

שרשרת הדורות

Sharsheret Hadorot

FAMILY ROOTS RESEARCH PERIODICAL

October 1997

The Israel Genealogical Society

Vol. 11, No. 3.

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Forthcoming Lectures

Wednesday 29.10.97

Alex Abraham

The collection of names of those who perished in the Holocaust - its purposes and how it can aid in family research

Monday 17.11.97

Haim Friedman

The Descendants of the Gaon of Vilna; Studies on the Basis of Family Traditions

Monday 15.12.97

Asher Weil

Six Hundred Years of Jewish History from Germany and Morocco

Wednesday 14.1.98 - 5:00 p.m.

Diana Zomer

New Developments in the Douglas E. Goldman Center of Genealogical Studies
This meeting will be held at Beit Hatefutzot

Monday 23.2.98

Dr. Yehudah Klausner

Patterns of research and discoveries

Except for the first lecture of the 1997-1998 season and the meeting on Monday, January 14 at Beit Hatefutzot, lectures will take place on Monday evenings. Lectures begin at 7:30 pm; the library is available for research from 6:00 pm. Meetings take place at the Mevakshei Derekh Synagogue, 22 Shai Agnon Blvd., Jerusalem

Editorial

Editors: Esther Ramon, Ruth Rigbi

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

Typesetting: Suzie Jacobson

We have just reached the end of 5757, which marked the 13th anniversary of the foundation of our Society and 11 years since the first issue of our journal *Sharsheret Hadorot*.

This year we all mourn the passing of our Hon. President, Dr. Paul Jacobi. He had been so active in our Society, and its development meant so much to him. Applications to him for advice are still coming in from all over the world - evidence that not only we, but indeed Jewish genealogists everywhere, will feel his absence. It behoves us all to try and carry on our activities in his spirit.

In this connection, we are happy to report that more and more members are making active contributions to our work. Ten of them went to Paris to take part in July 1977 in the International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy.

More recently, Jean-Pierre Stroweis, one of our members, convened several members to discuss ways and means of expanding our Society's activities, in the hope that this will encourage many more to do likewise. Quite a few members are active on Internet, and thanks to their efforts, there is a constant worldwide response from genealogists who look to us for help.

This journal, too, has improved its format and this time you will find useful information on Jewish genealogical resources in U.K., Gibraltar, Spain, Hamburg, Eastern Europe, etc.

We wish all our colleagues a New Year blessed with peace and with continued success in their research undertakings.

An obituary - Dr. Paul J. Jacobi

Dr. Chanan Rapaport - a friend and colleague

While erecting a tombstone for Dr. Jacobi, we all know that what will remain in the hearts of us all are what typified him - namely, his manifold activities, research and his work in depth.

We have lost a wise man. As it is written in the ancient Babylonian Talmud: "A scholar takes precedence over a king of Israel; for when a scholar dies, no one can replace him, while, if a king dies, all Israel is eligible for monarchy".

Dr. Jacobi was a Renaissance man. His personality combined in great harmony the wide knowledge of world and Jewish history based on deep acquaintance and familiarity with ancient and modern cultures - together with remarkable curiosity and exact thinking, which contributed to a bold research approach in making hypotheses while relying solely on facts and findings.

If books and the deep understanding their reading promotes are the true reflection of a person's spiritual ambiance - Dr. Jacobi was a true Renaissance man in the full meaning of this concept. Were there any vital fields of interest and knowledge missing from his rich library? We find there books with his handwritten notes on each of them, in the fields of archaeology, history, music, theater, cantoral music and liturgical poetry, art in all its branches, architecture, philosophy and theology, jurisprudence and literature. And I am sure now that I forgot to mention many additional humanistic fields which he studied most assiduously all his life.

His extensive and deep interest was not satisfied merely with book research and facts delivered by authorities in many scientific fields, but extended into the fields of empirical work. This expressed itself through his many journeys in Europe, Russia and Asia, including personal investigations of ancient caves with their paintings, thousands of years old, as well as his incessant visits to every archaeological dig in Jerusalem and Israel. As he searched, he always compared

local finds with archaeological digs in neighboring countries, such as the Ebla archaeological finds in Syria, in which he could not visit personally.

This was an unsatiated curiosity which enabled his very sharp mind, trained on exact thinking, combined with daring hypotheses to provide confirmation or refutation uncompromisingly, even if this process contradicted his own original positions.

In the case of Dr. Jacobi, an organic combination between his power of analytical logic and his creative imagination, produced beautiful, powerful and innovative synthesis. It merged the best of classical cultures - East and West alike. This was a wonderful synthesis between the formalism and analytical thinking of the Greco-Roman tradition and the creative imagination, typical of Oriental cultures.

To all the above, he combined a God-given memory and a wonderful ability to sift the chaff from the wheat, while maintaining a panoramic perspective, which enabled him to find the implicit outline of the whole structure, thus enabling him to refute or verify suggested or accepted hypotheses or theories.

Another strong asset of his personality was his complete sense of equality with people or authorities in fields in which he felt himself to be knowledgeable. Yet, at the same time, he was modest and humble while for ever manifesting a readiness to broaden his horizons and to learn from those people whom he felt to be his superiors in a given subject.

Had he not been so meticulous and uncompromisingly self demanding in order to consolidate his positions and prove his hypotheses, he could have become, in his lifetime, the most read, the most referred to and the most controversial personality in the fields of Jewish genealogy and history. Yet, all these traits prevented him from publishing hundreds of books - which he called "Chapters". (He called them "Chapters" and not books or monographs, since he saw them

as a part of a vast scientific Jewish Encyclopedia, containing many volumes, covering the last millennium of Jewish History around the world.) - on over a hundred Ancient Jewish families (The Monographs of which, have already been typed and bound.) and almost four hundred family monographs which needed streamlining, standardizing and completion with the additional data accumulated by him.

In contrast to many fine researchers in the field of Jewish Genealogy, he was not satisfied merely to create "Family branches and trees", which he dismissed as "Mormon Genealogy".

Because of the importance, which Dr. Jacobi attributed to the historic significance of Jewish migrations, and the life experiences and functions of Jewish Kehillot (Communities and Congregations), as well as the interwoven fabric of Jewish family life, he thought it **most basic and appropriate** to combine detailed biographical stories on each leaf on every branch of Jewish family cluster. In his view, justifiably, only **such a combination** was the true "Jewish Genealogy".

He was not honored with any professorship in Jewish history and genealogy. Had he published the bulk of his research work, such an honor would certainly have been bestowed upon him. Nevertheless, he was a scholar whose advice was sought by many famous professors of Jewish history.

Once, a famous research scientist approached him and said: "I do not understand how these two similar names, seemingly one person, are inserted in these 15th century manuscripts, which I found in a New York archive. When I expressed my amazement to my Hebrew university colleagues, they advised me to approach Dr. Jacobi who would help me solve the riddle". Then to his amazement he heard that, by coincidence, Dr. Jacobi had just finished writing a monograph containing the answer to his question.

Although, because of his own "fault", he was not given a professorship, many respected professors regarded him as their equal in debate and discussion.

However, he was never too proud to admit an error or fault - a characteristic which very few among us possess. This was yet another astonishing trait revealed to those of us who had the privilege of knowing him intimately. This was especially amazing as we were used to his self-assurance, vast knowledge and definitive opinions.

Again, to those of us who had the privilege of close friendship, he was always a warm, caring person, concerned with the welfare of others - not to be expected from his external appearance as a cold "Yecke" (a German Jew), who was frequently short-tempered, austere and exact with his time and speech.

His readiness to help and yearning to respond was so great that he was afraid, at times, to open his mail box. The reason was that, as a true gentleman and scholar, he would not even consider refusing or rejecting anyone, even if many of the queries were sometimes troublesome.

Last year, because of his heart attacks and physical weakening, his table was full of unanswered letters, in spite of the fact that he continued to work almost until the last moment.

Judging from the hundreds and thousands of queries which he received from all around the globe, he was, undoubtedly, The Doyen of Jewish Genealogy worldwide. So many fine people saw him as the authoritative judge and mentor for their problems in the field of genealogy, that he will be greatly missed in our world.

The vacuum created by his passing, will truly be the most appropriate memorial to this great and special person. May his memory be blessed.

The author is greatly indebted to Lucien Harris for his help in the English editing of this tribute.

A tribute to the late attorney Paul Jacobi

Hava Agmon

In my opinion, Paul Jacobi's 450 genealogical treatises on old Jewish families are standard-setters and a true example of enlightened and up-to-date genealogy. One of these was the result of extensive research into the Kara/Caro Family, which he completed in 1988 and it was a with a great sense of appreciation that I received from him the two volumes he had penned.

Famed for his competence in the field, he was highly praised for his meticulous work. For myself, his research has served as a magnet

and a spring-board for continuing work on this topic. He always expressed innovative ideas most forcefully, as well as surprising conclusions phrased in his legal style of writing, and often with a sly wink and gentle humour. It is very hard to follow in his giant footsteps, but in spite of everything, I had the privilege of learning much from him when I commenced my work in this field. May Paul Jacobi serve as a constant inspiration to us all as we endeavour to continue our fruitful endeavours in the field of genealogy.

Curriculum Vitae: Dr. Paul J. Jacobi

(died July 25th 1997, in Jerusalem)

Born 1911 in Koenigsberg, son of Dr. Julius Jacobi, a lawyer, among the first Zionists and a leader of his Jewish Community.

In 1919 he joined the Zionist movement of "Blau-Weiss" and in 1925 was among the founders of a similar movement called "Kadimah".

In February 1929, after matriculating at the Humanistic Gymnasium and joining the academic student Zionist movement (K.J.P.-Kai Fau), he arrived in Jerusalem and resided in the Old City. He later continued his law studies in England, Germany and Jerusalem.

Upon returning to Jerusalem in 1933, he joined the Haganah, worked in the law offices of S. Horowitz & Co. and then started his private practice as a lawyer in 1936. From 1974, he served as the legal adviser to the J.N.F. (Keren Kayemet LeIsrael), at first (until 1951) as Director of its most important project - rescuing Jewish property in the Diaspora on both sides of the Iron Curtain. In this connection he spent four months in all the countries behind the Iron Curtain.

He was associated with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra since its foundation

in 1934 (two and a half years before its first concert), in different functions such as hon.secretary, chairman of the Jerusalem branch and honorary Life member of its National Council.

He served also as a member and chairman of Jewish Theater Archives (at the Hebrew University); for twenty years as chairman of the board of the Nature Museum, and as active member of the "Israel Festival" and the "Testimonium" (founded by the late Mrs. Recha Frier). Between 1966 - 1980 he served on the boards of the Government Tourist Association, "Yad VaShem", "Authors' House", "Arts House" etc.

From the thirties he was active on many boards of political, cultural and social bodies of German Aliyah including of the Progressive Party and the Leo Baeck Institute.

In the last decades he devoted most of his time to genealogical research of Ashkenazi Jewry, since its early days, in the various Diaspora communities. His summaries (in the form of monographs), of more than a hundred families were deposited in "Beth Hatefutsot" (the House of the Diaspora), while an

additional four hundred family monographs still awaiting final processing.

He served the City of Jerusalem since 1944. Until 1949 he was a member of the "Community Council", until 1951 of the "Military Council" (headed by the late Dr. Dov Joseph) and for sixteen years, until 1965 as elected member of the Jerusalem Municipal Council, including four years as First Deputy Mayor responsible for the Culture and Educational Portfolio. During these years, he established the Jerusalem Youth Orchestra, installed heating in the Jerusalem school classrooms, initiated the Jerusalem Municipal High School System, etc.. For various periods he was chairman, or member, of each of the Jerusalem Municipal Council Committees,

including the special Committee for Street Names, (1952-1992).

In 1958 he served as Chairman of Israel's Tenth Anniversary Exhibition. Between 1964 - 1972 he was chairman of the East Jerusalem Development Co. and from 1972 - 1992 he was an active Director of the Board of the "Company for the Restoration of the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem", serving also as chairman of its Archaeological Committee.

He published many articles on subjects relating to politics, municipal affairs, jurisprudence, theater, cantoral music, history and genealogy. These papers reflected some of his many fields of interest which he developed by using his comprehensive private library.

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (Part II)

Mrs. Hadassah Assouline (Summary: Reuven Naftali)

Archival material not yet available to the public

Not all material which reaches our archives is made available immediately to the public, generally because it has not yet been classified and systematically arranged. An example of this is the archival collection of the Jewish Colonization Association (ICA), founded by Baron de Hirsch in 1891 and centred in Paris and later in London. The organization's aims were to help Eastern Jewry in the places in which they lived and especially to re-settle in the "new" world (South America and also Palestine). ICA supported schools, set up agricultural villages, etc. The archival material came from two bodies - ICA's headquarters and overseas management offices. The material from the Executive offices in London and Paris consists mainly of correspondence between the executive and ICA branches, and generally does not contain genealogical data. Material from South America was from the management office in the Argentine and generally contains local data, correspondence between the local management office and the ICA and also local reports and

correspondence. Genealogists will most likely be interested in ledgers listing settlers in the "colonies" (small-holding agricultural settlements). These registers give settlers' names (father and children), their ages, origin and place of settlement and include documents from about 1895 to the present time. With regard to the problem of arranging and cataloguing the material, a budget is needed for the employment of a Spanish-speaking archivist.

Czechoslovakia, Bohemia and Moravia

Since 1989, contact has been renewed with the Jewish Museum in Prague. It was set up 90 years ago when the City decided to destroy part of the Old Quarter. The Jewish leaders of those days set up a museum to house ritual objects from synagogues which had been destroyed. Later they began to collect archival material as well. When the Nazis conquered Prague, they concentrated in the Museum most of the archival material of the Jews of Bohemia and Moravia. Today, although part of the material has been dispersed, there is still a large quantity left. (Most of the material is housed in a store at a small S. Bohemian

monastery some 120 kms. distance from Prague and those wishing to see various items must give prior notice). About half the 500 metres of shelf space contains archival material relating to Prague Jewry from the 16th. century to the present day. Two hundred metres of space is reserved for data on the Moravian and Bohemian communities, with the remainder belonging to the organizations of rural Jews.

Already under the Communist regime in 1967 the Central Archives began to order microfilms and in this project which carried on until 1973 they succeeded in making some 300,000 photographs. It only became possible to view this material in 1989 after the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe. On a visit that year, it became apparent that only about 10% of the Prague material had been filmed. Then a special effort was mounted to examine the total volume of items involved and a great deal of information on the Prague Jewish community was accumulated. Our archives here now have a printed list of the type of material available in the archives of the Bohemian and Moravian communities. Note: registers of births and deaths are not to be found in the Jewish Archives. They are located in the Czech Government Archives and details can be obtained from them in writing. Their address is: Archivni Sprava, Milady Horakova 133, 16621 Praha 6. They do not film complete items either for us or for the Mormons. The Bohemian and Moravian data we have in our possession can be of help to genealogy researchers. They include lists of tax-payers, circumcisions and marriage applications. Most of this material is in German with only a small part of it in Hebrew. Data deriving from other communities include Burial Society registers. Wherever there was a community school (in the 19th. and 20th. centuries), there were pupils' registers, but these have not been filmed.

Germany

German Jewry's General Archive ("Gesamtarchiv der Deutschen Juden") was set up in Berlin in 1906 and was the inspiration behind the establishment of our own archives

in Jerusalem. Dr. Meisel, who had worked in this field in Berlin, came to Palestine in 1934 and founded our own archives. During World War Two, the Berlin Archive was controlled by the Nazis and after the War, it remained under the control of the East German government, which argued for years that the material had not been well-kept in the war years. When East Germany collapsed in 1989, it transpired that the physical condition of most of the data there was in fact good. Since then part of that archive has been filmed and additional material (not yet filmed) has been indexed. There is a great deal of material on German Jewry and information on this topic has been published already in various articles.

Poland

Poland has a well-ordered archives system which provides various services against due payment. The address of the Polish Central Archives is as follows: Naczelnia Dyrekcja Dtuga 6, 00-263 Warszawa.

In the sixties and seventies part of the Polish archival material (including vital statistics) was microfilmed by the Mormons. Copies of microfilms relating to Jewry are now housed at the Dorot Institute, Beth Hatfutsoth, Tel Aviv. (Note: the library of the Israel Genealogical Society contains a copy of the list of locations on which material exists) and the Central Archives have some of the indexes. It should be remembered that material microfilmed 20 years ago included data relating to Poland's present borders and did not include Galicia and Lithuania. During the last century in Poland, the public authority was responsible for these registers, which can therefore be found in local registry offices and not in historical archives.

Galicia

This region, in the south of Poland, experienced a large number of border changes ever since the partition of Poland in 1772. Polish, Austrian, Russian, Ukrainian and German authorities left their mark on this region, which is now divided between Polish-controlled Western Galicia and East Galicia, now part of Ukraine. In the sixties, the Soviet authorities returned to Poland births, deaths

and marriage registers relating to part of East Galicia. This material was kept in the Polish national Archives (AGAD) and apparently was not microfilmed by the Mormons. A list stating which locations and years are referred to in these registers is available in Jerusalem. Microfilming of the Lwow (Lemberg) Community Archive is now in progress.

There are also additional sections of Polish data containing comprehensive genealogical material. One of them is a collection of files on religious affairs in Poland (Komisja Rzadowa Spraw Wewnetrznych I Duchownych) with names of Rabbis, individual applications addressed to them, etc. These records are not systematic and have only been partly microfilmed. Another collection with genealogical value is the Schneider Collection. Schneider was a Polish official in the Austrian administration in Cracow in the 19th century and after his death

files were discovered relating to Austrian administration in Poland in the 18th and 19th centuries, but without a detailed record of the contents of the collection. It contains detailed lists of house-owners and tax-payers in the 18th and 19th centuries in a number of Jewish communities in Galicia. There is also a letter of complaint filed by the inhabitants of the township of Lizjensk against the town rabbi at the end of the 18th century. A book recently published in Poland, with interesting statistics on the Jews of Galicia, is: *Zydowskie Okregi Metrykalne I Zydowskie Gminy Wyznaniowe w Galicji Doby Autonomicznej*, by Jerzy Michelewicz. It contains a list of the various Jewish communities, stating the parish districts to which each one belonged at various periods. There is no index in the book, a copy of which is available at the Central Archives. (The final part of this series will appear in the next journal).

Special Interest Groups

Shalom Bronstein

The last meeting of the Israel Genealogical Society for the year 1996-1997 took place on July 7. It was the culmination of much planning as those assembled broke up into study groups concentrating on various locations. Individuals who have done extensive research in those particular regions shared their experiences. The evening was the start of what we hope will develop into a regular feature of the Israel Genealogical Society. Following is a list of the groups that either met or are in the process of forming, with the name of the contact person/co-ordinator. Please contact the person whose name is listed for additional information or if you have suggestions to offer.

English Speaking Countries [UK, USA, South Africa, Australia]

Shalom Bronstein, 47/4 Hizkiyahu Hamelekh, Jerusalem 93224 - 02-610-0047

Germany

Esther Ramon, 50 Harav Uziel, Jerusalem 96424 - 02-642-4147

Hungary

Menashe Davidowitz, 34 Rehov Harimon, Ramat Hasharon 47251 - 03-549-5661

Ottoman Empire/North Africa

Matilda Tagger, G/5 Rehov Alroi, Jerusalem 92108 - 02-566-3938

Dov Hakohen, 306 Nof Ayalon, Sh'alavim 99784 - 08-979-0256

Poland

Shlomo Brandwein, 17 Rehov Hahayil, Jerusalem 97891 -02-581-7453

Russia/former Soviet Union

Valeri Ladyzhenski, 6/3 Rehov Halapid, Ramat Gan 52573 - 03-751-8835

International Jewish Genealogy Seminar, Paris, July 1997

Mathilde Tagger

To attend this Seminar was an exceptional experience. As on all occasions of the kind, meeting the participants was enjoyable and at times even involved surprises. Amongst the 430 genealogists there from all over the world, there were about twenty of us from Israel, most of them members of our Society. The Seminar was superbly organised by volunteers drawn from the membership of the French Jewish Genealogical Society. People of various professions, they had all been hit by the genealogy bug. We were all given files in French or English, with comprehensive details of the agenda and the lectures, as well as guidelines for reaching local archives and libraries. Nor did they forget to add a list of synagogues and kosher restaurants together with a map of Paris.

Truth to tell, we saw very little of that wonderful city, but those who were residing on the top floors of the hotel in which the seminar took place could at least enjoy the view from their windows. The program of lectures and workshops was very heavy, with lectures from 9 a.m. to 10.30 p.m.

We may have been exhausted but we were very satisfied with the wide selection of topics and lecturers. The main subjects dealt with were: the Holocaust, Computerisation and the Internet. The other activities were divided by geographical regions: France, North Africa, the Ottoman Empire, W. Europe, both

Ashkenazi and Sephardi, E. Europe, South Africa, Australia and Brazil. Israel was represented by a workshop and lectures by Diana Sommer (Director, Dorot Center) and Batya Unterschatz (Director, Department for Missing Relatives). Thus each participant was likely to find a topic directly relevant to him or her. The workshop moderators were generally persons with much experience in the field and the lectures were given by well-known personalities, mainly from France and USA, with simultaneous translation into English/French. This was an important innovation since previous Seminars had been held only in English. A further innovation was the creation of a Special Interest Group (SIG) for genealogical research in the lands of the previous Ottoman Empire (especially Turkey and Greece).

Our hosts' volunteering activity was unceasing. For example, during general lectures in the big hall, one of them arranged recordings and at question-time, two of them rushed around to help questioners with microphones.

There were two book-stalls at the Seminar (run by the French Society and by Avotaynu). A French genealogical software Geneatique, using Windows, was also displayed. This is a very user-friendly program, but not especially designed for Jewish genealogy. In short, it was well worth while to attend this Seminar.

The Shealtiel Family (Part II)

Moshe Avram Shaltiel-Gracian

Spanish archives:

The archives of Spain represent a huge and still largely unexplored source. Archives can be found in just about every town, large and small, where Jewish communities established themselves. These are the legal archives - Archivo de Notarias; ecclesiastical records, - Archivo de la Catedral and Archivo Diocesano; and municipal records - the

Archivo Historico de la Ciudad. In addition, there are the vast records of the Royal Court, the Archivo de la Corona de Aragon, probably the best source of information on the history of the family.

Unlike the research into the Responsa, the Rabbinical literature and the Jewish manuscripts that was done mostly by me, most of the Spanish archives searches have been,

and are presently, conducted by Spanish historians who graciously agreed to give me some of their time. In order to keep the research coordinated, I have been traveling to Barcelona, Girona and Tarragona on a regular basis.

At this point, I am delighted to acknowledge my debt to Gemma Escriba, Jordi Gendra Molina, Silvia Planas and Josefina Cubells I Llorens, my researchers, Nancy Buchenauer and Xochitl Ehrl, my translators, and pere Jaume Riera I sans, the guardian of the archives of the Crown of Aragon, for his guidance and suggestions. It was under his guidance that I assembled the team of local experts in Catalan history to examine the records. My greatest debt of gratitude is to my dear friend Dr. Stanley M. Hordes, a Latin American History professor from the University of New Mexico, who traveled with me to Spain, trained me in the basic methods of research, and is coordinating and editing the wealth of material assembled for this research.

In searching the Spanish archives, the team is working on two parallel tracks. The first has been to review published documents: We have located every such document that mentions the Shaltiel name. Often we work off of the synopses which have already been indexed and published. Next, we have located, when possible, the original document in medieval dialect and letters. A transcription is always done on the spot, and a microfilm copy is ordered. The next step is translation. Often the document is in Latin or Catalan. My research assistants are well versed in Catalan and perform the translation themselves. In case of Latin material, I have found it more efficient to use an American Classics professor from St. John's College. I have also done so to keep the Spanish researchers focused on their primary work, finding "new" documents.

The second track is the search for new documents, that is, unpublished and often unscrutinized material - the proverbial needle in the hay stack. Since the unexplored, unindexed and plain, unresearched portion of

the Catalan archives exceed, by far, the researched ones, it was inevitable that unknown information on the family would be uncovered. And so it was.

The real fun and the creative work began when the information from all the various sources started to pour in:

Once I got used to the tremendous number of documents (as of last count we have processed one hundred and seven, not counting the twenty-five that are in the pipe line), I began to put all the information into some sort of order, mostly chronological and by subject matter. Amazingly, just about every person mentioned in the Hebrew sources can be found in the Spanish archives, and vice-versa. It seems that the Responsa, the municipal records and the surviving Jewish letters were all prepared by the same people and dealt with the same subject.

There is considerable work to be done. There remain more archives to be studied than we have yet examined, though this may produce fewer documents. There is much statistical analysis to be performed, and then there is the most rewarding and demanding task, the painstaking examination of the records, which, I believe, will yield more genealogical information and drama of human life.

From the information we have generated so far, we can shed new light on the life and events of the Sephardim in Catalonia. Furthermore the specific research into the Shealtiel family has yielded results that have far exceeded our expectations.

The forum of this presentation and the time available are such that the most productive way to report the results will be to focus on a few points, by way of illustration.

The origin of the name:

The earliest dated document with the name is October 12, 1061. It is a document that states that Reina, the daughter of master Saltiel, and her husband Gershon, trade with Miro' Gaudel and his wife, some land.

The latest date, November 18, 1459. Jahuda Bensaltiel, a physician, is granted a license to practice his profession after the king's

physician informed his master King Juan II that Jahuda is "able, fit and competent in the art of medicine". The Hebrew name appears mostly as it is spelled in the bible, Shin Alef Lamed Taf Yud Alef Lamed. In non-Hebrew documents the name is spelled in various ways: Saltell, Sealtiel, Shealtiel, Xaltiel and more. The name also appears as Ben Shaltiel or Bensealtiel.

A researcher can sometimes find as much from the absence of information as from the presence of detailed information. The same is true of names. Most Spanish Jewish families used Arabic, or derivative of Arabic names like Ibn, Abu, El. Often they used a pure Arabic name or Hebrew name translated to the Arabic form like Ibn Daud. That was a natural result of living under the rule of the Muslims for many generations. We know that the majority of the Jewish families in Spain arrived from the south, following the Muslim conquests. The Shealtiel family first names and that of their relatives, were distinguishably different. Their entire inventory of first names was Latin. They gave their children names like Gracian, Perfet, Bonafos, Bonet, Bonadona, Lobel and Astruch, all Latin and Northern European.

The only explanation of this phenomenon is that they never lived in the south, that they lived, mostly, under the rule of the cross, and that they came to Spain from the north. Father Jaime Riera told me that, in his opinion, the family came with the Roman armies. I believe that the family settled in Spain long before, and prior to the destruction of the First Temple.

The family:

The record seems to show a single Shealtiel family that was associated with several other families, specifically Sheshet, Cresques and Chasdai. This group of families intermarried with each other from earliest records we have found, to the end of their lives in Catalonia. Onomastic conventions in medieval Spain were not those of the modern world. Though it appears that family names were common among Spanish Jews, we also find that a father with the family name of Shealtiel would name

his son Shealtiel and give him another last name. These last names were always names associated with the family, such as Gracian or Perfet. The son, when he had a son, would give him a name connected to the family, and would give him the Shealtiel name as a last name. If it sounds complicated, it is!

I have discussed these matters with Jaime Riera i Sans, the guardian of the archives of the Crown of Aragon. He said to me: "In your family it is impossible to tell who is who. The names are always changing and they keep marrying each other." He was, of course, right. For example: the Ribash (Rabbi Izaak Ben Sheshet) named his son Shealtiel, but also his son-in-law's name was Shealtiel. The Ribash is known to have been a relative of Chasdai Cresques, who also was a descendant of the Shealtiel family. The Shealtiels were also known as Hen or Gracian.

Gracian is of course the Latin equivalent of the word Hen (grace) in Hebrew. There is an interesting twist here. Prof. Mordechai Arbel is of the opinion that the word Hen was never meant to be a name but a form of honor to a learned man. In other words it is the abbreviated title: "Chochmat Hanistar" the wisdom of the mystery and the capital letters of these two words constitute the name Hen (Cheti Noon).

As we have seen many times, the title often becomes as known as the name itself, and the next step is the translation of the title to the Latin of Gracian. Dr. Arbel, in discussing the theory, brought up the Ladino expression: to do something "con hen y gracia", which means to do it with knowledge. Indeed, following the suggestion of Dr. Arbel, I have since located many instances in the Responsa where the name appears in an abbreviated name. the "Tashbetz" - Shimon Ben Rabbi Zemach -, in his Responsa and Benyamin of Tudela, in his memoirs, said that the Shealtiel family (and they both used the word "family") is descended from Rabbi Yehuda Ben Barzilay Nasi, a.k.a. "Habarzelony." In my opinion, what they meant is that "Barzelony" was a member of the family, and not the other way around. I came to this conclusion because we

around. I came to this conclusion because we have found dozens of records of the family dating from before Rabbi Yehuda was born. It is more likely that Rabbi Yehuda was the first to be named Hen, and passed the title on to his descendants, but because the family was small, and tended to marry within, after few

generations all the Shaltiel family became Shaltiel Gracian (Hen).

It was also written that Rabbi Yehuda was a descendant of the house of David. It seems to me that Davidic provenance was an important factor for the reference. Part III will appear in the next journal.

Genealogical sources in the Iberian Peninsula

Avraham Zefadia

As an escort for groups of tourists going overseas, specializing in destinations such as Spain and Portugal, I have become aware of the science of through looking at findings with "genealogical" eyes.

In 1992, they celebrated in Spain the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America. For us this anniversary recalled the expulsion of Spanish Jewry. The Government of Spain proclaimed that year as the great year of pardon in relation to the Jewish people. This found expression in the Spanish government's decision to display greater openness and to take practical steps to immortalize the cultural-spiritual contribution of Jewry from their arrival in Spain after the destruction of the Second Temple, until the Expulsion - a period of over 1,400 years.

Nowadays, the Spanish Ministry of Culture facilitates access for Jewish researchers to documentary source material in various fields, especially to archives housed in various churches and museums throughout Spain. Because of State budget limitations, the pace of research and the exposure and restoration of Jewish sites is slow and therefore, many research projects are financed by Jewish bodies in USA. From the point of view of a genealogist interested in new material on Spanish Jewry, it is now possible and search for information in more municipal museums and Jewish sites which are being opened. This summary relates to findings gathered in Gibraltar and Spain during the last two years..

Gibraltar

On the initiative of the existing Jewish community in Gibraltar (which numbers some 600 souls and has three synagogues), the last

old Jewish cemetery was exposed this past year on the slope of the southern side of the Rock, facing the coasts of North Africa. Previously, this cemetery had been in a closed-off military area and for over 200 years layers of eroded soil and dust covered the tombstones. Reduction in the closed military area has made access to the cemetery possible once more, so that for a year and a half, a team of three or four people has been engaged in uncovering, cleaning and restoring the gravestones.

During visits which I paid to the area in 1996 and latterly in May 1997, I took pictures of a number of graves uncovered, showing names and dates as stated below. In the centre of the cemetery, there is a plot fenced off with a stone wall about one and a half metres high, containing the graves of ten to twelve community Rabbis and leaders from an earlier period. Most Jews residing in Gibraltar had arrived there from North African countries and engaged in trade.

Herewith is a list of the names and dates of deaths recorded on the tombstones:-

The Haham and community leader, R. Abraham Enreilos (1874).

The scholar Shlomo ben Uleil (1585 ?)

R. Abraham Israel ? (1600)

Hillel Ben- Hamo (1825)

Yosef Ben-Hamo (1822)

Josef Pariento, Kislev 17 ? (1748)

Community leader Yaakov Yosef Ben-Zaken, ? (1728)

Abraham Hayim Burgil (1810)

Yosef Elmalieh (1797)

Raphael Moshe Hassan (1810)

It should be pointed out that the task of uncovering the graves is still in progress, including restoration of the inscriptions, and additional information may be expected at a much later date.

Cordoba

During a chance visit I made to a Cordoba shop selling art objects, antiques and souvenirs (near the 'Mesquita'), the cellar contained a number of Jewish ritual articles available for general purchase. The shop-owner was not prepared to say how and when these items reached him.

Herewith is a "genealogical" inventory of these items (each of the items had a price-tag on it):

Curtain for the Ark of the Law, on which there is embroidered in gold thread:- "Dedicated by Isaac Coriat - Shlomo (may his memory be blessed) for the repose of his sweet wife Naomi, who died in 1924".

Scroll of the Law, on a wooden roller with a cover. Written on rolled parchment and with two handles. Length of parchment which is covered with lacquer: 37.5 metres. Deletions are found after the roller has exposed some 2 metres. Where previously the name "God" had been written, "Jesus" had been inscribed and even this word is slightly erased. The shop-owner told me that there are additional places in which similar alterations appear. Clearly, this Scroll is not ritually fit for use in synagogue and is only of historical value. Anyhow, on the front of the scroll cover (top right), there is the following inscription:- " - holy vestments dedicated to the memory of the wise Haham R. David Efriat of blessed memory", 1890.

Marble tablet (apparently removed from some synagogue) with the following inscription: "Young Men's Society" - Simchat Torah (?). In honour of the pious, humble light of our eyes, crown of our head, our friend and teacher, R. Isaac Walid (?)" Note:- From the condition of the tablet, it appears that there is a reference to the year 1946. There were

also two pointers for Torah reading (one gold and the other silver without any name visible).

Toledo

In the "golden age" of Jewry in the 12th century, Toledo (known as the "Jerusalem of Spain") had some 12,000 Jews and 13 synagogues, of which only two now exist: the Great Synagogue, which after the Expulsion, was transformed into the Santa Maria de la Blanca Church, and is now a national monument; and the building erected by R. Samuel Halevi-Abulafia Ha-Naggid at the end of the 13th. century and known today as "El Transito", also a national monument. This synagogue was only slightly damaged in the Expulsion period and has been repaired and restored at intervals in recent years. It now holds an extraordinarily beautiful Jewish Museum, known for its large collection of Jewish items from different periods. The Museum is located in the Women's Gallery and in a corridor which was part of the Synagogue courtyard.

On exhibit there are numerous items connected with Jewish life, such as Scrolls of the Law, Bible textbooks, books by the Rambam and Ramban, embroidered prayer shawls, girdles, Holy Ark curtains, community records of circumcisions, Bar-mitzvah and wedding ceremonies, North African and Turkish addresses, circumcision instruments and other items too numerous to mention. Most significantly, this Museum houses most of the archaeological and other findings from all over Spain (including dates, names, etc.) which are likely to be of interest to us. The Spanish Ministry of Culture intends to compose a catalogue listing all these findings, but naturally, this is a matter of available budget. This is a thrilling place for one to visit, as a tourist with an interest in history and certainly as a Jewish genealogist. As a national monument, it figures in the list of sites visited by tourists from all over the world. It is often amazing to hear the escort of a Japanese group explaining in Japanese to the members of his group the history of Toledo Jewry.....with Biblical quotations in Hebrew! However, at the "Santa Maria la Blanca"

building, there is no sign that it was once a synagogue. However, the synagogue origin is mentioned at the entrance to the synagogue courtyard.

Gerona

This city, located in the Province of Catalonia, some 100 kms. north of Barcelona, is a treasure-house of 500 years of Jewish history, replete with inspiration and wisdom. Here dwelt the Ramban (R. Moses ben Nachman) and here too the mystical tradition in Spanish Jewry developed. Gerona was, in a way, a counterpoise to Cordoba, the residence of the Ramban.

In comparison with Toledo, the number of Jews in Gerona in the "golden age" never exceeded 1,000 souls, because of difficulties in making a living there. Old Gerona was built on a rocky slope on both sides of a river, so that homes were erected very close to each other. In those days, there were three synagogues in the Jewish Quarter of Gerona. One of them also served as the house of study and the home of the Ramban, or as it was called in Catalanian, "Bonastruc ca porta". The Jews called it "The House of Isaac, rich in light." Latterly, this house of study was restored, revealing additional floors below it which served as a butcher's shop and public bath-house. Restoration of these works have not yet been completed. In fact, the City of Gerona has set up a special non-profit body to coordinate everything connected with this centre: continuation of the restoration project, preservation of the site, coordination of research work, assistance with publications,

aid in locating sources of information and in arranging on-the-spot exhibits on Jewish subjects. It is now possible, at the Gerona Municipal Museum, to study original documents which were the background and basis for various research projects in previous periods.

Stored for safe keeping in our Genealogical Society Library is a book of research (published in 1995): "A Guide to Girona Jewry", by Ramon Alberch Fugueras (?).

Besalu

It is worth pointing out that 30 kms west of Gerona is a townlet called Besalu with a Jewish Quarter which housed those Jews who could not find a place for themselves in Gerona. Latterly, a bath-house was discovered in the Jewish Quarter, which at the time was used by the Besalu Jews. Restoration work has been finished and the site has been turned into a national monument, which appears in the list of sites which may be visited in Spain.

At the end of the 19th. century, there were Jewish families named Basul, residing in Aleppo (Syria) and it is also known that there was a R. Moses Basula who visited Palestine in 1522-1523 (according to Ya'ari: Travels in Palestine). Apparently, the names Basul and Basula were slight variations of the Spanish Besalu.

Summary: These and other sites are likely to serve in the future as a newly-revealed sources of genealogical information, priceless for those researching their Spanish roots.

London Great and New Synagogues Registers Acquisition by the Central Archives

Esther Ramon

It's a pleasure to announce that after overcoming numerous difficulties in a process initiated several years ago, the microfilms of the Great Synagogue, London, and the New Synagogue, London, Registers of Births, Marriages and Burials, have finally been acquired by the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People.

The Registers are contained in eleven microfilms and cover the approximate period 1791-1881. Three films contain birth records, four films comprise marriage records and three are registers of burials. The single microfilm of the New Synagogue Registers contains records of both births and marriages.

These films are a most important addition to the historic diaspora records held by the Central Archives and constitute an invaluable aid for family history enthusiasts researching British roots.

We acknowledge our indebtedness for help given by the following: Michael Abrahams (Thailand), Teddy Isaacs and Anthony Joseph

(United Kingdom), for all their support and encouragement, Hadassa Assouline, Director of the Central Archives, for processing the application, and Harold Lewin, for initiating, some years ago, the original acquisition request, and persevering through vicissitudes and difficulties, until the films were finally received.

The 1881 UK Census Indexing Project - Volunteerism in the Genealogical Community

Harold Lewin

My dictionary defines a volunteer as a person who voluntarily takes part in an enterprise, or offers to undertake a task. One of the areas of human activity capable of reaping great benefit from the work of volunteers is family history research, and a good example of volunteerism is the 1881 United Kingdom Census Indexing Project.

The United Kingdom population censuses have taken place every tenth year since 1841 (with one war-time exception), and are of tremendous help to genealogists. They provide details of the residents of every apartment, house and institution in the country, on a particular night in March or April of every tenth year. In order to ensure that the privacy of the persons interviewed is respected, the data obtained are closed to the public for one hundred years. The census return lists all the members of a household, including children, cousins, guests, lodgers and servants, and provides information on status (head of household, spouse, child, etc.) together with each person's age, occupation and place of origin.

Unfortunately, although this is exactly the sort of information that is so valuable to the family history researcher, to obtain it from those censuses already open to the public (now up to 1891), one must know the place of residence. This basic information is often sadly lacking.

The tremendous advantage to be gained from indexing a complete population census in terms of the family name and given name of everyone listed, should be clear. And this is what has been achieved in the case of the 1881

UK Population Census. Researchers who don't know the precise address of their ancestor or even the district where he or she lived, would have to invest years in the reading of countless names (the actual number is approximately 30 million!) in thousands of microfilmed records, in order to locate their particular target. Unless, of course, the address can be obtained by another route, e.g. a birth, marriage or death record.

The 1881 Census Indexing Project has been made possible by the dedicated work of thousands of volunteers over the past eight years, and is a tribute to the cooperation of very many people on an international level. It has involved cooperation between such bodies as the LDS Family History Library, the Scottish Association of Family History Societies, the Federation of Family History Societies and the British Genealogical Records Users' Committee.

It was generally agreed that maximum benefit to family history researchers would be achieved by indexing the census for the year 1881, since the 1881 census begins where many family records end, at a time of exceptionally large immigration. The execution of this enormous project may be viewed as comprising four discrete phases.

In the first phase, the original census was transcribed on to standardized forms. The LDS church provided photocopies of each page of the original census, totaling a weight of over 7,000 kg of paper, to the National Family History Society coordinator. These sheets were then divided, assigned and

distributed among the local coordinators from 98 family history societies and 10 LDS volunteers who handled the transcription in their areas. Nearly 10,000 volunteers worked together on this phase in which the transcriptions were made separately by two people, and then carefully checked by a third, to ensure accuracy, and then sent to a Management Centre in London.

The second phase required the careful re-checking of the transcriptions to ensure a high level of accuracy in the indexes. This work of evaluation was very labor intensive and required much patience and concentration.

The third phase of the project saw each census entry inputted twice on to a computer database, using an LDS Church designed software program called University Data Entry. The transcribed sheets were again distributed to the 90 data entry centers. When accuracy was assured, over 11,000 computer disks containing the data were shipped from the Management Centre to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

Phase four required the actual indexing of the names on the 1881 census. When the LDS Family History Library received the disks for one entire county (a territorial division forming the chief unit of local administration), the data were loaded into the mainframe computer to be sorted and indexed. Nearly seventy full-time Family History Library staffers managed this phase of the project. The final index, stored on laser-printed microfiche, was then made available to the public.

In addition to creating a copy of the original census (in which residents are arranged in the order they were interviewed) census project workers rearranged the data in other ways as follows.

Surname Index:

An alphabetical listing of all family names within each county by family name, given name and age.

Birthplace Index:

An alphabetical listing of all family names grouped by birthplace. Within this

arrangement, individuals are listed alphabetically by family name and age.

Census Place Index:

An alphabetical listing of all family names grouped by census place (place of residence on 3rd April 1881). Within this arrangement, individuals are listed alphabetically by family name and age.

List of Ships:

An alphabetical listing of all ships named in the census. Within this arrangement, individuals are listed alphabetically by family name, given name and age.

List of Institutions:

An alphabetical listing of all institutions, schools, hostels, workhouses, orphanages, barracks, prisons, hotels, hospitals and so on. Within this arrangement, individuals are listed alphabetically by family name, given name and age.

The success of this project was largely achieved by the cumulative labor of thousands of dedicated volunteers. The number of volunteer hours devoted to the project during the 43 months since its inception in 1987 has been estimated at 2.5 million.

Unfortunately, members of our own little genealogical community, who plod away year after year solving our individual family mysteries, seem to be rarely prepared, in the spirit of altruism, to invest time working for the good of the family history researchers of the future.

It would be unreasonable to suggest that Israeli family history researchers consider the undertaking of a project comparable with the 1881 UK census indexing. However, to tackle something far more modest in scale which could constitute a valuable long-term aid for the genealogists of our children's generation, is certainly practicable.

If each of our members were to be asked to suggest a project most worthy of a volunteer genealogical project, I'm sure that the ideas would be almost as numerous as our society membership. Each of us has his own pet interest that he or she would like to promote. Some would suggest the indexing of the 19th

century Montefiore censuses, others the completion of indexing the 1939 Mandatory census of the Jews of Jerusalem, while a few would recommend the 1905 census or the indexing of the volumes listing old gravestones on the Mount of Olives. I think that my own preference might be the indexing of the newly acquired microfilms of the Great Synagogue, London, registers of births, marriages and burials, or the Jewish Chronicle (1841-present day) notices of family events (engagements, marriages, births, deaths, etc.).

Whatever the conclusions reached, most of the above aims are capable of realization by

English Wills And Their Use In Genealogy

Anthony Joseph

All genealogists will be aware of the value of wills and the probate system as a research source. The English database of this material is in many ways very user-friendly and is always worth considering if an ancestor or other relative has had estate administered in England and Wales.

The modern system dates from 1st January 1858, since when all grants have been recorded centrally at the Principal Probate Registry in London. These grants may have been issued in London or in a number of provincial probate offices in different parts of England and Wales, but their records are also integrated within the Central Administrative System at Somerset House, Strand, London.

For authorization of an administration or grant, the deceased testator must have had assets based somewhere in England or Wales, and the testator's executors need to have obtained permission to distribute these assets via a proclamation of probate. The date of the probate grant governs the year of index in which the testator's proven will is listed. Usually, this is within a few months or a year or so of the date of death, but there are instances where grants have been recorded many years after the testator has died. In some cases, the grant may be reissued if further assets are subsequently traced, or if interlocking transactions are necessary involving more than one person's death.

individual, as opposed to community effort, and when one considers the difficulty of organizing the latter, perhaps it's just as well.

Rabbi Tarfon used to say, "It is not your duty to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it." Considering the high average age of our membership, it's fitting to remember this.

Acknowledgement: For much of the background information on the 1881 Indexing Project, the writer is indebted to a 1996 article in *Western Ancestor* by Stephen C. Young.

More commonly than not, the deceased has died somewhere in England or Wales, and a grant will be recorded in the Calendars of Probate if there are any distributable assets under the jurisdiction of the English and Welsh territories. Although it's a myth that this system is only patronized by wealthy people, it has been estimated that only about 30% of the population people leave wills.

Despite a tendency for the truth of "the greater the wealth, the greater the chance of a will," many estates of very small sums have also left their appropriate records, to be discovered by the fortunate family history researcher.

The Calendars of Probates have been filed annually since 1858, and a full set is available to the public for consultation at Somerset House. Many district register offices also have sets of these volumes in addition to always holding copies of their local grants. Often, the Local Studies Department of public libraries have copies of the earlier volumes. Until very recently, a visitor to Somerset House could arrange while there, on payment of a very small fee, to see the will of the deceased testator. However, a few months ago the repositories were moved from Somerset House and this process is now tediously arranged via a fax and involves considerable delay. If the will documentation is discovered at Somerset House, copies can be ordered

either to be collected there a few days later, or posted to the inquirer.

Prior to 1858, the administration of wills and probates was the responsibility of numerous regional offices which have not been integrated into a centrally-indexed form. Although the wills available from these offices may be very useful, it's necessary to know which particular office is involved. The two most important of these district registries are the Prerogative Courts of Canterbury and York.

Many details from the former office are now housed in the new Family Records Centre at Myddleton Street, London E.C.1. Furthermore, this same new office contains copies of the estate duty registers from 1786-1858 and lists all estates upon which any duty was payable. It also gives an indication as to which district registry might hold the original will. In fact, the death duty registers extend well beyond 1858, but their function has been effectively taken over by the existence of the Principal Probate Registry. An important secondary index is the list of Jewish administrations from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury up to 1848, compiled by the late Arthur Arnold and published by the Jewish Historical Society of England.

Application procedure. The correct procedure is to request and complete an Application for a Search in which the applicant will be required to supply the following basic information: Surname and forenames of deceased, last known address and date of death. In the case of postal inquiries, the form should be sent to the Probate Registry at Duncombe Place, York YO1 2EA, together with a search fee of £2.00 for each 3-year period searched. If the search is successful, the request will be passed on to

the issuing Registry, who will supply copies of the Will and/or Grant as required.

Wills where the deceased resided in Scotland or Ireland. The relevant addresses for applications are: H.M. General Register House, Edinburgh EH1 3YY (for Scottish records prior to 1974); the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 66 Balmoral St., Belfast BT9 6NY (for Northern Ireland records where death occurred more than 7 years ago); the Probate Office, Four Courts, Dublin 7 (for Republic of Ireland records).

The quantity of information in the Principal Probate Registry annual indexes varies with different periods of the system and becomes increasingly less informative as time goes on. For the past 25 years or so, the index listing has merely given the name and date of death of the deceased and his/her last principal place of residence. While this is usually enough to identify the person if the name is uncommon, it may be very difficult to decide, on the basis of such meager data, whether or not to purchase the complete will. However, even after taking such difficulties into account, it's important not to neglect such an interesting and valuable potential source of genealogical information.

Note: Dr. A.P. Joseph is a partner in a busy medical practice in Birmingham and was, until recently, also President of the Jewish Historical Society of England. He is currently an Honorary vice-president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain and, with his wife Judy, runs the International Jewish Genealogical Research (IJFR UK). This is a research organization dedicated to the aim of helping family history researchers explore their Jewish roots.

The Hamburg Historic Emigration Office

Elizabeth Sroka

The Historic Emigration Office in Hamburg has a vast and unique collection of emigrant data. If our ancestors came from Europe or Russia, and emigrated to North or South America or Australia by way of the port of Hamburg, there is a high probability that their

names will be among the historic records held by the Emigration Office.

The approximately 420 stored microfilms of the Hamburg Passenger Lists comprise passenger lists of all ships departing from Hamburg during the period 1850 to 1934 and

constitute a valuable historical record of nearly six million persons who left for other parts of the world via that large port.

The search procedure may be summarized as follows: The index to each year is set out in roughly alphabetical order, and when the year of emigration has been established, then the microfilm of the index for that particular year is extracted. Using it, many lists of names are searched until the name being researched is located. The location will indicate the correct page of the appropriate passenger list. The microfilm of that passenger list, comprising page after page of names, not in alphabetical order but recorded in the approximate order that the passengers boarded the ship, must then be read until the correct name is found.

Owing to the labor-intensive nature of searching these records, it is essential to know the year of emigration in order to avoid high search costs. Unfortunately, most family history researchers are not aware of the exact year when their ancestors emigrated, nor do they know with certainty that they emigrated via Hamburg. However, we can often help researchers to at least establish the correct year, using the extensive experience gained in handling similar inquiries over the past 12 years.

Researchers who contact the Historic Emigration Office with search requests pay \$75 per year researched and per family name commencing with a different initial. However, some years and names take more time to

research and will be charged on an hourly work-basis. Regrettably, as we lack computer indexing of names, and for the present have to search manually, we also have to request payment in the case of unsuccessful searches.

The successful inquirer receives a stamped and sealed certificate of the original ship's list, containing the ancestor's personal data, including age, occupation, marital status and last place of residence in Europe before emigrating, together with the name of the ship, its destination and date of sailing. This is one of the few available ways to determine the name of the ancestor's village or city in Europe or Russia.

Until quite recently this work was done under the aegis of the Hamburg Tourist Board. Although the service now continues to operate on the Board's premises, reorganization has resulted in a service for which the writer is entirely responsible.

All family history researchers are invited to write or to come for a visit when in Hamburg. The Historic Emigration Office is located at the main office of the Hamburg Tourist Board (Tourismus-Zentrale Hamburg) and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays and on other days by appointment. Our address is: Elizabeth Sroka, Tourismus-Zentrale Hamburg, Historic Emigration Office, Tel: (49 40) 300 51 282, Steinstr. 7, Fax: (49 40) 300 51 220, (D) 20095 Hamburg, Germany. e-mail: ESrokaHEO@aol.com

In our Library Collection (II): Material on Family Foundations

Reuven Naftali

In the coming year we hope to publish a series of articles describing the material in our library which is relevant to lectures given to our Society.

At a certain stage in family research, when more and more family members become interested in the subject, individual effort often gives way to team work. Sometimes, a family reunion takes place and even becomes a family tradition, often leading to the setting

up of a non-profit family society, with its own journal or news bulletin.

In our library, we have three types of publications issued by families. 1. Family books or pamphlets published on a one-time basis. 2. Collections of abbreviated Family Trees. 3. Material issued by families which have set up non-profit associations and produce family publications and researches. Readers who may have additional information

at their disposal are invited to send it to the writer of this article

When Moshe Shealtiel lectured to our Society in January 1997, he told us, inter alia, about the Shealtiel Family association and bulletin. This is not the only family journal of which a copy is housed in our library. The list given below includes only those families which maintain regular activity and whose publications are in our library. Most family associations in Israel have connections with the Israel Genealogical Society, through either individual or collective membership. Here are details of these associations:

The Frumkin Family Foundation.

The foundation was established in 1974 and the family members hold annual conferences and seminars. As a family with deep roots in the Land, it holds some of its conferences on Independence Day and at places connected with its own history. It has published a family directory, up-dated every few years and a family bulletin, of which 29 issues have appeared to date. In addition, many books and pamphlets have been published on the history of the family.

The Horowitz Family Association.

Its members have held a number of family gatherings (nationally and internationally) since 1991, devoted to family research. As one of the large families in World Jewry, scattered across the world, they have also arranged "Roots" trips to Prague (Czechoslovakia). Our library has 9 issues of their family bulletin and the Association has also issued "House of Horowitz" pamphlets.

The Jaffe Family Association

This family has held two reunions and issued a small number of bulletins. Every few years, a pamphlet on "The Jaffe Family Pedigree" is

published, with up-datings of their Family Tree.

The Eger Family Association

This family has also arranged a number of reunions and their published family pamphlets contain numerous details on the members of the family. Three of these pamphlets, covering mainly the period from 1913 to 1996, are in our library.

The Shealtiel Family

The family held their first reunion in Amsterdam in August 1994 with the second planned to take place in Salonika (Greece) in July 1997. Their journal, called "The Shealtiel Gazette", comes out in English.

Bibliography:

The "Sourcebook for Jewish Genealogies and Family Histories" by David Zubatsky and Irwin Berent (published by the Avotaynu Press) contains surveys of family publications, specifying the main family names in each book and where they appear and from which source a copy may be ordered. Since 1993, Avotaynu has been reviewing family books which have appeared and been distributed to libraries all over the world. Under the heading "New Family Books in Print", the review has appeared in the following issues:-

Vol. IX, Number 4, Winter 1993, pp. 63-64,
Vol. X, Number 4, Winter 1994, pp. 73-74,
Vol. XI, Number 4, Winter 1995, pp. 69-72,
Vol. XII, Number 4, Winter 1996, pp. 78-79.

Readers who would like to receive a copy of the complete list of Family Trees in our Library are invited to apply to the writer of this article, enclosing an envelope and 5 local stamps to cover return post in Israel. Part III will appear in the next journal.

Who knows Barbara Weglinski, her parents or her family?

Pnina Gutmann

I will briefly recapitulate the facts in my previous letter to Sharsheret Hadorot Vol. 10, no. 3, and then give details of what I have learned since then. I hope that all the information will lead to the discovery of

people who can help me to find out about my biological parents. I was born 55 years ago in Poland and came to Israel with my adoptive parents in 1950.

In 1944, when I was two and a half years old, I was found in a railway carriage in the small town of Milanówek near Warsaw. I said then in German that my name was Barbara Rebhun. I was handed over by the Red Cross liaison woman to a Polish family named Kaczmanek. They took care of me, first in Zyrardow near Warsaw and later in Sierakow near Poznan, until 1948.

In March 1948 I was taken from that family by the Central Jewish Committee in Warsaw and transferred to the orphanage at Otwock near Warsaw. After about six months there I was adopted by the Jewish Himmel family of Lodz, with whom I came to Israel.

From June 1966, when I learned of the name Rebhun, I sought the Rebhun family, thinking that they were my biological family. In March 1997, with the help of the Red Cross in Germany, I traced Wolfgang (69) and Adele (67) Rebhun. I met them in Germany and found that they were not my biological family but that our fates were intertwined. From them I learned what had happened to me between the ages of nine months and two and a half years:

I was born in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1942 or at the end of 1941. My parents were a young couple, Warsaw Ghetto fighters, and I was their only daughter. At the end of 1942 or at the beginning of 1943, when I was 9 months old, I was smuggled by my mother out of the ghetto. I was given to Charlotte Rebhun, mother of Wolfgang (then 14) and Adele (then 11) to be cared for until the crisis passed. Charlotte was a Christian and her husband, a

Polish Jew, had perished in Treblinka before I came to them. The family had been expelled from Berlin in 1939, and Charlotte lived in the Aryan part of Warsaw at 33 Krochmalna Street. She hid other Jews, and brought me up as her daughter. I lived with the Rebhun family until August 1944, when during the Polish rising in Warsaw all four of us were seized by the Germans. Wolfgang was sent to Mauthausen, Charlotte and Adele to Czestochowa. I was forcibly taken from them by the Germans and left in the railway station. From then onward the events are known.

The following additional pieces of information were provided by the Rebhuns: When I was handed over to their mother Charlotte I had a certificate round my neck (a birth certificate?) in the name of Weglinski (which in Polish sounds like Wenglinski). In the Rebhuns' opinion this was a false name, and only the name Barbara was real. However, I do not rule out the possibility that Weglinski - a Jewish name too - is the name of my family. When my mother gave me to Charlotte, she said that if she did not come back to take me, Charlotte should send me to my rich relatives in America. I know nothing of them.

I should be grateful to anyone who can give me information about a young couple (Weglinski?) or their family who were in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1942 and had a baby girl named Barbara. Please help me to solve the riddle of my life and complete the mosaic. Only the first nine months are now missing!

Pnina Gutmann, Kfar Meischar, 76850 Israel,
Tel: 08-8591693, Fax: 08-8596702.

Amongst those who went out of France to the Death Camps

Mathilde Tagger

From studying Serge Klarsfeld's book "Memorial to the Jews deported from France, 1942-1944 (published in English in Paris, 1983), one learns that some 72,000 Jews were seized by the Vichy police in cooperation with the Gestapo and dispatched to extermination camps. A third of them were French citizens and the rest were Jews from Poland, Russia, Roumania, Algeria, Greece, Turkey, etc. these included 53 with Palestinian citizenship. The

book contains the 77 (alphabetical) lists of names corresponding to the transports which left the borders of France en route for the East. At times, entire families, evidenced by places and dates of birth were sent to their death.

These lists were prepared on the basis of the original S.S. registers. The physical state of the original transcripts was often bad and this made the work quite difficult. Consequently, one sometimes finds errors in the names of

persons and places. It should also be remembered that French spelling predominates (e.g. Varsovie instead of Warsaw, Cracovie instead of Cracow).

All statistics are taken from tables in the book's introduction, where the numbers of victims are listed by nationality. Of persons born in Palestine (or Land of Israel), 101 were born here, but possessed various nationalities -

often Polish, British or Turkish. There were 12 natives of Haifa, 21 of Jaffa, 47 of Jerusalem, 12 of Safed, 6 of Tel Aviv and 2 from Rishon-le-Zion. Their family names can be found in the Hebrew version of this article. The number accompanying several names indicates that there were two persons with that particular name.

About some of our members

Mathilde Tagger

When the late Joachim Eilon was nominated editor of Sharsheret Hadorot a few years ago, he asked me to write some brief notes on the subject of Jewish names for this journal. I was delighted at the opportunity since this subject has always interested me.

I confess that as the last issue was going to press, the thought occurred to me that maybe we should for once publish something brief but lighter in tone - especially in summertime. Then I suddenly hit on the subjects to be tackled. Why should we not talk about the names of some of our members who are giving voluntary service in our Society? We could start with a random selection of first names if only because each of the members involved was born in a different country. Except for two who have names drawn from foreign languages, they all possess Hebrew names. I hope they will forgive me for dealing with such personal matters.

Every newborn is given a name according to a number of patterns - after a grandfather or grandmother on the mother's or the father's side, after a beloved relative who has passed away, after some highly esteemed person (dead or alive) or simply because the sound or meaning of the name appealed to the parents.

Without setting any particular sequence, we shall discuss the following names:

Suzie

This is short for Susanna, which comes from the Hebrew name Shoshan (Lily). The bearer of this name has recently joined our Editorial Board as typesetter. Have you noticed the

adornments she has added between one article and the next? Three cheers for Suzie.

Reuven

This Hebrew name comes from the Bible. Literally, it means "look at the fellow" who has joined our Society. He has a job wrestling with the preparations of indexes for our journal and with the daunting task of maintaining our library.

Tsemach

Another Hebrew name. One of his aims is to try, as far as he can, to make the income keep on growing. After all, he is our devoted honorary treasurer. Some call him Seth - another Hebrew name we shall discuss some other time.

Lucien

This is a French name (for he was born in Belgium), which comes from the Latin word "lux" (light). With his great expertise, he translates into English some of the articles in this journal which throw light on the subject matter for the benefit of our overseas readers.

Harold

An Old English name, deriving from "here" (army) and "weald" (ruler). Indeed our Harold keeps a firm hold on a whole regiment of English language journals in order to provide us with summaries of the most interesting articles he discovers.

Esther

This a Persian biblical name, derived from a goddess named Ashtoreth or from the word "stara" (star). I even managed to find a humorous connection with our beloved

chairperson, who gives very serious attention to every matter brought before her. She is the fairest guide and discussion leader for us all and we can rely on her completely as does the shepherd who follows the northern "star".

New Year greetings to those I have mentioned and to all our members.

Bibliography

Hanks & Hodges: Dictionary of First Names. Oxford University Press, 1994. xxxvi, pp. 443.

English JGS Journal Selections

Compiled by Harold Lewin

Please view this selection as just a convenient guide to some of the more useful JGS literature. If you do find something interesting, make an effort to read the original article, for the summary never does it justice. Please accept apologies for any missing credits, and note each article's approximate length (eg. 3pp). The title has occasionally had to be modified or truncated.

BALTIC STATES

Jewish Given Names in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: Alexander Beider

Explanation of various name suffixes, diminutives and pejorative names forced on the Jewish population by an ignorant and antisemitic bureaucracy, is combined with an excellent historical review. 6pp (2)

Pinkas of the Chevra Kadisha of Slutsk:

Harry D.Boonin, et al.,

The most complete Chevra Kadisha pinkas extant, covering the period 1680-1924, is being transcribed and put into database form by a team of four volunteers. 6pp (2)

FORMER U.S.S.R. INCLUDING C.I.S.

To Register or Not in Czarist Russia:

ChaeRan Y.Freeze

Deliberate non-registration of births among both Jews and non-Jews in the Russian Empire and suggestions for circumventing this major difficulty. 4pp (1)

Understanding Russian-Jewish Given

Names: Boris Feldblyum

An excellent treatment of the phenomena of multiple and alternative given names within the Russian empire, coupled with instructive historical explanations. 8pp (2)

What is Your Name?: Beulah-Rose Gross

The adoption of differing family names by male siblings in 19th century Russia is explained in terms of avoidance of kidnapping

and/or army conscription, since the eldest son was exempt from the draft. 1pp

New Web Site for Rusian Poland Research: Gene Starn

A partial list of towns in Kielce and Radom gubernias. 1pp (7)

FRANCE

Jewish Cemeteries in Paris: H.Daniel

Wagner

A useful list of phone and fax numbers and addresses of offices and cemeteries in and outside Paris. 1pp (1)

Basic Genealogical Research in France:

Basile Ginger

Historical and updated information on accessing French vital records, naturalization documents and records of provincial archives. 4pp (1)

GERMANY

Hamburg Emigration Indexes and Their Reliability: Jurgen Sielemann

The 300,00 file cards compiled by Werner Kluber during the 1960s and 70s constitute a reliable information source, in contrast with the data in Germans to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports, Vols 1-50 by Glazier and Filby which, according to Antonius Holtmann, (in the German magazine Genealogie), cannot be trusted. 1pp (1)

Civil Vital Records for Berlin Jews

Discovered: Edward D.Luft, et al.,

These records (1840-1874) were discovered in the Archives of Brandenburg Province, Potsdam, which also holds lists (1812-16) of Jews in smaller localities, and other useful records. 2pp (2)

Recent Acquisitions of the Leo Baeck

Institute: Claus W.Hirsch

A review of important holdings of interest to genealogists as well as an over-view of recent

additions was given by Dr. Frank Mecklenburg and Karen S. Franklin. 2pp (3)

HUNGARY

Budapest Cemetery Computerized: Ruth E. Gruber

Information on the main Jewish cemetery on Kozma Utca in Budapest has been computerized and it's now possible to pinpoint the location of any grave. 1pp (2)

ISRAEL

Batya Unterschatz Offers Research Service: Editorial

Batya is now available to do private research on archival material in Israel, including translation. Fax No. 2-534-6573. 1pp (3)

ITALY

Two Key Italian Resources for Jewish Genealogists: Ruth E. Gruber

The Center for Contemporary Jewish Documentation (CDEC) has a 15,000 volume library including monographs on specific Italian-Jewish families and Jewish communities. Also 90 linear meters of historic documents and other archival materials. 1pp (2)

POLAND

19th/20th c. Polish Directories as Gen. Resources: Jeffrey K. Cymbler

An excellent list of business and street directories from 19th and early 20th century German, Russian and Austro-Hungarian Poland with summaries of their contents. 7pp (1)

New Data on Stutthof Concentration Camp: Peter Lande

Camp records from Stutthof Museum, near Danzig, comprising 302 reels of microfilm, have been acquired by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. 2pp (2)

Holocaust Museum Acquisition of Polish Survivors List: Peter Lande

The Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw has given a 13-roll microfilm set listing more than 300,000 Polish Holocaust survivors, to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Note: The following Holocaust-related reports also appear on the same page:

Death List from Gross Rosen Concentration Camp Published by Polish Archives.

Auschwitz Prisoner Registration Names Now on Internet. 1pp (2)

Polish Business and Telephone Directories Donated: Jeffrey K. Cymbler

The Jewish Genealogical Society donated 12 microfilm reels of late 19th and early 20th c. Polish business, street and telephone directories, to the New York Public Library. 2pp (3)

The Jewish Community of Krakow: Geoffrey Weisgard

An interesting history providing useful genealogical source information: 4pp (5)

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN (& IRELAND)

Information Resources for Scottish Genealogy: Harvey L. Kaplan

Information relating to Scottish naturalization records, and vital statistics are housed at the Public Record Office (PRO), Kew, the Edinburgh Public Records Office or the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre. 1pp (1)

Jewish Population in 1851 Religious Census of Gt. Britain: Glen Eker

The Ecclesiastical or Church census was directed towards religious institutions and gives name and denomination of each place of worship. In England and Wales 53 synagogues in 1851 accommodated 8,438 person. A table illustrates the geographic distribution. 2pp (7)

UNITED STATES

Jewish Genealogical Research Trip to Salt Lake City: Gary Mokotoff

Details provided on week of guided research during period 6-13 November 1997 at cost of \$640 per person. 2pp (1)

Location of U.S. Naturalization Records: Claire Prechtel-Klusens

American naturalization processes and procedures are described with access numbers of naturalization microfilm records. 2pp (1)

New York Vital Records: Sheila Kieval and Alex Friedlander

New York Vital Records: Sheila Kieval and Alex Friedlander

An expanded version of a Sheila Kieval information file prepared for JewishGen. 6pp (3)

New York Resources Update: Estelle Guzik

17 New York institutions holding important material of help to genealogists are listed and updated. 2pp (4)

American Resources II: David Fielker

An interesting story in serial form of a British researcher's perseverance in searching for American cousins. 3pp (6)

JEWISH GENEALOGY - GENERAL University Libraries as a Genealogical Resource: Michael J. Meshenberg

Biographical references and general/Jewish genealogical reference works to be found in a university research library. 3pp (1)

New Acquisitions at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum: Peter Lande

New lists detailed of Holocaust victims and survivors. 2pp (1)

The Mathematics of Ancestry: Richard Panchyk

The influence of cousin intermarriage on the number of ancestors is explained. Without such intermarriage the number of our direct ancestors in the year 1295 would have exceeded 134 million. 2pp (1)

Avotaynu Back Issues Now Available on CD-ROM: Gary Mokotoff

For just under \$100 one can buy all back issues of Avotaynu on CD-ROM. Using the Folio search tool, any required article is accessible by specifying key words or combinations thereof. 1pp (2)

New Data on Stutthof Concentration Camp: Peter Lande

Camp records from Stutthof Museum, near Danzig, comprising 302 reels of microfilm, have been acquired by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. 2pp (2)

Computer Imaging Your family Photos: Allen Shifrin and Susannah Juni

Hardware selection criteria for scanning copies of photos/documents into a computerized family history. 2pp (3)

Consolidated Jewish Surname Index Updated on Web: Editorial

The updated Surname Index now available on Web, indexes over 200,000 Jewish surnames found in 23 different databases. 1pp (3)

GENEALOGY & COMPUTERS

New Genealogical Software Developments: Editorial

Recent advances in Family Tree Maker, Family Gathering for Windows and other programs are described. Information supplemented and corrected in subsequent issue. 1pp (3), (4)

European Town Plans Source: Editorial

Detailed street maps of many European cities from late 19th century available from Generations Press, California. 1pp (3)

Key to Journal References

Ref. No.	Journal	Area	Issue			
			Period	Year	Vol.	No.
1.	Avotaynu	International	Spring	1997	8	1
2.	Avotaynu	International	Summer	1997	8	2
3.	Dorot	New York	Spring	1997	18	2-3
4.	Dorot	New York	Summer	1997	4	4
5.	Shemot	Great Britain	April	1997	5	1
6.	Shemot	Great Britain	July	1997	5	2
7.	Shem Tov	Canada	March	1997	8	1