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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Sharsharet Hadorot continues to make improvements. We are proud to present in this issue the index to articles of the first 12 volumes of *Sharsharet Hadorot*. The IGS Librarian, Reuven Naftali, prepared the previous index for the first 7 volumes. Mr. Abraham Leibowitz, a member of the Library committee has edited a complete index incorporating the first 12 volumes. From here on, he will index the volumes annually. I want to thank all the volunteers who worked on the index, Avraham Leibowitz, Reuven Naftali and Mathilde Tagger. Well done!

This issue is a double one and completes the current volume. The first issue of the next volume will begin with the Jewish New Year. All subsequent volumes will be based on the Hebrew calendar.

The editorial committee of *Sharsharet Hadorot* wishes everyone a prosperous and happy "Shana Tova". Together with you we begin the New Year and the new millenium with a new image.

Aviva Neeman.

The editorial board apologizes for the irregular type-setting of this issue unfortunately due to last minute technical difficulties.

**The editor and members share in the grief of our member and friend Esther Ramon
and her family on the passing of her husband
SHMUEL z"l**

The Association of Lithuanian Jews in Israel and its Archives*

Reuven Naftali

On the initiative of our member Rose Lerer Cohen, convenor of SIG Lithuania, we met the chairman, archivist and members of the Association of Lithuanian Jews in Israel in December 1998 at their offices, where they presented an overview of their Association, its activities and its archive. The information in this article is based on what they told us and on their answers to a questionnaire, as well as on publications of the Association (which I deposited in our library).

Address: 1 David Hamelech Blvd., Tel Aviv 64953. Tel. 03-6964812.

Chairman: Advocate Joseph A. Melamed

Archive Director: Rachel Levin-Rosenzweig

The archive is open on Mondays between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The Association of Lithuanian Jews in Israel was founded in 1932, and today has 2000 members. The main center is in Tel Aviv, with branches in Haifa, Jerusalem, and Rishon le-Zion. Additional branches are planned in Netanya, Rehovot and Petach Tikvah. Dozens of Litvaks in the Diaspora (chiefly in the United States, Canada, Britain and South Africa) have joined the Association. In most of these countries, Landsmannschaften (groups from the same place of origin, usually in Eastern Europe) used to exist. They existed in Israel too, but not many remain.

In addition to the usual social and public activities, the Association helps groups and individuals to publish Yizkor books. In recent years, since Lithuania regained its independence in 1991, a number of Association members (mainly ex-partisans and underground fighters) have watched the government of independent Lithuania launch a deliberate campaign to falsify the history of the Holocaust in Lithuania, denying the great part played by Lithuanians in the murder of Jews, and failing to put the murderers on trial. These members decided to act. They set up a memorial committee which produces publications, disseminates information and makes protests throughout the world. They hope to arouse public opinion, and most of all to remember and remind the world what Amalek did to our people in Lithuania. Some of the committee's pamphlets in the series "Zachor ve-Hazker" have been deposited in our library.

The Association initiated the publication of "Yahadut Lita" (Lithuanian Jewry), a work in four volumes containing a wealth of information on the history of Lithuanian Jewish communities from the middle of the thirteenth century until after the Holocaust. The volumes also contain much information on the leaders and parnassim of the communities, on rabbis, teachers, physicians, writers etc. The organ of the Association, "Gachelet", published in Hebrew, Yiddish and English, is a source of valuable genealogical information. The periodically issued "Daf Meda" (Information Sheet) of the Association is also of great interest.

Lithuanian Jewry in its great days established the tradition of the Lithuanian Yeshivot. The existing Yeshivot in Israel of Ponevezh, Slobodka and others keep in touch with the Association, and send representatives to the memorial days of the various communities.

The Association has sponsored a number of memorial exhibitions and has begun to organize "Journeys in Search of Roots". It also encourages remembrance activity among young people and in schools, and a number of scholarships are distributed.

On joining the Association, members are asked what town, township or village they came from, and the name of the place is entered in the membership index. Many people from Israel and abroad apply to the Association for help in finding relatives. The information in the index makes it possible to refer applicants to members from the same place, who perhaps knew missing relatives who perished in the Holocaust. I personally was helped by this index to reach friends of my

relatives. My relatives remained in Lithuania, whereas their friends left for Palestine in the nineteen-thirties. They were all photographed together in Lithuania. My relatives were murdered in the Holocaust, but thanks to their friends who came to this country, I now have information about them and photographs of them. The walls of the rooms in the Association's Tel Aviv center are covered with memorial plaques and pictures of people, institutions and Jewish organizations that once existed in Lithuania.

About 20 years ago, Professor Dov Levin of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, together with the Association, initiated the setting up of a central archive of Lithuanian Jewish history. Basic information on the contents of the archive can be found on page 73 of "A Guide to Genealogical Research in Israel". The following information is based on the questionnaire and on a preliminary survey only. A detailed examination of the genealogical material has yet to be made.

The archive is housed in a room at the Association's Tel Aviv center, and is open to the public (see above for hours). Researchers who use material from the archive are required to acknowledge this and to give a copy of their work to the archive. Users include historians, students, teachers, school pupils, journalists and people researching family history. The material in the archive comes from a variety of sources. Some is from private individuals who found the archive a place to leave the little that remained to them from Lithuania. Copies of documents brought from other archives, such as YIVO in New York, make up another section. The archive also receives contributions of books and memorial pamphlets connected with Lithuania, and copies of research studies dealing with the Holocaust. Miscellaneous material includes documents and photographs from Lithuania, kindergarten and school reports from Lithuania, and invitations to events organized by Jewish institutions and cultural bodies in Lithuania between the two World Wars.

After the Holocaust, Lithuanian Jews from different townships formed Landsmannschaften, one of their aims being to produce a memorial book for the people of their locality who perished in the Holocaust. Many of these Landsmannschaften no longer exist (as noted above), but some of them transferred their archives to the Association's archive. Material is received in many languages: Yiddish, Hebrew, English, Lithuanian, Russian, German, and even Danish. For an example of the kinds of material received, see Gachelet of April 1998.

Brief bibliography (books marked * are in our library)

1. Beider, A. A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire. Teaneck, N.J. 1993.
2. Greenbaum, Masha. The Jews of Lithuania. Jerusalem 1995.
3. Pinkas Hakehilot, Lita: Encyclopedia of Jewish settlements from their foundation until after the Holocaust of the Second World War. (Hebrew)
4. * Rhode, Harold and Sallyann Amdur Sack, compilers. Jewish Vital Records, Revision Lists & other Jewish Records in the Lithuanian Archives. Teaneck, N.J. 1996.
5. Schoenburg, Nancy and Stuart. Lithuanian Jewish Communities. Garland Publishing Co., N.Y. 1991.
6. Yahadut Lita, vol.1 - From the 14th century until 1918. (Hebrew)
7. Yahadut Lita, vol.2 -The Jews in Lithuania, 1918-1941. (Hebrew)
8. Yahadut Lita, vol.3 - People and Places of Settlement. (Hebrew)
9. * Yahadut Lita, vol.4 - The Holocaust, 1941-1945. (Hebrew)
10. Yehudei Haarazot Habaltiot (Jews of the Baltic Lands). Bibliography compiled and edited by Frieda Keidanski, Jerusalem 1997. (Hebrew)

** Translated from the Spring 1999 Issue*

The 17th century was a tragic period for both the Jewish and Polish populations. There were wars with Sweden and with Russia. A Cossack Ukrainian revolt broke out in 1648 led by Bohdan Chmielnicki against the Poles who ruled Ukrainian territories. During this revolt about half of the Jewish population was decimated.

At the end of the 18th century, the successive partitions of Poland (1772, 1793, 1795) by its three neighbors (Prussia to the West, Austria to the South and Russia to the East) led to the disappearance of a Polish sovereign state for 123 years. The Polish language and the fight against the germanization and russification remained the major sign of Polish identity. Jews accepted more easily the germanization and russification and this factor became one of the causes of conflict between Jews and Poles.

The Napoleonic conquest of 1807 did not return Polish sovereignty but brought legislative reforms including the idea of citizenship, which was embodied in the Codex Napoleoni. Civil records were established in particular in the Duchy of Warsaw (1807-1815). After Napoleon's defeat, the Congress of Vienna (1815) established what is called a "fourth partition" of what used to be Poland. The "Kingdom of Poland", a territory under Russian control, had partial autonomy. Several Polish insurrections against the occupiers occurred in 1831, 1848, and 1863. After the 1863 uprising, Russia retaliated and increased its russification policy in the territories: civil records started to be registered in Cyrillic after 1865 and migration within the Russian Empire and the Pale of Settlement was strictly controlled by the Tzar.

In Galicia (Austria), a decree was issued in 1787 in which German-sounding family names were imposed. A legend said that the adoption of pleasant surnames cost money and nicer names cost even more. Poor people were even given pejorative names such as Hund (dog). The Jews got names which sounded German, thus adding to their being strangers among the Polish population of Galicia. The equality of rights for Jews in the Austro-Hungarian Empire was granted in 1867. In the Western regions, which were under Prussian control, a rigid bureaucracy kept track of Jewish records.

In united Germany, the constitution of 1871 gave equality of rights to Jews, although citizenship had been given to rich Jews in some German states since 1833. In Russia, surnames were adopted in 1804, and equality of rights was granted only in 1917 during the Bolshevik Revolution. In the Kingdom of Poland, equality was granted in 1862. At the same time some Jewish taxes were abolished (e.g. kosher tax), Jews could study at Russian universities and professional restrictions were lifted.

In 1918, the Treaty of Versailles restored Poland's sovereignty.
See Poland map in the Hebrew part page 4.

Sources

The Central Archives of the Jewish People holds mainly historical documents, but there are as well some genealogical records, e.g.:

Bialystok: birth, marriage and death registers from 1835-1877

Ciechanowicz: birth, marriage and death records 1839-1870

Krakow: births, banns, marriage, divorce and death registers, 1788-1855

Lomza: fragmentary records from 1829-1865 etc.

For any information concerning Polish records, contact Hanna Volovici at the archives:
Archives@vms.huji.ac.il

Major Events in the History of Poland Their Significance for Jewish Genealogical Research

Hanna Volovici

For a genealogist, a survey of border changes is extremely important, because it indicates clearly in which country his/her ancestors lived. The changes in borders usually imply important administrative, social, cultural and linguistic processes. For example, the city of Lvov, with its large and well-established Jewish community, was part of Poland until 1772. It then was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1918 and then reverted to Poland until 1939. After World War II it became part of the Soviet Union, and following the collapse of the Soviet Empire Lvov was part of the Ukraine from 1991. As a result of these changes, the name of the city was spelled consecutively Lwow, Lemberg, Lvov and now Lviv.

Poland, as an independent state, was created at the end of the 10th century by Mieszko I who united some Slavic tribes into what is essentially the same territory as exists today. In 966, Mieszko was baptized and Poland became a Christian country. The existence of coins with the name King Mieszko III written in Hebrew, indicates an early presence of Jews in Poland, as he ruled in the 12th century. The oldest known Jewish tombstone is in Wroclaw (Breslau), Silesia, and dates from 1203. The Prince of Kalisz gave the first privilege to his Jews in 1264. "Privilege" meant the right to settle in a certain area, to organize communitary and religious life, the right of economic activities, protection of Prince, etc.

In the 13th century, the marriage of Lithuanian Prince Jagiello with the Polish Princess Jadwiga sealed the union of the two countries, which could then easier withstand the Teutonic invasions. The Jagiellonian dynasty lasted until 1572. It was a period of territorial expansion of the Polish-Lithuanian State and of important cultural development. The Jagiellonian University of Krakow, founded in 1364, is one of the oldest universities in Europe, following Padova and Oxford. Copernicus studied there. The Polish-Lithuanian State lasted until 1795.

Jews came and settled in Poland after every disaster that occurred in Western Europe: massacres during the Crusades, expulsions, the Black Death. But these were not the only reasons. Jews settled in Poland because it was a country that was expanding and offered economic opportunities for traders and craftsmen. In the Germanic countries in the 16th century, Martin Luther was inciting against the Jews and some German Protestant princes tried to limit the number of Jews in their states. The emigration to Poland continued throughout the 16th and 17th centuries. At the same time, other German princes wanted to attract rich Jewish families into their countries. For example, in 1671 Frederick brought to Brandenburg fifty wealthy Jewish families. They originated from Vienna having been expelled a year earlier by Emperor Leopold.

Almost up to the partition period, Poland-Lithuania granted the Jews a large degree of autonomy. The Jews had their own parliament, which was called Vaad Arba Aratzot. They had their own communitary organizations (kehillot) and provinces (aratzot) whose representatives since 1580 had regular official meetings. This form of self-government concerned the Jews from Greater Poland (Wielkopolska), Lesser Poland (Malopolska), Volhynia, Mazowsze and Lithuania. Lithuanian Jews left this parliament in 1623 forming their own autonomy. Jewish Sejm was active in Poland up to its dissolution in 1764.

Bibliography

- Davies, Norman. *God's Playground; a history of Poland*. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1981.
- Hundert, Gershon & Gershon Bacon. *The Jews in Poland and Russia; bibliographical essays*, Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 1985;
- Lerski, George J.: *Historical Dictionary of Poland, 966-1945*. Westport, Greenwood Press, 1996;
- Mendelsohn, Ezra: *The Jews in East Central Europe between the World Wars*. Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 1983;
- Polin, *Journal of Polish-Jewish Studies*. Great Britain. Oxford, Blackwell. Annual. Vol. 1-11, appears since 1986.

Hanna Volovici is archivist at the Central Archives of the Jewish People, Hebrew University Givat Ram Campus Jerusalem.

Jerusalem Sephardi Community Council Historical Archive

Ephraim Levi

This archive is a remnant of a larger archive spanning hundreds of years, from the beginnings of the Sephardi community in Jerusalem. Time has eroded this priceless source of documentation, and only a few documents remain from the earliest period. The bulk of the surviving material is documentation from the end of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century.

The Archive contains:

1. Letters to and from bodies in Palestine and abroad, mainly about the poverty-stricken existence of the Sephardi community.
2. Reports from emissaries sent by rabbis of Sephardi kollelim to towns abroad
3. Protocols of Sephardi kollelim from the year 1900, which shed light on the Ottoman regime and its relations with the community.
4. Protocols of the Sephardi Chevra Kadisha up to 1948.
5. Extensive correspondence with the World Federation of Sephardi Jews, with the "Chalutzei Hamizrach" organization, with Jewish communities in the East, the Balkans, Central Asia, Russia and Eastern Europe (the Ashkenazi stronghold of Chassidim and Mitnagdim), with the Ashkenazi community in Jerusalem ("Ha-Vaad ha-Klali Knesset Yisrael"), and with representatives of communities, synagogues and organizations.
6. Correspondence with the British Mandatory Government 1918-1948, with the Zionist Executive, the Vaad Leumi (Jewish National Council), the Jerusalem Jews' city council and other institutions of the Sephardi community such as the Misgav Ladach hospital, the Sephardi Home for the Aged, the Home for the Education of Orphans.
7. Material of genealogical importance:

*Lists of members of the Sephardi community in Jerusalem between 1905 and 1910. These lists include: a) Name of the father of the family and his year of birth according to the Ottoman fiscal year (year of birth according to the fiscal year is equivalent with a difference of a year or a year and a half to the Muslim Hijra year). (b) Name of the mother of the family, her year of birth and her father's name and surname. c) Names of the children and their dates of birth (if a son is already married, he is registered separately).

The lists are arranged by neighbourhoods of Jerusalem, called by the names used in those days: Meod, Sinisli, Rahelia, Yehudiya, Yisraeliya, Musrara, etc. (Musrara is still a neighbourhood name today). Every household is registered according to the number of the house in which it lives in the neighbourhood. Although the material is not plentiful, it is most important for family history research, as it gives us full details of family members and their birth dates.

*Registers of ketuboth (marriage contracts) of the Sephardi community in Jerusalem from 1893-1951. Every marriage record contains the following details: Name of the bridegroom and of his father, name of the bride, her father's name and surname, the amount of the ketubah, and the full Hebrew date of the wedding.

*Mortality registers of Sephardim buried on the Mount of Olives and in "Sanbuski" from 1909-1948. The details recorded are: name of the deceased (sometimes with father's name, age (only in some of the records), and exact date of death.

These details are written in "half-kulmus" cursive script. This material is kept in a safe belonging to the Sephardi Chevra Kadisha. The author has photocopies.

*Files of persons and emissaries containing correspondence with Council institutions. There are notebooks of income and expenses from Sephardi kollelim of earlier years touching on all the communal services, including aid and support for expenses connected with the relations between the Ottoman Imperial authorities and the Chevra Kadisha. These notebooks date from about 1758-1800. They are damaged by moisture and mould and some are in an advanced state of rot and disintegration caused by water used to extinguish a fire that destroyed part of the archive. The residual moisture has done serious harm to the notebooks, despite later efforts by the Sephardi Council to arrest the damage and restore and preserve the material.

*Earlier documents called "hujitim", i.e. bills of purchase, sale and lease of lands acquired from Arab residents of Silwan for cemetery burial purposes on the Mount of Olives, or lands acquired in other parts of the city.

*Correspondence files of the Sephardi Beth Din (rabbinical court) dealing with questions of personal status, laws about money etc. from 1930-1948.

This historical archive has itself had a well-nigh incredible history. During and after the First World War, a period of poverty and wretchedness, one of the clerks of the Sephardi kollelim sold sacks full of old historic documents to grocers, for use as wrapping material. Yeshayahu Press tells the story in his book "*Meah Shana be-Yerushalayim*" (A Hundred Years in Jerusalem). Some of this material was lost forever, but some was bought from the grocers by collectors and scholars like Shmuel Yosef Agnon, Moshe David Gaon and others. Thanks to them, these documents were rescued, and are housed today in the manuscripts department of the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem. Some of the material has been transferred to other archives: the Jerusalem Municipal Archives, the Zionist Archives, Rabbi Kook Institute Archives and the Israel State Archives.

The worst disaster befell the Sephardi archive in February 1948, when the Palestine Post building in Hasolel Street (now Hahavatzet) was blown up by a British booby-trapped car. The offices of the Sephardi community on the upper floor of the building were most severely damaged. About half the contents of the historical archive housed there were damaged and burned and what the fire spared, the water ruined by causing, mildew, rot and distintegration.

The material that remained was packed indiscriminately into jute sacks, where it stayed for many years, until 1969. Then began the work of taking it out, restoring it, classifying and cataloguing all the documents. Despite the sorting and arrangement of the material in files, the archive still did not answer the needs of scholars, since it moved from place to place, and the moving began to damage the material. Shamed by this situation, two officials of the Sephardi community, Mr. Chayim

Yafet and Mrs. Danya Chayim, began to re-file and re-catalogue the material, and found a fitting place to house this important historical archive. By agreement with the Mayor of Jerusalem, Mr Ehud Olmert, and the chairman of the Sephardi Council, Mr Yehezkel Zakai, the entire archive was transferred in 1995 to the municipal archives in Safra Square, where its separate status within the Municipal Archives was assured. Today the archive serves all researchers interested in the history of the Sephardi community in Jerusalem.

The deciphering of the documents and old notebooks written in "half kulmus" script (nus kalam in Arabic, litera di karta in Ladino) was done by the author of this article, starting in 1969 when the sorting of the material began.

The Golden Age of Prague Jewry *Reported by Aviva Neeman*

An interesting and innovative event took place on June 6th 1999 at Beth Hatfutzot, the Museum of the Diaspora in Tel Aviv. On the initiative of the Jaffe and Horowitz Family Associations, under the auspices of Beth Hatfutzot, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic in Israel, the Israel-Czech Friendship Association and the Frumkin Fund, a study day was devoted to "*The Golden Age of Prague Jewry in the Reign of Emperor Rudolf II*" - a period of nearly fifty years (1576-1619).

The study day was attended by members of the Jaffe, Horowitz, Maisel, Broide, Eger, Frumkin and Rapaport families, as well as many guests. Mr Daniel Ophir, who organized the meeting, described these families as "Prague Families" because of their connection with Prague during its glory days. Mr Yitzhak Ish-Horowitz, the moderator, ran the meeting with much charm.

The period discussed saw the flourishing not only of Prague Jewry but of the Czech people as a whole. Among the Jews there appeared great leaders, whose books are still studied today, and whose memory is enshrined in legend and folk-tale. In the annals of Czech Jewry it became known as the Golden Age.

The meeting opened with greetings from the Czech Ambassador to Israel, Mr Daniel Kummerman, who spoke of the friendly ties between the Czechs and the State of Israel today and in the recent past, and the historic links between the Czechs and the Jewish people in more distant periods.

The first lecture, by Dr Abraham David of the Hebrew University, was a historical survey of the Golden Age, accompanied by maps and emphasizing the importance of an anonymous chronicle that gives details of the life of the Jews at that time.

Next came a lecture by R. Chaim Sonnenfeld, district rabbi of Ramat Aviv & Neve Avivim, and a member of the Jaffe Family Association. He presented R. Mordechai Jaffe, author of the "Levush", as a great codifier, whose work bears comparison with the codification of Maimonides and of R. Joseph Karo. R. Sonnenfeld showed the difference between the method of study and halachic decision (psika) in the period of the Talmud and the period before the great poskim, and the method of study in the period of the poskim. Whereas in the Talmud and in the early period, study and psika were intertwined, the great poskim, beginning with Maimonides treated psika separately from study. Not everyone who studied dealt with psika. R. Sonnenfeld explained the implications of this situation, and the development of psika over the years.

The last two lectures dealt with two outstanding characters of the period. Mr Daniel Ophir of the Horowitz Family Association spoke on the Maharal of Prague, leader, educator and friend of the

Emperor. Mr Menachem Argov, chairman of the Horowitz Family Association, spoke on R. Isaiah Ish-Horowitz (Ha-Shelah Ha-Kadosh), his teachings and his deeds. Mr Argov's little grandson Hanan Argov read from the Shelah's prayerbook "Shaarey Shamayim" the Shelah's blessing on his family and his seed. The audience responded with warm applause. There is no doubt that the characters discussed in the study day have a significance that transcends their period. In the legends and tales associated with their names, they have become part not only of Jewish culture but of Czech folklore too.

Between the lectures a very interesting film was shown on Jewish Prague, by courtesy of the Czech Embassy. As the Ambassador said, the outstanding Jewish sites in Prague are intertwined with the history and folklore of the Czech people, and are presented to visitors as national historic sites. In the entrance hall the Embassy set up an information stand with printed material, maps and photographs. Next to it were the information stands of the Jaffe and Horowitz Family Associations.

All the participants were enthusiastic about this meeting of families with a common past. The feeling was that there is more to be learnt, and that further events should be organized in future.

Biographies of Famous People in Egypt 1942-43*

Review by Mathilde Tagger

In browsing the shelves at the Jewish National and University Library, I came across two interesting volumes written in French: *Annuaire des Juifs d'Egypte et du Proche-Orient, 1942-1943*. These two yearbooks were published by the *Societe des Editions Historiques Juives d'Egypte*.

The 1942 volume starts with a chapter on the general situation of Jews in the world: international organizations and religious life. Another chapter deals with Palestine and gives a very general survey of Jewish institutions in Eretz Israel. The third chapter and the most extensive one details the life of the Jewish communities and their activities in Egypt. The last section of this chapter is devoted to the biographies of famous Jews who lived in Egypt, mostly in the capital Cairo.

The 1943 volume (last one published) differs from the first volume because it includes information on the terrible suffering of the European Jews. The first chapter is consequently entitled "The Jews of the World". The second chapter presents an overview of the sciences, literature and arts in the Jewish community in Egypt. The third Chapter deals with Eretz Israel, mainly with the Hebrew University and the Keren Kayemet Leyisrael. The fourth chapter gives the Hebrew calendar and the Jewish holidays. The fifth chapter provides information on community institutions in Cairo, Alexandria and others.

In the final section as in the first volume are included biographies of famous Jews in Egypt. The editors tried not to include those who had had articles written about them in the first volume.

There is an alphabetical list of 190 names from both volumes, which includes names of father, places and years of births. When the name only appears in the second volume, there is an asterix next to it. The editors also included a number of family pictures. If there is a picture included, the letter P appears next to the name. Please pay attention to the fact that all the names appear in French spelling so you have to take into account that the French OU=U and that CH=SH according to English usage.

Analyzing the data we can conclude the following:

A. Birth year

1. 10 people have no date listed

2. the oldest was born in 1857 and the youngest in 1917
3. Two-thirds were born between the years 1880-1889

B. Birth place

1. 60% were born in Egypt
2. 12% were born in Turkey
3. 7.5% were born in Greece
4. 8.5% were born in other Arab countries
5. 7% were Ashkenazi

This illustrates the emigration that took place after the breakup of the Ottoman Empire after World War I as well as emigration from Europe prior to WW II.

Anyone who is interested in the translation of the biographies please contact me by e-mail.
tagger@actcom.co.il

*The list of names appears in the Hebrew section of the Journal, page 10.

Eretz-Yisrael and Jewish Genealogy, by M. Plotkin

An Abstract by Reuven Naftali

Newcomers to genealogical research are not always aware of previous sources. These consist of two types: one dealing with specific families and the other includes general guides that may help the beginner and experienced researcher alike. One such type is the article published by *Michael Plotkin* in **TOLEDOT** (Vol. 3 No. 4 Spring 1981). This journal appeared between the years 1977-1981 in the United States. The sub-title of this article is "*An Introduction to the Sources for the Later Ottoman and Mandate Periods*". A copy of the article is to be found in all the libraries of the branches of the Israel Genealogical Society.

The importance of this article is that it was one of the first that described genealogical material in archives and libraries in Israel. Although many years have passed since it was published most of the sources mentioned are still relevant. The material in many of the 15 types of sources described by Plotkin is in Hebrew. The translation into English of the types of material was done by the author using transliterations where necessary. The article has many footnotes which are helpful in locating the material. Most of the material is in the Israel State Archives.

The types of sources are:

1. Census records.
2. Registrations of births.
3. Registrations of marriages, divorces and related records.
4. Registrations of deaths, Cemeteries, Burial Societies and burial records, published collections of epitaphs.
5. Bibliographical encyclopedias and similar works.
6. Registers of new immigrants compiled by the Jewish Agency.
7. Applications for naturalized Palestine citizenship.
8. Changes of names.
9. Records of foreign consulates.
10. Published genealogies and family histories.

11. Pinkas Ha-Bogrim (Register of the adult members of Knesset Yisrael)
12. Court records on estates and inheritance.
13. Published works on history of towns, settlements, associations, institutions, etc., as sources for biographical information.
14. Yizkor (Memorial) literature
15. Miscellaneous Sources

Yad Vashem Status Report *Martha Lev-Zion*

The Negev branch of the Israel Genealogy Society had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Robert Rozett, Director of the Library at Yad Vashem on 2 June 1999.

He gave a fascinating talk on the changes we can expect in the research facilities at Yad Vashem in the next few years. They include moving the Archives and the Library to a new home in October-November. The Archives will be closed in July and the Library in August. Even now, the confusion is evident as preparations are being made to pack and move every scrap of paper to their new quarters. There are around 50 million individual items and 1,700,000 Pages of Testimony. The job of moving is absolutely staggering. Researchers who can only come to Israel in the summer, are out of luck this year.

Dr. Rozett gave us a glimpse of the difficulties trying to digitalize the Pages of Testimonies. He described to us the problem of dealing with 74,000 place names and the variations in different languages. We know as genealogists the problems of verifying family names and locating ancestral villages with all the spelling variations in different languages. Would Mayer HIMMELREICH be the same person as Meier HIMMELRICH? Would Bluma LEFOR be the same person as Flor LEFLOR? The variations and discrepancies are many, as we so well know. In searching our ancestors, if other details besides the name were given that would certainly narrow the field. But then why shouldn't there be more than one individual by the name of Moshe KOHN/COHEN/COHN from the same town born around the same time? The complications are endless.

During the recent campaign to get as many people as possible registered in the Pages of Testimonies, Dr. Rozett reported that 400,000 pages were sent out, which doesn't include those pages sent out with daily newspapers in Israel. So far, 100,000 pages have been returned. For whatever reason, many people are still delaying sending in the forms, a fact we confirmed when a couple of our own members confessed to not yet filling them out.

One of the attendees at the lecture asked about the privacy issue involved in filling out the Pages of Testimony, not from the point of view of the person murdered but from those sending in the information. This opened a serious issue that Dr. Rozett responded correctly by saying we should not look for this information on the internet in the near future until such issues were resolved.

Martha Lev-Zion is President of the IGS Negev Branch. She has a PhD in Modern European History.

The IGS Periodicals Section of the Library
Harriet Kasow.

We have more than 80 periodicals from around the world. They are of two types: those dealing with genealogical subjects and those concerned with more general subjects relating to the history of the Jewish people. The majority of the collection is connected to Jewish genealogy societies. However since the Jewish people have spread all over the world and the techniques for doing family research are fairly standardized the information gained from other societies can be very helpful. Most of them are currently received on an exchange basis with *Sharsharet Hadorot*. We purchase one or two and hope to expand our purchases to journals that are not connected to Societies.

The periodical literature received can be categorized into two: the newsletter and the journal.

The newsletter has information of local interest, meetings, and new additions to the library, and items from the Jewish genealogical world at large.

The journal has original research and longer articles on various aspects of family research in addition to the local news.

The journal that we purchase is *Avotaynu*, the bible of the Jewish Genealogy world. Others available for purchase include those connected with Special Interest Groups (SIG's) such as *Landsman*, *Latvia SIG*, etc. In addition we have the run of *Juedische Familienforschung* which appeared in Germany between the years 1924-1938. We would like to have copies of the first two journals that appeared in the United States, *Toledot* Vol. 1-4, 1977-82 and *Search* Vol. 1-11, 1981-91. We would be most appreciative if any of our readers could help us obtain copies.

We are currently engaged in a project of obtaining back issues, missing issues and indices of all the genealogical periodicals we receive. We will bind them and consequently they will be easier to shelve and easier for members to read.

Another type of periodicals we receive are those that are not genealogical in nature but have articles that are related. They are published in Israel and include *Yad-Lakore* which has articles on archives and libraries, *Peameem* with articles on Mizrahi Jewry and *Yeda-Am* with articles on Jewish names. We also have newsletters from Holocaust research centers such as Yad Vashem and Beit Lochame Hagetaot (Ghetto Fighters House). *Daf Mehasleek* is published by the Hagana Archives.

Abstracts of articles from a selected group of periodicals are published in each issue of *Sharsharet Hadorot*. A list of all the periodicals we receive is available in the library.

A new book for genealogists researching in Germany

There is a new book written by Hans-Peter Bungert about the Schweich/Mosel (1669-1880) Jewish community.

The book includes information about the Jewish cemetery headstones inscriptions and the 1880 and 1938 censuses among other things. The book can be purchased from the author at the address listed below.

Hans-Peter Bungert
Ludweilerstr 125
D-66352 Grossrossein
Germany

Fax: 49 6898 43899

The Jewish Cemetery of Grodzisk Mazowiecki, Edited by Ada Holtzman
Reviewed by Mathilde Tagger

This recently published bi-lingual (Hebrew and English) work consists of 157 pages.

The author explains in her prologue that because of the request by two young people, one from Paris and the other from Atlanta, Georgia, she volunteered to help oversee the project that they initiated of maintaining the Jewish cemetery of Grodzisk Mazowiecki. An additional task that she undertook was to copy the Hebrew inscriptions on the headstones.

The first part of the book focuses on the history of the Jewish community in Grodzisk Mazowiecki which is located near Warsaw. In the second part of the book, she describes her own emotional upheaval upon seeing the gravestones that had been neglected so badly. The inscriptions on the headstones were barely readable. The third section that is the largest includes information on every headstone, photographs of the headstones, the inscriptions themselves and family data. The latter is in the form of a table which lists the following: family and personal name, date of death (Jewish and CE dates), and comments. At the beginning of this section are given the keys (in Hebrew and English) necessary to interpret these data.

There are 106 headstones with only 20 missing family names. The years represented are from 1881-1933. One headstone is from 1840.

The author passed on this information to Prof. Arline Sack, Director of the IAJGS Cemetery Project. This work is of inestimable importance to Jewish genealogical research. It preserves for generations to come the Jewish communities that were but no longer exist.

JGS Journal Abstracts in English
Compiled by Harold Lewin

This selection is merely a guide to some of the more informative English JGS literature. Those fortunate souls who discover something interesting are implored to acquire the original article, for an abstract can never hope to do it justice. Note that *3pp (4)* at the end of an abstract indicates an article length of about 3 pages, with its location in *Ref. No.4* of the *Key to Journal References*. Sincere apologies for all missing credits and changes of title.

BALTIC STATES AND BELARUS

Vilna Uyezd Research Group Revision List Project for procurement and translation of a mid-19th century Revision List. Donations being sought for this procurement by Litvak SIG. Revision lists were prepared in 1850, 1851, 1858 and 1867. Unattributed. 1p. (3)

In Libau: A Gateway for Emigration from the Russian Empire, Vlad Soshnikov discusses the possibility of emigrants from the Pale of Settlement sailing from Libau, now Liepaja, in the Republic of Latvia, and thereby having that seaport erroneously given on documents as the point of origin. 1p. (1)

Lithuanian Archive Addresses. Howard Margol provides five archive addresses (including a description of the archival contents) in a contribution appearing originally in the JGS Georgia Newsletter, Winter 1997/8. 2pp. (7)

Proposed Acquisition of Revision List for Vilna District. The Vilna District Group plans to cover 23 towns with the purchase and translation of a mid-19th century Revision List. This contains much info. on the districts (Uzeds), within Kovno, Vilna and Suwalki Gubernias. 10pp. (7)

The Processes of Migration from Lithuania to the U.K. Sylvia Budd describes some of the tribulations of a typical immigrant family travelling from the Baltic States to the United Kingdom. 2pp. (8)

COUNTRIES OF FORMER RUSSIAN EMPIRE & USSR (EXCEPTING BALTIC STATES)

Migration from the Russian Empire: Lists of Passengers Arriving at the Port of New York. Vols. 5 & 6 covering period June 1889-June 1891, reviewed by Alex Friedlander. 1p. (3)

GERMANY

Westphalian Jews and the Holocaust: An Amazing Find by Peter Lande, describes his efforts to computerize and thereby make available to JewishGen, part of the genealogical collection of the late Bernard Brilling. 2pp. (1)

Records for West Prussia Found in East German Archives, by Edward David Luft, describes an important resource providing general descriptions of the holdings on Jews in individual archives in the former German Democratic Republic. 2pp. (1)

HOLLAND

The Dutch Ashkenazi Community in Spitalfields (London), in the 19th century, by Aubrey Jacobus, describes the living and economic conditions obtaining in the area of London's East End with the greatest concentration of Dutch Jews. Suggested explanation given for the Dutch emigration to London. 6pp. (2)

HUNGARY

Genealogical Research in Hungary is offered by the Genealogical Research Bureau of Budapest. An account of the history of Hungarian Jewry is accompanied by a description of existing archival resources. 4pp. (7)

POLAND

Records for West Prussia Found in East German Archives, by Edward David Luft, describes an important resource providing general descriptions of the holdings on Jews in individual archives in the former German Democratic Republic. 2pp. (1)

The Polish-Jewish Records Index explained by Paul H. Silverstone, who summarizes a lecture by Hadassah Lipsius, Transliteration Coordinator of the JRI-Polish Shtetl Co-op. These indices are searchable on the Internet through the JRI-Poland database at JewishGen. 1p. (3)

Selected Warsaw Births On-Line is a project coordinated by Dorot in Israel in which 1,400 Warsaw Jewish births have been taken from LDS microfilms. There are also records of marriages and deaths. Accessibility thru' JewishGen JRI-Poland internet site. 1p. (7)

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

Secretaries for Marriage in England and Wales, by Rosemary Wenzel, covers her experiences as Secretary for Marriages of St. Albans United Synagogue. It provides useful information on rabbinic marriage authorizations and on marriage registers of defunct congregations in London. 3pp. (2)

The Dutch Ashkenazi Community in Spitalfields (London), in the 19th century, by Aubrey Jacobus, describes the conditions and economics in the area of the East End of London having the greatest concentration of Jews from Holland and suggests reasons for the Dutch emigration to London. 6pp. (2)

British Passenger Lists by Debbie Beavis, describes the lists available at the Public Record Office at Kew. Both the inwards and outwards lists cover the period 1890-1960. Almost no material is in alphabetical order, nor has it been filmed. Much of the material is illegible and in an advanced state of disintegration. 4pp. (8)

UK Citizens Deported from France. In this article, Mathilde Tagger describes the compilation by Serge Klarsfeld of the names of 80,000 Jews deported from France between 1942-1944 in 82 convoys, and lists the victims whose birthplace was in the United Kingdom. 2pp. (8)

Tracing British Service Personnel (members of the Armed Forces) of WW1. Harold Pollins explains some of the methods of obtaining information on war casualties from the War Graves Commission. 3pp. (8)

UNITED STATES

Migration from the Russian Empire: Lists of Passengers Arriving at the Port of New York. Vols. 5 & 6 covering June 1889-June 1891, reviewed by Alex Friedlander. 1p. (3)

Jewish Immigration to the U.S. via Mexico & the Caribbean, 1920-1922 by Marian L. Smith, uses a file of correspondence and records at the National Archives to describe this immigration to the U.S. 6pp. (4)

Where Was My Immigrant Ancestor Born? Diane M. Freilich provides a number of useful sources relating to Naturalization and other records. 2pp. (5)

GENEALOGY AND COMPUTERS

New Family Tree of the Jewish People Online (FTJP) was developed from concept, design and implementation in just 3 weeks and is now available at the JewishGen web site. The brief explanation is unattributed. 1p. (3)

How to Get Your Family Tree Online. James Gross provides some useful advice for those who wish to put their family tree on the Web. 2pp. (9)

HOLOCAUST RESEARCH

Using Genealogists for Computerization of Names of Holocaust Victims & Restoration of Assets. Three separate articles, by Bill Gladstone, Sallyann Amdur Sack and Francoise-Louis a'Weng, describe intensive work, and concomitant problems encountered, by Yad Vashem and the Volcker and Mattoli Commissions, trying to achieve compensation for plundered Holocaust-era assets. 7pp. (1)

Remembering Lithuanian Shoah Victims. Rose Lerer Cohen and Saul Issroff describe a research project with the aim of identifying all Lithuanian victims of the Holocaust era. The bibliography lists many Holocaust references for Lithuania. 5pp. (1)

A New Yad Vashem Web Site (www.yadvashem.org.il) is announced by Dr. Robert Rozett, Director of the Yad Vashem Library. 1p (3)

In Family Trees Found in Yizkor Books, Mathilde Tagger describes her examination in the Yad Vashem library, of nearly 1,200 memorial books, in which she discovered many family trees, documenting 310 family names. 2pp. (1)

Westphalian Jews and the Holocaust: An Amazing Find. Peter Lande describes his efforts to computerize and thereby make available to JewishGen, part of the genealogical collection, comprising over 8,000 names, of the late Bernard Brillling. 2pp. (1)

Resources and Techniques for Researching Holocaust Victims. A lecture to Cleveland JGS by Gary Mokotoff is reported in full. 17pp. (7)

JEWISH GENEALOGY – GENERAL

Document Care by Bryan Diamond, deals with matters of storage of documents, backup, record keeping and repositories. Bibliography includes names of suppliers of acid-free paper, etc. 1p. (2)

The 19th Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy, scheduled for 8th-13th August 1999, is described by Edith Ewenstein, who provides a synopsis of the subjects offered during this period and lists many of the speakers. 3pp. (3)

How to Create Your Own Family History Book by Alex E. Friedlander, is a detailed summary of a meeting that took place in December 1998 in New York. Contains many useful suggestions and helpful tips. 3pp. (3)

The Priests' Chromosomes? DNA Analysis supports Biblical Story of Jewish Priesthood. This account by John Travis describes some of the scientific research being conducted on Jewish males to verify priestly ancestry. 4pp. (4)

Frequent Misinterpretation of Records quoting an Ancestral Place of Birth. Holistic Geography, by Randy Daitch, gives numerous examples in which an incorrect place of birth has been assumed, and suggests digital resources available for avoiding such mistakes. 4pp. (1)

The Family Tree of the Jewish People – One Year Later. Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Sack describe changes in the original plan to combine three resources to create a single, unified Family Tree of the Jewish People. The current aim is to have three shared, but equal, independent databases. 2pp. (1)

The Fate of Our Files-To Whom Shall We Leave Them? Barbara Krasner-Khait addresses the persistent and depressing question that most of us choose to ignore, and strongly recommends that we plan ahead and arrange to send our material to at least one of her suggested databases or repositories. 2pp. (1)

The Current State of Sephardic Jewish Genealogy, is summarized by Laurence Abensur-Hazan, who cites a number of important resources for research. 2pp. (1)

A Survey of Top Genealogy Internet Sites is provided by Lisa Thaler, who describes a number of useful sources, including Cyndi's List, an index of over 38,750 genealogy-related web sites. 2pp. (6)

List of U.S. Jewish Genealogical Societies e-mail Addresses. This list first appeared in a JGS Georgia newsletter. 1pp. (7)

JewishGen: The Home of Jewish Genealogy. Arlene Blank Rich and others provide a very complete description of all the resources available on-line, including info. on the various SIGs, WW1 draft registration cards and a passenger list of Jewish sounding names on the S.S.Titanic. 21pp. (7)

RABBINIC GENEALOGY

The Jewish Historical Clock is explained by Michael Honey as a system for drawing family trees of many, mainly rabbinical, families in parallel, the individuals being sorted into generations, each in its own time frame, which is the last 600 years or 25 generations. Six specific examples include the family Horowitz and that of the Mahara'i. 3pp. (2)

KEY TO JOURNAL REFERENCES

Ref. No.	JOURNAL	GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	ISSUE	YEAR	VOL	No.
1.	AVOTAYNU	International	Spring	1999	XV	1
2.	SHEMOT	Great Britain	March	1999	7	1
3.	DOROT	New York	Winter	1998/9	20	2
4.	GENERATIONS	Michigan	Spring	1999	14	2
5.	GENERATIONS	Michigan	Summer	1999	14	3
6.	MORASHA Heritage	Illinois	Spring	1999	XV	1
7	THE CLEVELAND KOL	Cleveland	Fall/Winter	1998	12	3 & 4
8	SHEMOT	Great Britain	June	1999	7	2
9	ETZ CHAIM	Greater Orlando	Summer	1999	9	4

Sharsheret Hadorot Volumes 1-12, 1986-1998- Cumulative Index
Prepared by Abraham Lebowitz

This cumulative index to *Sharsheret Hadorot* covers the first twelve volumes. As a new format for the index was chosen it was decided to re-index the entire publication rather than supplementing the indexes to Volumes 1-3 and 1-7 prepared by Reuven Naftali. Not all the material in *Sharsheret Hadorot* is included in the index. Sections that were excluded are editorials, brief news items, meeting announcements, and Jewish genealogy periodical reviews and abstracts.

The citation for each item provides the full name of the author, the title and the volume, issue and page numbers. Most of the articles in *Sharsheret Hadorot* appear in both Hebrew and English. An (E) or (H) preceding the page numbers indicates the section in which the item appears and, as a rule, its language. In a very few cases an English article appears in the Hebrew section, or the reverse.

The index includes five types of entries arranged in a single alphabetical listing.

- (a) Author's surnames are generally based on the spelling in the English section. In a substantial number of cases, particularly where the name was transliterated from Hebrew (or from the Cyrillic alphabet via Hebrew) various forms of the name were used for the same person. An attempt has been made to standardize on one form of name for each person in the index. Occasionally, where the various forms were substantially different a cross reference was made. As a general rule author entries are not prepared for book reviewers, though they are noted in the citations.
- (b) Headings for the names of families being researched are followed by the word 'FAMILY' in parentheses. In other respects the comments for author's surnames apply.
- (c) Geographical headings have been entered, as appropriate, on up to three levels: (1) country; (2) province, gubernya or state; (3) city, town or shtetl. The effect is to group all geographical entries under the relevant country. There are cross references from the names of towns to the country in which they are located.
- (d) General subjects include all subjects of articles other than those listed above. New books noted and reviewed are listed under BOOKS – NEW and sometimes under the subject matter with which they deal.
- (e) Cross references are of both the *see* and *see also* type.

Acknowledgements and technical note: My thanks are extended to Mathilde Tagger who got me involved in preparing the index, made many constructive suggestions and critiqued the final product. Thanks are also due to Reuven Naftali who paved the way for this index and for his suggestions and input in this undertaking.

The index was prepared using Unesco's Micro-CDS/ISIS software package designed and programmed by Giampaolo Del Bigio who died last November.

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