

שרשרת הדורות

Sharsheret Hadorot

FAMILY ROOTS RESEARCH PERIODICAL

June 1997

The Israel Genealogical Society

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Forthcoming Lectures

Wednesday 18.6.97

Yitzak Kerem

Unique family names among the Marranos

Wednesday 9.7.97

Seminars by experts on methods for researching material from specific localities. The following special interest groups will be held:

Eretz Yisrael

Germany

Poland

North Africa, Turkey and the Balkans

The former Soviet Union

England, United States, South Africa and Australia

Lectures begin at 7:30 p.m. The library is available for research from 6:00 p.m. Meetings take place at the Mevakshei Derech Synagogue, 22 Shai Agnon Boulevard, Jerusalem.

Editorial

Editors: Esther Ramon, Ruth Rigbi

Editorial Board: Rose Cohen, Lucien Harris, Suzie Jacobson, Harold Lewin and Hagit Matras.

This journal contains summaries of three lectures recently presented to our society. They again reflect the diversity of the history of our people: Shlomo Brandwein lectured on his Hassidic families in Poland and in Eretz Yisrael, Moshe Shealtiel described his families' upheavals in the golden era of Spain and Daniel Wagner reported on his search for the graves of his families in Lodz.

Sources for genealogical research may be gleaned from the report of our visit to the Lavon Institute and from the summary of the lecture of the Director of the Central Archives for the History of

the Jewish People, Dr. Hadassah Assouline and from the Books and Miscellaneous sections.

The Fifth International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy will take place next month in Paris. Some of our members are planning to participate in the Seminar and we expect to hear about it in the future.

Our last meeting of the year 1996/7 will take place in July so we would like to take this opportunity of wishing our members Shana Tova as well as continued fruitful research endeavors. We will renew our activities in October 1997.



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All articles, translations and other material for publication in Sharsheret Hadorot should be

submitted on diskette, if possible typed on an IBM compatible word processor (Word 6 only) together with an identical printout.

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The Hassidic World in my Family

Shlomo Brandwein

Our family - Brandwein and Horowitz - was connected on both my father's and my mother's side with dynasties of Hassidic Rabbis who were well-known personalities in Hassidic life from its very inception, since relatives married relatives throughout the generations. For example, my father's grandfather and my mother's grandmother were brother and sister and my parents were first cousins.

The Brandwein family settled in Safed, whereas the Horowitz family lived in Jerusalem and they inherited traditions which reflected differences in life-style and in daily and festival customs, such as Friday nights.

In my childhood in Safed, my grandmother Hannah used to pray in the Women's Section of the Radbaz (Rabbi David ben Zimra) Synagogue. Once, during the Reading of the Torah, she noticed that the Synagogue warden had taken the liberty of giving the third aliyah to a person who was not a member of her family. She took hold of her wooden shoe (usually worn in those days by housewives) and went down to the men's section to teach him a lesson !

In Jerusalem, of the 1880's, my grandmother's grandmother, Mathilde Feige - the granddaughter of the Seer of Lublin - had the habit of welcoming the Sabbath by sitting on what looked like a royal throne, with large silver candlesticks on either side of her holding the Sabbath candles. Both Ashkenazi and Sephardi neighbors would come to wish her "Shabbat Shalom" while on their way to synagogue. This custom was also adopted by Arab neighbors and their families.

Women's status in these families was in keeping with the life-styles in the homes of the Hassidic Rabbis. When they arranged matches, they refrained from matchmaking with Lithuanian or Sephardi families, as was the custom with the Litvak descendants of the Vilna Gaon (the Rivlins, the Salomons, etc.). Accordingly, they were obliged at times to bring over a groom or bride from abroad. For this reason, female names such as Malka-le and Hava-le are well-known in Hassidic literature and tales.

Hebrew was considered as the holy tongue and was used for prayer and study only and they spoke

Yiddish, Spanish (Ladino) and Arabic with their neighbors.

The Hassidic Rabbis lived in seclusion, engaged in prayer and study. Many of their descendants are prominent intellectuals in our times, whereas the Litvaks were men of action whose descendants are well-known in the history of the Yishuv and in economic undertakings throughout the country.

I shall add two examples of family humor, illustrating the lack of business skills in my grandmother's family:-

The first bus they ever owned served the line from Meah She'arim to Givat Shaul. It was open on all sides. The passengers would get on and off constantly and hang on to the leather straps so as to avoid falling. When asked by the conductor (Rabbi Brandwein, who was once invited by David Ben Gurion years ago to serve as Rabbi of the Histadruth) to pay their fare, the passengers would start reciting the Shmoneh Esreh prayer and were never disturbed again. The bus owners soon became bankrupt and the bus was sold to Mr. Lichtman, who later founded the Hamekasher Bus Company.

The family also owned the Zion Bank, one of the first in Jerusalem, and placed great trust in their account-holders. They refrained from asking for guarantors' signatures, on the principle that "all Israelites are responsible for each other". In addition, they did not regard it as decent to charge interest and obviously, in this field also, they could not manage to hold out for long.

Please refer to the Hebrew section for the breakdown of the family tree set out in a table.

Explanatory notes: The Hassidic Rebbes were generally known by the names of the cities in which they or their fathers served. Thus, we shall miss the point if we do not state place-names, even such as Alik or Stretin. For example, Dr. Burg once told me that his great-grandfather was the Stretiner Rebbe's gabbai. When on a later occasion he asked me what I thought of one of his ministerial rulings, I replied: "If our grandfathers were here with us today, my grandfather would reprimand yours". Dr. Burg replied with a smile: "Then, your grandfather was the leader and mine the gabbai, but today I am the leader and you are the gabbai; so it is my decision that counts".

Alongside each place-name I have put in brackets the original family name and every name has its own story. For example, when the Jews of Poland were ordered to adopt family names, Rebbe Elimelech of Lyzansk paid a visit to the King of Poland. When the king noticed the rebbe's flowered caftan, he said: "From now on, your name will be Weissblum (this name was changed in Israel to Havatselet).

Lyzansk: It is now the custom for groups of Hassidim to arrange pilgrimages to the rebbe's grave on the anniversary of his death.

The sister of grandmother Hannah was the grandmother of the wife of Professor Amnon Rubinstein, M.K. and of the wife's sister Professor Oppenheim.

Alik and Stretin: some five years ago I set up a suitable tombstone to mark the graves of Yosef David, the (seventh-generation) Alik rebbe and his son Zvi Aryeh from Fleshtin. They are buried in the old Safed cemetery in the Well of Living Waters Cave. Since then, I am always amazed to see groups of Hassidim praying here, whenever I visit the cemetery.

The Shealtiel Family

Moshe Avram Shaltiel-Gracian

In these remarks I will give an extensive account of the contemporary Shealtiel family, a description of the scrutiny currently under way of the different sources, and present some preliminary findings.

Let me start out with an account of the modern Shealtiel family. Two years ago, a researcher for Israeli Television had his own surprise. He had asked the Director of the genealogy department at the Diaspora museum what families would she recommend for subjects of research on Sephardic history. Her answer was short, very short: "You should study the Shealtiel family." Months later and after his own in-depth study, the researcher understood the answer he got.

The Shealtiel family network has a membership of nearly four hundred households - twelve hundred people - in 26 countries, a family Gazette and two family newsletters, in French and Dutch.

A family foundation is planned to offer scholarships to young members of the family, and to fund research and publication of newly discovered aspects of the family history.

An international film production is underway, led by Ilan Ziv, the award-winning film maker from New York. The production, a five-hour documentary on the history of the Sephardim, traces the Shealtiel family through the generations.

Four Spanish researchers in Barcelona, Girona and Tarragona, are spending fifty hours a month each, searching the various Catalonian archives for documents dealing with the Shealtiels.

Miles Saltiel from London and I are to collaborate on a book that will include documents dealing with the Shealtiel family from medieval Spain,

nineteenth-century Salonica, and eighteenth-century England, Holland and the U.S.A.

Finally, the second world reunion of the family is scheduled to take place in Salonica, Greece, on the first weekend of July 1997. Presently, more than four hundred members have promised their participation, and even more are expected to attend.

What is it about the Shealtiel/Saltiel family that brought together all these events? To answer this question, we have to review, briefly, its recent history.

Four years ago, a 25-year-old student from Denmark came to Amsterdam to study at the university. She knew that her mother had been born there, and was looking forward to catching up with her relatives. Vibeke Sealtiel-Olsen was horrified to learn that the Jewish members of her family had been exterminated by the Germans during the occupation of WWII, with very few of her relatives surviving. Frustrated in her attempts to find living relatives, she began to search the past. She discovered that her family was unlike most of the Sephardic community of Amsterdam, which traced its roots to Portuguese *conversos*; instead it came from London around 1750.

Miles Saltiel, my collaborator and an English securities analyst, responded to a letter that Vibeke wrote to Saltiels whom she found in the London telephone directory. "Yes," he wrote back to her. "My great-grandfather came from Amsterdam." Over the next few months, Vibeke and Miles documented their common ancestors in what we have come to call the North Sea Branch.

I was at my office when I received a call from Natalie Saltiel of Chicago. She was sending me a fax of a letter she received from a "young Englishman" she knew nothing about. She thought I would appreciate it.

A year later I found myself totally immersed in the family search, and in order to pursue it, I took early retirement. Miles, who was contemplating a career move, put everything on hold. Vibeke, with an energy that only a 25-year-old can generate, got married, had a child, completed her studies, worked, and still found the time to work with us. So did other Saltiels from Holland, France, the U.S.A. and elsewhere. All were working toward the big event, the first world reunion of the Shealtiels in Amsterdam in August 1994.

One hundred and fifty people came from twelve countries. They were mostly Jewish, but every faith was represented. The reunion included genealogy workshops, history lectures and just a good time.. The ball at the conclusion of the reunion was full of emotional charge, and just about every participant pledged to commit his/her time and energy to research the family. They made their promises in eleven languages.

All of us were moved by a sense of family unity, a fact we have subsequently been able to document. The family resemblance was stunning, even when it was clear that any kinship must go back hundreds of years. Innumerable stories of shared family characteristics added to our bonding.

Most importantly we learned that we shared family legends, our own oral history. The salient element in this is the family's long standing claim of Davidic descent: regardless of the language and the country of origin, the Dutch, the Greek, the British and the Egyptian, all shared the tradition that we belong to the house of David.

When I expressed my doubts to my father as to the validity of the legend, his response was to change my life. "Senor Daniel" smiled at me with those wonderful warm and loving eyes I miss so much and said: "Look son, you always wanted to be a historian. Now that you can afford it, why don't you retire while you are still young, and channel your energies into researching our family history? You may be able to disprove the Davidic theory or you may find some surprises." I accepted the challenge and thus began the new chapter in my life. Let me now take you on my journey into the history of the Shealtiels.

Catalonia/Aragon

Let us begin by setting the scene with a few words on the medieval principality that subsequently became the Kingdom of Aragon. The principality originated in the ninth century out of Jaca, a Christian citadel in the mountains of the Pyrenees, which succeeded in resisting the Moslem invasions. In the twelfth century, Aragon expanded into southern France and northern Spain, embracing the province now known as Catalonia. In 1283 it expanded by dynastic union with the Kingdom of Naples, and subsequently with Greek territories known as the Duchy of Athens. As an aggressively expanding frontier kingdom, Aragon was initially hospitable to all cultures it was to encompass, including the Jews. In this light it is not surprising to have found references to the Shaltiels in connection with every part of the Aragonese Kingdom.

While today it seems very obvious, it took me some time to realize that the family's Spanish roots were planted in the area of northern Spain that constituted the Kingdom of Aragon.

In retrospect it was really simple. For almost four hundred years the Shealtiel family had its own synagogue in Salonica. I knew that for a fact. The problem was that everybody referred to it as "Figo-Loce." It was, I learned later, not the real name but only a nickname that possibly originated from the wild fig tree that grew in the yard, or alternatively as a reference to the excitable nature of the congregants. I discovered eventually that the real name of the "Kehila" was "Catalan Hadash." In the prayer books of the congregation we find details of the family history indicating that the family arrived from Catalonia. The Sidurim (prayer books) were reprinted seven times over the last four hundred and fifty years. Ironically, the last edition was printed in 1927, ten years after the destruction of the synagogue in the great fire. According to the history portion of the Machzorim, the family arrived in Salonica before the expulsion. The family, so the books tell us, were in Salonica when the refugees from Spain arrived in 1492, and helped their brethren to settle. The last edition of the books "Tefilat Shmuel" and "Tefilat David" were named after Shmuel Shaltiel (grandfather of Shmuel from the Weizmann Institute, and David Sadi Shaltiel, father of the last rabbi of the "Kehila"). We found that the congregation continued to meet, at least during the high holidays, in the place of business of Shemtov Shealtiel.

The sources of Sephardic history include: history books; journals by medieval Jewish travelers; Jewish/Hebrew manuscripts; responsa and other rabbinical material; Spanish sources.

History books

Yitzhak Baer's *History of the Jews in Christian Spain*, first published in Hebrew in 1945, is a great basic source, the "Bible," at least for an untrained historian like myself. The book was reprinted several times, in English and Hebrew, though unfortunately, the part that for me is the most rewarding, the two volumes of documentary source material, is out of print. I have had to look it up in libraries rather than purchase it in a book store.

The works edited by Yom-Tov Assis and compiled by Gemma Escriba, focus on archival documents, and I found these to be particularly helpful for my own research. These books of sources bring to life, in abbreviated form, hundreds, if not thousands, of legal documents that collected dust for centuries. References to the synopses make it easy for a researcher to look up the original.

The responsa literature and other rabbinical material are treasures. Like the archival records, they deal with the day-to-day life of the community, and present a very good picture of the family, business and cultural relationships within the Jewish community, and of their relationship to their Christian neighbors. Once researchers had to spend lifetimes looking up those references. No more. Bar Ilan University's monumental Responsa Project changed it all. The CD Rom is available, which saves years of search for the needle in the haystack.

Journals of travelers

Benjamin of Tudela, the most famous of Jewish travelers, visited Barcelona in 1165.

Jewish/Hebrew manuscripts.

A ketuba from Perpignan, Provence, records the marriage of Abraham Saltell to Michal in 1429. What makes this marriage unique to our research is the fact that Michal was the daughter of Salamo Crescas, Nasi.

Upon the expulsion of the Jews from Provence, the Church, in an action that brings to mind another

destruction in our times, found a way to utilize the expensive parchment that the congregation's records were written on. They became inside-out book covers. Ironically, the conversion of the Jewish record to a Catholic book cover protected it from destruction. From these salvaged documents we found detailed lists of the seating arrangement of the synagogue, how much was paid for an "important" seat and by whom. Later I will revisit this interesting document.

Most famous among the "Shaltiel manuscripts" is the Shaltiel Hagaddah. This incredibly beautiful document, on display in the British Museum, was written around 1350 in Barcelona. It gives us a lead as to the trail of the Shaltiel family after the departure from Spain.

On the final leaf of the Haggadah is a hand written note, recording an early owner: "Avraham Hen ben (son of) Yehuda the physician, ben Immanuel ben Yehuda of the House of Shaltiel."

Yehuda, the physician, a descendant of Zerachiah ben Isaac Hen (Gracian) Shealtiel, was, like his famous patriarch, not only a physician and a Rabbi, but philosopher, translator, Hebraist and collector of rare books.

The elder Shealtiel-Hen lived and died in Barcelona, though he spent several years in Italy. There he wrote some of his most important works, such as the translation of Aristotle's "Physics", and Maimonides' medical works. Yehudah flourished at Candia, Crete, in the sixteenth century, and is mentioned frequently in the Responsa of Yoseph Caro. This document brings the family to Crete, where other Shaltiels, kin of Yehudah, lived. One, Isaac Hen, is mentioned in the Responsa of Joseph B. Loeb.

The ethnographic Museum in Herakleion, Crete, has on display a sculpture carved with crowned lions bearing swords that belonged to the Shaltiel family. It is understood that it was on display at the entrance to the synagogue that was renovated by Grazziano Shealtiel. Next week I am to meet with Dr. K. Stavrolakis, in Crete. We will attempt to learn more about the sculpture and the family. (to be continued in the next journal).



Visit to the Pinchas Lavon Labor Movement Research Institute

Summary by Ada Shilo

We were warmly welcomed by the Institute Director, Ms Yael Tadmor and the Chief Librarian, Mr. Ilan Gal-Pe'er. The Institute perpetuates the Histadruth heritage and that of Pinchas Lavon, who served twice as its General Secretary. The archive was started in 1925 on the initiative of Prof. Samuel Eisenstadt and officially recognised in 1932 with the approval of David Ben Gurion. Today both the Library and the archive are computerized.

Important material preserved in the Library includes copies of "Davar" from its inception in 1925, and copies of the Mandatory Government's official "Palestine Gazette". In this Gazette, there are listings of Searches for Missing Relatives, Changes of Names, genealogical records compiled by Zvi Shimshi (father of Yitzchak Ben-Zvi), the Kiper Family Tree, including the Tabori (formerly Teitelbaum) Family, as well as other Second Aliyah families.

The archives include the personal papers of Ber Borochov and Yosef Chaim Brenner. From the early period of Jewish land settlement, there is only limited material left from the "Ha-Shomer Organization" (Yitzchak Ben-Zvi gave the Organization's Accounts Book to the archive), as

well as some items from the Bar Giora Organization and from the Second and Third Aliyah periods. Considerable information is available in the questionnaires filled out in detail by Second Aliyah pioneers still alive in Israel when the jubilee of their Aliyah was celebrated, as well as British Army veterans who were members of the Histadruth. There is considerable material on the Histadruth, its Councils and Committees, as well as on the Workers' Association (Hevrat Ovdim), cooperative villages, kibbutzim and political parties. It is also worth mentioning the lists of electors with the right to vote for the governing bodies of the Histadruth, the list of members of Sejjera, etc. The archive also contains a very large photographic collection, including items of much importance such as 11,000 negatives produced by the photographer Soskin, 500,000 photographs from "Davar" and a number of short films made by the Histadruth.

The Institute will be glad to accept offers of help from volunteers prepared to give of their time to the archive. It is located at 3 Rehov Nehardea, Tel Aviv. Open from Sundays to Thursdays inclusive from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Tel. 03-5238122, fax: 03-5233354.

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People

Lecture by Dr. Hadassah Assouline (Summary: Reuven Naftali)

These archives, founded about 60 years ago, assemble archival material on Jewish communities and Jewish life throughout the world. A small part of their holdings is primary genealogical information (registers of births, deaths, marriages, schools, etc.). The material assembled is designed to assist those engaged in Jewish historical research. From 1944-1969, the archives were a part of the Historical Society of Israel, but they are now a public institution, housed in the Sprinzak Building of the Hebrew University, Givat Ram, close to the National Library.

Besides gathering original archival material, the archives carry out surveys in non-Jewish archives all over the world. The historical fact is that very little original Jewish archival material still exists. Thus with the aid of general material available in various archives, knowledge can be enriched

regarding the economic, social and legal status of the Jews, etc. We are also in contact with Jewish archives abroad. Following surveys we made, widespread microfilming has been conducted of general archival material abroad, relating to Jewish history. To date, six million frames have been microfilmed.

In recent years, since the political changes took place in Eastern Europe, we have been working intensively in the former Soviet areas (CIS, the Baltic States and other countries of the Communist Bloc) because some six years ago most of the archives there were opened and it is feared that the doors might once again be closed. Most of our efforts have been concentrated on locating and filming "Jewish" archival material.

The register of material held in the archives is available on card-indexes open to the public.

Preparations are being made for computerizing the catalogue and tender proposals have been submitted. Recently, funds have been provided for the commencement of this process. In principle, we did not film births, deaths and marriage registers, because there is so much material. The cost of filming is prohibitive and in some countries this work is being carried out by the Mormons, who have large budgets available for this purpose. Gifts which we receive are earmarked for purely historical value. We do however assemble information on the whereabouts of this kind of material and research facilities available in various archives. If funding were to be provided for film work of this kind, our archives would be happy to use their connections and experience for the filming of these registers.

Some of our genealogical holdings have been examined by the Israel Genealogical Society and described in Sallyann Sack's "Guide to Jewish Genealogical Research in Israel", published by Avotaynu Inc.

Discoveries connected with various countries but not detailed in the Guide.

Burgenland (S. Austria): Jewish archives

In the fifties, after the Holocaust, an attempt was made to recover Jewish communal property, including archival material. Much of what was left of Jewish archival material reached us. Only in the sixties was it discovered that archival material on the Jewish communities in Burgenland existed in Eisenstadt and that part of it was in Hebrew. Over the years, efforts were made to transfer this material to our archives in Jerusalem. The Jewish community of Vienna, as heir to the communities, tried to secure the files, but Austria argued that this material had not been confiscated from the Jewish communities and therefore belonged to the State. Legally and historically, this was indeed correct in regard to Burgenland, since the Jews had been expelled from that area early on and it had become "judenrein". The local authorities "retrieved" the material left behind when the Jews were expelled and placed it in the government archives. Another argument put forward by Austria (and not only in this context) was that in fact Austria too was a victim of German Nazism,

that Austria was the first country to be conquered and accordingly the material belonged to the new post-war Austria. Further, the central authorities in Austria argued that they had no legal possibility of forcing the local government to transfer the material to Israel. It was also argued that the material which was left was an integral part of the Austrian heritage. At the same time, they were ready to film the material and pass the films on to us. We did not agree to this and negotiations continued until 1986, when for lack of any other alternative it was agreed to accept a compromise worked out by the then Israel Ambassador to Austria, Dr. Michael Elitzur. It was agreed that the Austrians would film the material at their expense and that copies of the microfilms would be sent on to us. In addition, it was agreed that in future the materials would be made available to the archives in Jerusalem as a long-term loan. In 1988, Dr. Assouline traveled to Austria to examine the range of material available and recently the last microfilms reached Israel. As for the promised "long-term" loan, we came back in fact to the position in which we were before the agreement was reached. Austria objects to its transfer to Israel but possibly political pressure will help.

The vital statistics in this collection were confiscated by the Nazis and therefore not microfilmed, but copies exist in Sopron (Hungary). The registers, which were filmed, include inter alia registers of schools and Burial Societies which could serve as a basis for genealogical research. This material covers the period from 1695 (the Mattersburg Ledger) to World War Two, which erupted in 1939. The Burgenland communities included seven under the patronage of the Esterhazi family and four under the patronage of the Batthyani family. There are also three Jewish school archives from Burgenland. Detailed lists of material "collected" were made by the Austrian authorities when it was deposited in Austrian archives. The material filmed is in our archives and available to researchers. (Note: at the end of the lecture, our member Menashe Davidowitz announced that microfilms of the Burgenland vital statistics are housed in the B'nai Brak Memorial Institute, where Mr. Kunstlicher should be contacted at Tel. 03-6189194).



The Contribution of Russian Olim to Family History Research

Shneur Zori (Zirlin)

Seventy years of Soviet rule in Russia severed the strong family connections which generally existed in Jewish communities. The fact that some family members were living abroad and especially in Israel, was unmentionable for those who remained behind the Iron Curtain. Children born under Soviet rule had no knowledge of their Jewish identity and were also prevented from having any connection with their relatives, even when their visits had been made possible by the establishment of diplomatic relations with the State of Israel. If persons from Israel arrived on a visit, younger family members were prevented from meeting them for fear that the matter might become known to the authorities, or they were introduced as "relatives from another city" in the Soviet Union. Russian Jews employed as government officials were obliged to declare that they had no relatives abroad. Letters from Russia were sent to fictitious, unknown addresses and then forwarded or not to their destination. Letters were written with great caution and were full of code-words or sentences with no significance, out of fear of the censorship. Obviously, Jews gradually forgot essential dates and a Jewish Calendar became a priceless gift for them!

I was the eighth child born into a large, well-to-do family with numerous relatives on both sides of the family. I absorbed a warm feeling for Judaism and Zionism and no less for our relatives, who numbered about twenty families of our parents' brothers and sisters and their numerous descendants.

In the course of my activity in the Zionist movement as well as studies and work, I traveled a great deal across Greater Russia and visited most of these families. My parents' home was always open to members of this extended family and I recall crowded gatherings on festivals and happy occasions. Since I was an alert child, I gathered many stories about the family from my parents' generation which were recorded in my memory. However, when I came on aliyah in 1925 as a *prisoner of Zion* and plunged into teaching duties and extensive public activity, I never paid attention to the desirability of documenting things from the past. In the course of time, when some of my brethren came on aliyah, and then some of their parents, I tried to draw out as much detail as possible regarding the previous generations.

Only after retiring, I visited Moscow in 1966. I set myself the aim of locating and meeting as many of my relatives as I could amongst those who were born and grew up after I had left for Palestine. In this way I gathered information about many branches of the family which had grown and expanded in the interim years and have tried to maintain regular contact with them since then. Indeed, this visit of mine brought many of them on aliyah in the seventies and eighties.

My family's history may be summarized as follows:- In the 18th. century, a young man belonging to the well-known Wertheim family in Berlin went off to Warsaw to study Judaism in a Yeshiva. There he married and two sons were born to the couple. When the Russian military service law came into force, requiring one of the sons to be sent off to serve in the army - a most undesirable matter for an orthodox Jewish family - one of the sons was dispatched to the eastern part of the country in search of employment and a new identity. He worked as a clerk in a wood firm and in the course of time married a widow named Zirel. In official documents he was registered in her name as Zirlin (an acceptable combination in those days) and thus saved from military service. His children also continued to work in the wood business, as did later generations which engaged also in leasing plots of land for agricultural and allied industrial purposes. My late grandfather and all his six children also leased out land and in particular developed the manufacture of methylated spirits connected with potato-growing. My parents overcame the Czarist law forbidding Jews to own land and with the aid of a converted friend acquired a plot of land near Novozybkov, which was at first registered in his name and transferred as a gift to my mother.

On this large plot of land, family gatherings of the various branches of the family were held for weddings, festivals and summer vacations from studies. It was there that I became closely acquainted with many members of the family and heard of their experiences.

When children of the third or fourth generation, born after the war and under the Soviet regime, reached Israel - as olim or tourists - it became possible for me to secure new information about the descendants of those uncles and aunts. My wife and I also continued to extend hospitality to these family members doing our best to give them a

“home” and helping them in everything connected with their absorption over here.

I have endeavored to insert into the extensive family tree we had from past years, each one of the newcomers, according to the appropriate branch, and to fill in the complex “crossword” with their

inter-relationships, which for most of them had been a complete riddle until now. So today we are once more a large tribe of children of the third and fourth generations, and although quite a few relatives are still left in that far-off land, it seems as if we have managed to close the circle.

A Quest for Ancestors in Lodz

H. Daniel Wagner

In August 1996, I was spending several weeks in Berlin on business, and decided to improvise a visit to Poland. I had never been there before, and was curious about the places where my grandparents (all four of them) and their ancestors used to live. Having heard unpleasant stories about personal safety - and yes, occasional anti-Semitism, I hesitantly organized a limited one-day journey to Lodz, on a Sunday. I was also worried because of the possible risks involved in such a trip without a guide or translator. I took a 10 p.m. train at the Lichtenberg station in (former) East Berlin and fifty minutes later found myself in Frankfurt, on the Polish border. There, I embarked on a Russian train en route to Moscow. After changing trains again in Kutno, I arrived at the Lodz-Kaliska station early on Sunday morning.

My paternal grandmother Dora Baum and her 10 brothers and sisters were born and grew up in Lodz. She left for Belgium when she was about 16, in the mid-twenties. My maternal grandmother, Esther Potaznik, grew up in Zdunska Wola, a few kilometers from Lodz, together with her 8 brothers and sisters, then left for Belgium in the twenties.

The train station, Lodz-Kaliska, is modern and clean. From here, the city actually looks more like a small provincial town than like a big city. I buy a map and, upon unfolding it, my eyes immediately fall on the Jewish cemetery. I select a taxi, based on my subjective impression of the driver, hoping he will be friendly and honest. The driver is a nice man, and using the map and sign language, I show him where I want to go. He waves O.K. with his thumb up, and soon I find myself at the entrance gate of the cemetery. It is now 8:00 am.

The cemetery looks very big. I walk up and down the alleys. Most of it looks abandoned, and trees and bushes have overgrown the graves. Some parts are cleaner. The gravestones are beautifully carved and readable, but many are either broken or overturned. I think: shame on all of us who let this

happen. This is a historic place, one should not have let it deteriorate like that.

I am looking for the graves of two of my direct ancestors, Dora's maternal grandparents, Moshe Mendel and Rywka Leah Gotheil, who, according to the listings of the Organization of former residents of Lodz in Tel-Aviv, are buried here. The copies I have, however, are in very poor shape. Moreover, I find out that I left my map of the cemetery in Tel-Aviv. Moshe died in 1903, and Rywka Leah in 1894. By about 9:30 am, I am quite acquainted with the geography of the cemetery, after walking down the main and several secondary avenues, some of them looking more like paths in a jungle! I am now back at the entrance and find the cemetery caretaker. I ask him for help (sign language once again), and he looks at my listings. He tells me to wait, enters his house and soon returns with a plastic-covered map of plot P, the plot of Moshe Mendel. After a brief look, he suddenly takes it back to his house, saying something in Polish that definitely sounds negative. I ask to have a look at the map myself but he refuses and I conclude that he does not want to cooperate. He does not want my money either. The lack of communication make things difficult. I feel upset, and, wanting to find the graves, I return to the avenues.

The task is impossible. Time passes, I read hundreds of tombstone inscriptions. It is now 11:00 am and, disappointed, I am heading out of the cemetery. I finally meet three visitors at the entrance, an Israeli woman, an older Jewish fellow who speaks Polish and Yiddish, and a younger Polish woman, whom, it turns out is their guide. She is helping the local Jewish organization with visitors from abroad and speaks English. On the way out, Barbara, the guide, offers to help me and asks the cemetery caretaker about the map. He says that according to my listings, Moshe Mendel's plot P is for women only, so he cannot be buried there. Rywka Leah is buried in the 'Stare Pole' (the 'Old Field') plot, the oldest and original part of the

cemetery (inaugurated in 1892). The caretaker says that the old plot is in very bad shape. There is no way to locate the grave, he says. Barbara and I exchange addresses and I leave. This fortunate meeting with her is in fact going to be decisive.

Feeling rather disappointed, I catch the train to Kutno, where I transfer to the Warsaw-Berlin express train. The return to Berlin is uneventful, but the feeling is that I have returned to Western Europe.

On the morning of the following Friday I am back in Lodz, and I meet Barbara. We have an appointment with Simha Keller-Skowronski, the Head of the Lodz Jewish Community, located on Zachodnia Street. Simha is very helpful and shows me the original card sets of the cemetery burials, where I find that the correct plot of the grave of Moshe Mendel is B rather than P. The page of the listing in Tel-Aviv was simply in bad condition, and that was the origin of the mistake. I thank Simha for his help in the appropriate way. In the cemetery, the caretaker takes us to the B plot and we find the grave in less than five minutes! The plot is, in fact, very close to the main entrance (see

plan of the cemetery plots in the Hebrew Section). Spirits are high, the trip to Lodz is a success this time. And on the gravestone I discover the name of Moshe Mendel's father, clearly indicated as Matuti (Matityahu). Regarding Rywka Leah, who is buried in the "Stare Pole", the caretaker says that based on his experience it is not even worth trying since the old plot is in very bad condition. We go there anyway but he is right, the gravestones are overturned, most are unreadable, and some are not even there. The caretaker helps us for a while (he is not Jewish but he can read Hebrew letters), then he leaves, and we wander through the plot for about an hour. Then, I find the grave! Most words are erased, but I can read "Rywka Lea" very clearly, and the grave is even at the correct spot!

After taking pictures of the tombstones and the cemetery, we spend the afternoon visiting the center of Lodz and talking about Poland. I have learned a few things from this visit. The main lesson is that it is possible to be fairly successful even when improvising a visit, and even when the visit is short. What is needed is a bit of luck, but it sometimes also helps to be stubborn.

Material in our Library (I): Archives in Israel

Reuven Naftali

This is the first of a series of articles to be published in the coming year which will describe material in our Society's library connected with various topics in genealogical research.

Following our Society's meeting on July 17, 1996 at the Israel State Archives, I went over the material in our library connected with archives in Israel. As was explained at the meeting, there are several kinds of archives in Israel. Whether they belong to the government (Israel State Archives), or are public (e.g. the Zionist Archives and the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People) or belong to a local authority (e.g. Haifa City Archives), most of them contain private and family archival material in addition to their public holdings.

The booklet *Archive Law (Hok Ha-Archionim)*, chapter 1, pp. 7-8 gives a list of officially authorized public archives. Most of the reading rooms in the archives contain card indices and catalogues and some are already computerized. They provide detailed information on the contents of the archive. The book *A Guide to Jewish Genealogical Research in Israel* surveys part of

the genealogical material existing in various Israeli archives.

Our library contains lists, sections and general indices to the following archives:

1. **The Israel State Archives** by P.A. Alsberg (Israel Archives Association in cooperation with the Israel State Archives), Jerusalem 1991, 106 pp.) This English-language booklet covers a substantial part of the material in the Archives, and includes a subject index.
2. **Archives of the Diaspora Research Institute at Tel Aviv University**, a guide to the collections edited by Joel Raba (preliminary edition, Tel Aviv 1992, 35 pp.)
3. **Jerusalem City Archives** - list of sections and main collection (Jerusalem 1995, 16 pp.)
4. **Tel Aviv City Archives**, list of archival sections, (Tel Aviv 1996, 3 pp.)
5. **Haifa City Archives**, list of archival sections, (Haifa 1997, 8 pp.)
6. **The Central Zionist Archives**, guide to the archival sections and collections (Jerusalem,

English edition, Sept. 1994, 75 pp., Hebrew edition, March 1990, 53 pp.)

7. **Archive Law** (Hok Ha-Archionim) Booklet 1, by the State Archivist (published by the Israel Prime Minister's Office, 7th edition, Jerusalem 1994, 75 pp.)
8. **A Guide to Jewish Genealogical Research in Israel** by Sallyann Amdur Sack and the Israel Genealogical Society, (Avotaynu Inc., P.O. Box 900, Teaneck NJ 07666, USA < 1995, 229 pp.)

Further information on archives may be found in the following periodicals:

- a) **Cathedra** for the History of Eretz Israel and its Settlement (Yad Itzhak Ben-Zvi, Jerusalem, from August 1976 onwards).
- b) **Archion**, Readings in Archive Science and Documentation (Archivists' Association in Israel, Jerusalem, from 1987 onwards).

Readers who possess additional information are invited to make it available to the author.

Jewish Museums in Europe

We are grateful to the Leo Baeck Institute for giving us this list obtained from Edward van Voolen of the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam

AUSTRIA

Eisenstadt, Austrian Jewish Museum

J. Reiss
Unterbergstrasse 5
7000 Eisenstadt
Tel. 43-2682-65145
Fax. 43-2682-651454

Vienna, Jewish Museum

Dr. J.H. Schoeps, Trattnerhof 2, A-1010 Vienna
Tel. 43-1-535-0431
Fax. 43-1-535-0424

Museum on Dorotheergasse 11

Hohenems, Jewish Museum
Ms. E. Haber
Villa Heimann-Rosenthal
Schweizer Strasse 5
A-6845 Hohenems
Tel. 43-5576-73989
Fax. 43-5576-77793

BELGIUM

Brussels, Jewish Museum of Belgium

D. Dratwa
Stalingrad Ave. 74
B-1000 Brussels
Tel. 32-3-5121963
Fax. 32-2-5134859

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Sarajevo, Muzej Ievreja BIH

Titova 98
71000 Sarajevo
Tel. unknown

CZECH REPUBLIC

Prague, The State Jewish Museum

Dr. L. Paviat

Jachimova Ul 3
Prague
Tel. 42-2-2327257
Fax. 42-2-2310681

DENMARK

Copenhagen, Danish Jewish Museum

Mrs. M. Gelfer
Bregade 66
1260 Copenhagen
Tel. 45-33-149452

FRANCE

Paris, Musee d'Art et d'Histoire du Judaisme

Mrs. L. Sigal
72-73 Rue du Temple
F-75003 Paris
Tel. 33-1-40299465
Fax. 33-1-40290745

Scheduled to open in 1998; temporary offices:
29 Rue de Sevigne, Paris 73003

GERMANY

Augsburg, Juedisches Kulturmuseum

Halderstr. 8
D-861150 Augsburg
Tel. 49-821-513658

Berlin, Juedisches Museum im Stadtmuseum

Mr. M. Barzel, Poststr. 13-14
D-10969 Berlin
Tel. 49-30-23809051, Fax. 49-30-23809085
Museum scheduled to open on Lindenstr. 13 in 1998

Berlin, Stiftung Neue Synagoge Centrum

Judaicum
H. Simon
Oranienburgerstr. 28
D-10117
Tel. 49-30-28901250
Fax. 449-30-2801220

Braunschweig, Braunschweigesches Landesmuseum

Juedische Abteilung, Hinter Aegidien
D-38100 Braunschweig
Tel. 49-531-4842602, Fax. 49-531-4842607

Dorsten, Juedisches Museum Westfalen

Ms. J. Eichmann
D-56356 Dorsten
Tel. 49-2362-45279
Fax. 49-2362-45386

Essens, August Gottschalk Haus

Burgstr. 8, D-2943 Essens
Tel. 49-4971-2102

Essen, Alte Synagoge

Mrs. E. Brocke
Steelerstr. 29
D-45127 Essen
Tel. 49-201-844643

Frankfurt, Juedisches Museum

G. Heuberger, Untermainkai 14-15
D-60311 Frankfurt am Main
Tel. 49-69-21235000
Fax. 49-69-21230705

Fuerth, Juedisches Museum

Mr. B. Purin, Blumenstr. 31, D-90762 Fuerth
Tel. 49-911--770577
Fax. 49-911-7417896

Goeppingen, Juedisches Museum

K.H. Ruess, Bollerstr. 81
D-73011 Goeppingen-Jebenhausen
Tel. 49-7161-650425

Groebzig, Stadtmuseum Synagoge

Muenchen, Juedisches Museum
Maximilianstr. 36, D-80539 Muenchen
Tel. 49-89-297453

Pottenstein, Fraenkische Schweiz Museum

8573 Tuechersfeld, Pottenstein
Tel. 49-2942-1640

Rendsburg, Juedisches Museum Bamberger Haus

W. Gramm, Prinzessinstr. 7-8
D-24768 Rendsburg
Tel. 49-4331-25262

Worms, Raschi Haus

F. Reuter, Hintere Judengasse 6
D-67547 Worms
Tel. 49-6241-853346
Fax. 49-6241-853695

GREAT BRITAIN

London, Jewish Museum

Mrs. R. Burman
129-131 Albert Street
London NW1 7NB
Tel. 44-171-2841997
Fax. 44-171-2679008

London, Museum of Jewish Life

Mrs. R. Burman
80 East End Road

London N3 2SY
Tel. 44-181-3462288
Fax. 44-181-3490694

Manchester, Jewish Museum

Dr. Bill Williams
190 Cheetham Hill Road
Manchester M8 8LW
Tel. 44-61-8349879

GREECE

Athens, Jewish Museum of Greece

Prof. S. Rozanis, Amalias Str. 36
P.O. Box 17027
10558 Athens
Tel. 30-1-3225582, Fax. 30-1-3231577

HUNGARY

Budapest, Jewish Museum

R. B. Utca 2, Budapest
Tel. 36-1-1428949

IRELAND

Dublin, Irish Jewish Museum

R. Siew, Walworth Rd. 3-4, Dublin 8
Tel. 353-1-760737

ITALY

Museo Ebraico

S. Marco 515, 30124 Venice
Tel. 39-41-715359, office: com.Ebraico, 2899
Cannaregio, Venezia 30121

Florence, Comunita Israelitica

Via Farini 4, 50121 Florence
Tel. 39-55-245252

Rome, Tempio Israelitico

Via de Tempio 4, Rome
Tel. 39-6-655051

Soragna, Museo Ebraico

via Cavour 43, Soragna, Tel. 39-524-69104

LITHUANIA

Vilnius, Jewish State Museum Lithuania

Ms. R. Konstanian, Mr. E. Zingeris
Vilnius a/d 1527, Tel. 7-122-620730

NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam, Jewish Historical Museum

Mrs. J. Belinfante, Mr. E. van Voolen
P.O. Box 16737, 1001 RE Amsterdam
Tel. 31-20-6269945, Fax. 31-20-6241721

NORWAY

Trondheim, Jewish Museum

P.O. Box 2183, 7001 Trondheim
Tel. 47-8-522417

POLAND

Krakow, Historical Museum

E. Duda, Ul. Szeroka 24
31-063 Krakow, Tel. 48-12-220962

PORTUGAL**Tomar, Museo Luso-Hebraico Abraham****Zacuto**

Rua de Juderia 73, Tomar

Tel. 351-49-33237

SERBIA**Belgrade, Jewish Museum**

Mrs. M. Mihailovic, P.O. Box 841

11001 Belgrade

Tel. 381-11-624359/621837

Fax. 381-11-626674

Museum in Ul. Kralja Petra 71 a III

SLOVAKIA**Bratislava, Slovenske Narodne Museum**

od. Zidovske kultury

80-00 Bratislava

Tel. unknown

SPAIN**Toledo, Museo Sefardi**

Mr. S. Palomero Plaza

C. Samuel Levi, s.n.

Toledo 54002

Tel. 34-25-223665, Fax. 34-25-215831

SWEDEN**Stockholm, Judiska Museet**

Mr. A. Neumann, P.O. Box 6299

10234 Stockholm, Tel. 46-8-310143

Fax. 46-8-318404

Museum in Haelsingegatan 2

SWITZERLAND**Basel, Jewish Museum of Switzerland**

Frau. Dr. K. Guth-Dreyfus

Kornhausgasse 8, CH-4051 Basel

Tel. 41-61-2619614

Miscellaneous**The Third International Conference on Jewish Names will be integrated into the Twelfth World Congress of Jewish Studies.**

The conference will open on July 29, 1997 at Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, and will continue as part of the World Congress of Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus Campus, on July 30, 1997.

For further correspondence, please contact: Professor Aaron Demsky, Project for the Study of Jewish Names, Department of Jewish History, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan 52900, Fax: 972-3-535-1233, e-mail: demskya@ashur.cc.biu.ac.il

**A Genetic Thunderbolt: British teacher turns out to be related to 9000-year old skeleton. Scientists claim "Definite blood relationship".
Teacher's ancient family tree. (Taken from an article in Yediot Aharonot)**

A history teacher from south-western England has discovered that he is related to a 9,000 year old skeleton.

The skeleton, known as the *Cheddar Man*, was discovered in 1903 and has been on display over the years in the London Museum of Natural History. Researchers from the Oxford University Institute of Molecular Medicine, using sophisticated methods of analysis, compared DNA from the skeleton with DNA samples from members of very old families established for centuries near Cheddar in Somerset. To their astonishment, one of the people tested, forty-two-

year old Adrian Target, a teacher of modern history, turned out to be related to the caveman from the Stone Age.

This is the first time that scientists have been able to establish a genetic connection between a caveman and a modern man. According to Dr. Brian Sykes, who headed the scientific team, "there is a definite blood relationship between them."

Cheddar, hitherto famous for Cheddar cheese and the scenic beauty of Cheddar Gorge, now has an honored place in genetic history!

Genealogical Research on Sephardic Jews

An experienced researcher of Spanish and Portuguese Jews in the Ottoman Empire is ready to do research for you.

His address: Dov Cohen, Nof Ayalon 306, POB 11, D.N. Shimshon 99784, Israel, Fax: 972-8-9790256, Email: dcohen@gezernet.co.il.

Genealogy in Russia

Dr. Joseph Ash

On July 19th, 1996, Mr. Michael Tschlenow, vice-chairman of the Jewish Genealogical Society in Russia, attended our monthly meeting and told us a little about himself and the Moscow Society. He had worked for many years at the Moscow Ethnography Institute, researching inter alia the family connections of Soviet Eskimos and the genealogy of one of the peoples of the Caucasus.

He also told us about his family relationship to the famous Zionist Yehiel Tschlenow. This became known to him quite by accident, since his parents had been afraid to tell him about such a "dangerous" relative. (Those of us who

originated in Communist countries will understand the point).

Michael promised to send me the official address of our sister Society in Russia and I am convinced that our contact with it will be most fruitful, especially for those of our members who are interested in Russian archives.

His address: Mozkajskoye shosse 3-563 Moscow, e-mail: eajc@glas.apc.org.

Mr. Tschlenow spoke a rich and fluent Hebrew and I should point out here that he taught me Hebrew "in those days" in Moscow!

Research in Bohemia

Eytan David Lederer, Haifa

I have been researching the history of my family (which originates from Doudleby, a village in North-Eastern Bohemia) since 1989. For years I conducted my research through correspondence with the Central State Archives in Prague, the Jewish Museum, other institutions, and many individuals. I was convinced that I had received all available information and was about to give up further research, when I first learnt about Mr. Stein. Although I was skeptical as to the possibility of finding more information, I decided to give him a chance. This turned out to be a most fortunate decision.

Within a very short period of time, Mr. Stein sent me copies of documents I had always sought, but

had given up hope of getting. Lists of the Jews of Doudleby from the 18th century and copies of old maps of Doudleby are only two examples. Thanks to his knowledge and skills, Mr. Stein found one new source after another. In addition, I benefited from Mr. Stein's knowledge and thinking - each letter contained comments, new ideas and advice for further research. His fees were very reasonable. In fact, research by him is not only more successful and more reliable than research done by the staff of the archives, but also cheaper.

His address: Eugen Stein, Postovska 3, Prague 9, 190 00 Czech Republic, Tel: 02-8298313.

Family Tree

This institution offers its services.

H-1055 Budapest, Falk Miksa utca 8, Hungary, Tel/Fax: (36-1) 131-3569

E-mail : family@hungary.net, [www: http://hungary.net/familytree](http://hungary.net/familytree)



Books

Printed books on Jewish cemeteries in the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem: An annotated bibliography. By Mathilde A. Tagger. Published by The Israel Genealogical Society, Jerusalem, 1997, 36 pages in English.

Reuven Naftali

We who are involved in genealogical research, know how difficult it is to find information regarding our ancestors. Since the Holocaust in Europe and the immigration of the Jews from the Arab countries to Israel, the cemeteries left behind in the countries of origin can show that Jews lived there for hundreds of years. We regret that those relics of cemeteries are crumbling because of lack of maintenance. The Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (AJGS) has started an international project of collecting data regarding the state of Jewish cemeteries around the world. A member of our society, Mathilde A. Tagger, has joined the contributors of this project by collecting information from about 180 books available in the Jewish National and University Library in

Jerusalem (JNUL). The books cover 31 countries, approximately 400 cemeteries and describe approximately 75,000 tombstones. The books were written in 17 different languages. Unlike the work done today which mainly covers the existing state of the cemeteries, the booklet compiles information on cemeteries that do not exist today, for example the works of Rav A. L. Brisk on the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives between 1781 and 1890. Therefore this small booklet now being reviewed has a large amount of genealogical data. In addition to the names of the books, Mathilde has prepared several indexes which enable one to look for a cemetery by its geographical place. The book also has a list of family trees found in the books.

The History of the Jews of Yugoslavia, in Hebrew, reviewed by Miriam Dobrinsky (see the Hebrew Section) Published by Yugoslavian Immigrant Society, 1971 and 1991, Volume 1, Yakir Even-Tov, 432pp, editor: Zvi Rotem, Volume 2, 325pp, editor: Zvi Luker

The Joel Adler Carlebach Family, in Hebrew. Edited by Naphtali Bar-Giora Bamburger. Distributed by Joseph Adler, Moshav Batzra 60944, tel: 09-7484202.

Episodes

Edward Isaacs. Published by Walker and Carson, Sheffield, 1997

Harold Lewin

This autobiography/family history is an enlarged and updated version of the author's *All in a Lifetime*, published in 1983. *Episodes* comprises a pot-pourri of genealogical information and descriptions of business, travel and communal activities. It has a most impressive collection of pedigree trees showing the author's descent from illustrious rabbinic ancestors, and his family

connections to such colourful characters as Saul Wahl, the putative Jewish King of Poland, 19th century Lord Mayors of London and a world famous car-racing driver who was the son of the King of Siam! Descriptions of visits to newly-discovered relations scattered around the world are interspersed with interesting family anecdotes going back to the early 1900s.

The following reviews were inadvertently omitted from the English Section of the previous journal.

**The Jews at Windsheim after 1871: Die Juden in Windsheim nach 1871 -
H. Steinmetz, H. Hofmann Bad Windsheim 1992. Selbstverlag.**

The book contains the history of the Jews and their community in Windsheim, Kaubenheim, Lenkersheim and Ickelheim.

There is also information about the following families: Amerikaner, Beck, Berliner, Berney (Bernay), Felsenheld, Geschmay, Goetz, Haas, Hirsch, Hofmann, Holzer, Huber, Ickelheimer, Kaufmann, Kraus, Kuenstler, Laermer, Lehmann,

Loewenfels, Lehr, Mannheimer, May, Rindsberger, Rosenbusch, Schuhmann, Schwarzbart, Stein, Steinhardt, Strauss, Ullmann, Walsmann, Walter, Weiss, Weissmann, Wolff, Wollenreich.

For orders: Helmut Hofmann Fuchseingasse 5, 8532 Bad Windsheim or Dr. Horst Steinmetz Schloss Walkershofen, 8704 Simmeshofen

**Hamburger Passengers from the Kingdom of Poland and the Russian Empire.
Indirect Passage to New York: 1855 - June, 1873 by Geraldine Moser and
Marlene Silverman (1996: 194 pp. soft cover; landscape format).**

Total cost is \$26 USA; \$27 Canada and Mexico; all other countries, \$30. Special discounts given to Suwalk-Lomza Interest Group members. Please make check payable [in US dollars] to Landsmen Press, mail to Landsmen Press, Box 228, 3701

Connecticut Ave., NW., Washington DC 20008. All orders are filled promptly. The book is sent to West European countries and Australia via World Post Global Priority Mail at no extra cost.

English JGS Journal Selections

Compiled by Harold Lewin

This selection should be viewed as just a convenient guide to some of the more important JGS literature. If you do find something of interest, make an effort to find and read the original article. Please accept apologies for errors/missing credits and take note that the approx. article length appears together with the source reference.

ARGENTINA

**Genealogical Resources in Argentina: Part 2:
Gabriel Baunstein**

This useful article provides details of both records held and addresses of sources, and also mentions the formation of a Jewish Genealogical Society. 2pp (12)

AUSTRO-HUNGARY

**Vienna as a Magnet for Austro-Hungarian
Jews: Peter Trawnicek**

The article lists some useful information sources and describes the growth in the Jewish population of Vienna as residency restrictions were relaxed. 1p, (0)

BALTIC STATES

**Gubernskie Vedomosti - A Genealogical
Resource: Aleksandrs Feigmanis**

Describes 2-section "Provincial News" containing official decrees and announcements with 2nd section comprising court dockets, plus trade, market, private announcements. Gen. data on Baltic States and Russia found in either section. 2pp, (0)

**Lithuanian State Archives Lists Records
Available: T.Kaufman**

Details of vital records held for Jewish communities of Vilno and Kupiskis and also scale of research fees are provided. 1pp, (1)

**Lithuania - Looking for Our Roots: Naomi
Baumslag**

An interesting and informative article on a "roots trip" to Lithuania in search of Judeikin and other connections. 4pp, (2)

**New Sources in Lithuania Part 1: Kaunas
Regional Archive: Bruce Kahn**

This editorial article provides addresses for the Lithuanian State Historical Archives (LVIA) in Vilnius and the Kaunas Regional Archive (KAA) and describes briefly some of the records (mainly 1843-1915) held in the latter archive. 1pp, (12)

Mariampol Index: Raymond Whitzman

25 researchers from Mariampol, previously part of Suwalki gubernia, but now in Lithuania, have

compiled an index of births, marriages and deaths from 1808 to 1920. Cost per copy \$110. 1p, (7a)

Access to Latvian Vital Statistics: Aleksandrs Feigmanis

A letter from this researcher states that the Latvian State Historical Archives denies private researchers access to vital statistics. Address: The Latvian State Historical Archives, Slokas Str. 16, LV-1007, Riga, Latvia. 2pp, (16)

C.I.S.

A Researcher's Experience with RAGAS: Michael Richman

A Letter to the Editor summarizes positive and negative experiences in research work by the Russian-American Genealogical Archival Service (RAGAS), also providing info. on approx. cost of research. 1pp, (2)

News from RAGAS: Linda Cantor

Some current problems faced by archival repositories of former Soviet Union are described, the outlook for CIS research appearing much less sanguine than formerly. 1pp, (9)

FRANCE

Use of French Naturalization Documents: Basile Ginger

The article assists those seeking residence permit or naturalization documents in French archives. 4pp, (0)

GERMANY

Microfilmed German Records: George Arnstein

This article supplements Peter Lande's "On-Site Research in Germany" (Avotaynu, Fall 1996) and suggests the Jewish Familienregisters (compilations of Jewish households), covering the old Kingdom of Wuerttemberg and Baden during 1805-1945, as an important resource for Jewish researchers. 1p, (0)

Database Documents German Emigrants: Unattributed

Six German researchers compiling database of persons not found when called up for military training. Covers entire former German Empire: Prussia, Alsace-Lorraine, Bavaria, Saxony, Wurttemberg, Baden, Oldenburg, Hess and other states, and includes 277,000 entries for period 1895-1918. Write: Immigrant Genealogical Society, POB 7369, Burbank CA 91510-7369. 1p, (10)

IBERIAN PENINSULA

Some Records of Sephardic Aliases: Julian Kemper

The article gives several examples of aliases assumed at the time of the Inquisition and provides a useful bibliography. 1pp, (17)

ISRAEL

A Genealogical Report on Israel, Fall 1996: Sallyann Amdur Sack

Sallyann Sack provides useful updating on acquisitions and developments at: Yad Vashem, Central Archives (CAHJP) and the Diaspora Research Institute, Tel Aviv University. 4pp, (0)

POLAND

Interview with the New Polish State Archivist: Sallyann Amdur Sack

Professor Daria Nalecz, the new Polish State Archivist, during a November 96 visit to Washington, confirmed her firm intention to assist the mini-seminar in Poland, following the international seminar in Paris, July 13-17, 1997. 1pp, (0)

On-Site Jewish Genealogical Research in Poland: Edward David Luft

Writer gives useful advice on conducting family history research in Polish archives. 2pp, (0)

A Genealogical Trip to Galicia: Sophie Caplan

An excellent account, spread over three episodes, of a "Roots Trip". Recommended reading for anyone considering such a journey. Addresses of several state archives and researchers included. 15pp, (4),(5),(6)

Using Polish Jewish Civil Records: Bernard Freedman

The author describes how he has overcome some of the difficulties of deciphering Mormon birth, marriage and death microfilmed records of Polish Jewish communities. 2pp, (7)

How to Pronounce Your Polish Town & Family Names: Fay Vogel Bussgang

A useful guide which also provides declensions of town names and other information on Polish grammatical rules. 4pp, (8)

New Polish SIG Formed

The SIG comprises two Kingdom of Poland provinces, Kielce and Radom, ruled by Russia during period 1815-1917. Contact Gene Starn POB 520583, Longwood, FL 32752. 1p, (17)

ROMANIA

Romanian Special Interest Group (SIG) in the U.S.: Marlene Zakai

For info on this SIG write Marlene Zakai at 11908 Tildenwood Drive, Rockville, MD. ROM-SIG membership annual dues \$20. 1p, (1)

Recommendation of Researcher in Romania: Stephen Rosman

A letter from a member of Michigan JGS recommends Dr. Ladislau Gyemant as a genealogical researcher and gives his address. 1p, (13)

UNITED KINGDOM

Poor Relief Applications - Glasgow: Harvey Kaplan

The Glasgow City Archives holds records of Poor Relief applications for Glasgow area indexed on computer database having over 300,000 entries. The Scottish Jewish Archives Centre has extracted a list of 115 Jewish names. 1pp, (17)

Circumcision Register from Dover: Bernard Susser

Possibility of dating male births during period 1765-1818 in 16 English towns, including Dover and Deal (probably comprises records of two mohelim). 1pp, (17)

UNITED STATES

Indexing of Immigrants to America Lists: Robert I. Silverman

10 million records of Irish, German and Italian immigrants have been computerized and published. Project to index 1.5 million Russians who arrived during 1875-1914 stalled for lack of funding. 2pp, (1)

Genealogical Info in American Naturalization Records: Glen Eker

Article provides useful guidelines on applying for naturalization records and on various sources for such information. 2pp, (15)

GENEALOGY & COMPUTERS

List of Internet WWW Sites for Jewish Genealogy Research: David M. Fox

The author qualifies the 54-site list by pointing out that situation re WWW sites is fluid, some sites ceasing to exist while others move to new addresses. New sites are created daily. 5pp, (0)

Genealogy Related Internet Addresses: unattributed

A list of 12 genealogically useful selected Internet sites is provided, including a bibliography of Jewish Genealogy and A Genealogist's Guide to the Internet by George Archer. 1pp, (2)

Overseas Research on Internet/Directories on the Web: Linda Cantor

A useful list of Web addresses for world-wide telephone directories and yellow pages. 1pp, (9)

Consolidated Jewish Surname Index: Gary Mokotoff

Major Web database (+m.fiche) has all surnames from 23 main databases with one million entries. Names soundexed by system, and data bases rel. to each variant spelling shown. Web location: <http://www.avotaynu.com/csi/csi-home.html> 5pp, (14)

Using Genealogy Software & Data Under Windows 95: Don Melman

The author states that after making a small change to the Windows 95 configuration, all Roots 4 functions operated perfectly. 1pp, (1)

JEWISH GENEALOGY - GENERAL

5th Intl Seminar on Jewish Genealogy: Edit.

Seminar Information (main lecturers + accommodation and costs) plus registration form are provided. 4pp, (0)

Post-Paris Trips Info.: Sallyann A. Sack

Info. on planned mini-seminars to be held in Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, eastern Romania and Ukraine. 2pp, (0)

LDS International Genealogical Index: Jordan Auslander

Deals with problem of Mormon temple ordinances, including baptism, often performed post-demise on Jews with subsequent inclusion in IGI. 2pp, (0)

RABBINIC GENEALOGY

Are You a Descendant of Rabbis?: D. Einsiedler

Contains several useful biographies of rabbinic family genealogies and sources (cont. by George I. Sackheim and others) for study of rabbinic genealogy. 4pp, (11)



KEY TO JOURNAL REFERENCES

Ref. No.	Journal	Area	Issue			
			Period	Year	Vol.	No.
0	Avotaynu	International	Winter	1996	12	4
1	Mishpacha	Greater Washington	Winter	1996	16	1
2	Mishpacha	Greater Washington	Spring	1996	16	2
3	Mishpacha	Greater Washington	Fall	1996	16	4
4	Kosher Koala	Australia	December	1995	2	4
5	Kosher Koala	Australia	March	1996	3	1
6	Kosher Koala	Australia	June	1996	3	2
7	Kosher Koala	Australia	September	1996	3	3
7a	Kosher Koala	Australia	December	1996	3	4
8	Mass Pocha	Greater Boston	Fall	1996	5	3
9	JGSLI Lineage	Long Island	Spring/Summer	1996	8	2/3
10	Generations	Michigan	Fall	1996	12	1
11	Shorashim	Orange County	Fall	1996	5	3
12	JGSR News	Rochester NY	Fall	1996	4	1
13	Shalsholet	Oregon	October	1996	7	3
14	Cleveland Kol	Cleveland	Fall/Winter	1996	10	3/4
15	Shem Tov	Toronto	December	1996	12	4
16	Latvia Sig	International	December	1996	1	4
17	Shemot	Great Britain	December	1996	4	4

