters in general provide topical and timely information on the activities of the particular organization. In the case of JGS newsletters, there is more information that is useful to the larger Jewish genealogical researcher, which is why we attempt to collect all the newsletters published by every Jewish Genealogy Society. In this particular issue there is an article by Jan Grabowski entitled "Case Studies: Fleeing from Warthegau to Suedspreussen." It is definitely worth a read.

**GUIDE TO THE ARCHIVAL
RECORD GROUPS AND
COLLECTIONS.**

Central Zionist Archives. Jerusalem. July 2003. This is the latest update in English and Hebrew. 51 pp. (Hebrew) 60 pp. (English) and is a listing by name in Hebrew and English of personal papers held by the Archives.

New Books

Memorial Book of the Jewish Community of Satoraljaujhely, edited by Menashe S. Davidovits, Ramat Hasharon, 5763.

This book contains a survey of the history of the Jewish community over two hundred years (1740-1944), beginning with its establishment, leading to its division into three communities, until its tragic end during the Holocaust. Memories from the Vale of Tears between the two world wars, it contains a description of daily life, the economy and a list of the rabbis and notable individuals. It includes more than one hundred pictures, original documents and poems of remembrance.

The book also contains a listing of the approximately 4,000 martyrs of the Holocaust from the town's Jewish community.

The city Satoraljaujhely is located in northwest Hungary bordering on Slovakia. In 1944, it had twenty thousand inhabitants of whom some 4500 were Jews. Only 500 of them survived. The book also contains a listing of them.

The city was called "The Jerusalem of Hungary," following the pattern of Vilna, "The Jerusalem of Lithuania," because of the distinguished rabbis who served there, its prominent Yeshivot and the large number of resident scholars.

The book, 30/23 cm. in size, contains four sections:

1. Part I – the Hebrew version, 176 pages
2. Listing of the Holocaust Martyrs and the missing
3. The Hungarian section – 106 pages
4. The English section – 106 pages

Its publication was made possible by the

Yad Vashem fund for assisting in the publication of recollections of Holocaust survivors.

Mr. Menashe Davidovits is a member of long standing of the Israel Genealogical Society and the co-ordinator of the Hungarian SIG. Our special thanks to him for this special project.

NEW: Dictionary of Sephardic Surnames (in Portuguese and English)

The Dictionary of Sephardic Surnames ("Dicionário Sefaradi de Sobrenomes") (Fraiha Publishing House, 528 p.), written by Guilherme Faiguenboim, Paulo Valadares and Anna Rosa Campagnano, was released in São Paulo, Brazil. The dictionary has a sub-heading that expands the content proposed in its title: "including New Christians, Conversos, Marranos, Italians, Berbers and their history in Spain, Portugal and Italy."

The book contains the original names of Jews who lived for 1,500 years in the Iberian Peninsula, the names they used after the persecutions and conversions of 1492 and 1497, and during the 500 years of the Sephardic Diaspora. It also informs the surnames of the ones who faced the Inquisition.

The reader will find, in the dictionary, every location where Sephardic communities resided: The Mediterranean basin (North and South), Northern Europe, the Americas, Africa and the East.

17,000 surnames of Sephardim and Mizrahim from all over the world – very impressive indeed!



JGS Journal Abstracts

Compiled by *Harold Lewin*

In the main, these abstracts are of articles having more general relevance to the majority of family history researchers, i.e. chiefly information sources and research techniques. Descriptions of visits to ancestral villages and individual family research have therefore had to be omitted.

NOTE: An abstract suffix such as **3pp. (4)**, indicates an article length of about 3 pages, located in **Ref. No.4** (see **Key to Journal References**). Similarly, **1p** indicates a one page or shorter item.

BELGIUM & THE NETHERLANDS

Migration from Eastern Europe to the Netherlands and Belgium. Marcel Apsel has summarized and translated a lecture by **Prof. Dr. Jean-Phillippe Schreiber** given in the Netherlands in October 2002. Various migrations from Germany, France, Russia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire are described. **4pp. (1)**

GERMANY

Hamburg Emigration Site Adds Additional Years. The Hamburg Emigration Index database is now complete for the years 1890-1902. It is located at:

http://www.hamburg.de/fhh/behoerden/staat_sarchiv/link_to_your_roots/english/index.htm

The cost for an abstract has been lowered to \$20 for 1-3 persons. **1p. (3)**

IRAQ

Jewish Records Found in Baghdad. **Harold Rhode** describes some of the items discovered shortly after the fall of Baghdad. These include Jewish communal records and Torah scrolls found submerged in 90cm of water in the basement of the Iraqi Intelligence Services. Additional caches of vital and communal records, reportedly including birth, marriage and death ledgers, are held in other buildings in Baghdad. **2pp. (1)**

POLAND

Warsaw Ghetto Death Card Database Now Available. **Hadassah Lipsius** reports on the Internet availability of the Death Card database (address:

keshel@lipsiusgroup.com) The Death Cards, giving the last and first name, sex and date of death of the deceased, were probably discovered in the ruins of the Mayoral Office after the Warsaw Uprising. The project is part of the Jewish Records Indexing - Poland. **2pp. (3)**

Books of Residents & Other Lesser-Known Sources (for Polish Genealogy). **Fan & Julian Bussgang** have compiled a listing (with useful comments) of sources other than vital records that may assist family history research. These include Residents' Lists, Registration Books and Synagogue and Notary Records. **3pp. (7)**

A List of Posen Province Archival Holdings at the Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw. **Edward David Luft** provides a list of 75 holdings of archives relating to all manner of subjects, many of which are relevant to the various Jewish communities in Posen Province. **3pp. (8)**

RUSSIA AND FORMER U.S.S.R. (Excepting Ukraine)

New Sources for Genealogical Research in Imperial Russia. **Ilya Zeldes** describes some important information sources that may be unknown in the West. For example, Commercial and Industrial Russia: A Reference Book for Merchants & Industrialists. Names of Jewish merchants are to be found. **2pp. (1)**

SOUTH AFRICA

Locating South African Relatives in the Ellis Island Data Base by **Ann Rabinowitz**. The article gives some useful ideas on locating names of immigrants who came from a specific town or country and shows how the EIDB may be used for

tracking the movements of South Africans who visited, or moved to, the U.S. **2pp. (1)**

South African Center for Jewish Migration & Genealogy Studies. **Saul Issroff** reviews several lectures given in January 2003 at the University of Cape Town. Because of the high percentage of Lithuanian Jews in South African Jewry, the focus was on the study of the estimated core of 15,000 Litvak families who migrated to South Africa. **1p. (1)**

South African Resources in America. **Ann Rabinowitz** has compiled a number of useful sources for researchers including web sites, university libraries and institutions. **3pp. (2)**

TURKEY & BALKANS

Project to Research Turkish & Balkan Countries at Diaspora Research Institute. **Minna Rozen** describes a project to photograph/document epigraphic remnants and archival material in Turkey and in the Balkan countries and to initiate research projects and any other academic activities contributing to the study of this topic. **1p. (1)**

UKRAINE (Transcarpathia-Zakarpatska oblast) **Alexander Dunai** gives an excellent account of the history of the Zakarpatska oblast in the Ukraine and of the complications of attempting genealogical research relating to that region. **5pp. (1)**

UNITED STATES

JewishGen Announces New State Dept. Database. It is called: Jewish Names in

Selected U.S. State Department Files (RG59), 1910-1929 and contains nearly 10,000 entries from the Central Decimal Files of the U.S. Department of State. **1p. (3)**

Ellis Island Search Tools Improved. In two articles, **Stephen Morse** describes the improvements in the search tools for the Ellis Island database. In **Ref. 5** he shows the historical development of his search form and the way to use it. The following addresses are given: home.pacbell.net/spmorse or www.jewishgen.org/databases/EIDB **1p. (4)** and **4pp. (5)**

Using ProQuest for Historical Newspaper Research. **Michael Steinore** explains the basics of using ProQuest, selecting a newspaper collection and the search method and filling in the parameters on the search form. Currently, the full runs of the New York Times (1851-1999) and the Wall St. Journal (1889-1985) are available while the Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Christian Science Monitor and the Chicago Tribune should be ready very soon. **3pp. (6)**

GENEALOGY (GENERAL)

Using the Google Search Engine for Genealogy. **Kimberly Powell** writes on how to use the Google search engine. The address: <http://genealogy.about.com/library/weekly/a052902a.htm> **1p. (3)**

KEY TO JOURNAL REFERENCES

REF.	JOURNAL	GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	ISSUE	YEAR	VOL.	No.
1	AVOTAYNU	International	Summer	2003	XIX	2
2	DOROT	New York	Fall-Winter	2002/3	24	1-2
3	MISHPACHA	Greater Washington	Summer	2003	22	4
4	ZichronNote	San Francisco	February	2003	23	1
5	JGSLI LINEAGE	Long Island	Summer	2003	XV	3
6	ROOTS-KEY	Los Angeles	Winter	2003	22	3
7	MORASHA	Illinois	Spring	2003	XIX	1
8	STAMMBAUM	New York	Summer	2003	23	-