

שם טוב

# SHem TOV

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

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## WHATS NEW AT YIVO

by Ruth Chernia

On 29 May 1995 Zachary Baker, Head Librarian of YIVO, spoke to a joint meeting of the Toronto Jewish Genealogical Society, the Friends of Yiddish and the Yiddische Kulturgemeinschaft.

YIVO (Institute for Jewish Research) *Yidisher visnshaftlekher institut* (the aleph in "institut" represents the "o" in the acronym) was founded in 1925 in Berlin and Vilna. The goal of the Yiddish intellectual founders was to conduct scholarly research on Yiddish topics using the most contemporary methods in history, linguistics, education, demographics, folklore and economics.

YIVO was not affiliated with a university, nor did it give courses, but was what we would now call a "think tank" documenting Yiddish life around the world. "Zamlers" (collectors) in many places went out and gathered newspapers, posters, folktales, photographs and other evidence of the material life of the Ashkenazy and sent them to Vilna and Berlin. Berlin served as the headquarters for YIVO's Historical Section, and was essentially a one-person operation run by Elias Tcherikower.

In August, 1939, Max Weinreich (YIVO's Research Director, a prominent Yiddish linguist) was attending a linguistics conference in Copenhagen. Instead of returning to Vilna, he went, with his family, to New York in 1940, where what was originally a support branch then became the headquarters of YIVO. There was also a branch in Buenos Aires. More about that branch later.

How did and does YIVO acquire its material? Apart from the Zamlers, there have been many people like Elias Tcherikower who was born in Poltava, in 1881. He went to university in St. Petersburg, then emigrated to the United States, to New York, before World War I. In 1917, he returned to Kiev. He arrived in time to begin documenting the pogroms of 1919-21. Then he decided he would be better off going to Berlin, where he remained until 1933. In 1933, he again moved, this time to Paris and he took the library and archive with him. In 1940, he hid the library and archive and fled with his wife to Portugal and finally to the United States again,

where he died in New York in 1943. However, someone knew the hiding place of the archive and in 1945-46 the material was found and shipped to the U.S.

The archive and library in Vilna suffered a different fate. In 1939 it comprised 40,000 volumes and tens of thousands of folders. Initially it was confiscated by the Soviets but in 1942-43 the Nazis decided to establish the institute for the study of the Jewish question. Jewish slaves were used to catalogue and pack up the books and folders for shipment to Frankfurt am Main. In 1945, the U.S. army found over a million books and other material from many sources in the institute. Where it was possible to return the material to its owner, that was done. Where not, it was sent to YIVO in New York. As well, YIVO New York was recognized as the heir of another library collection from Vilna and it too went to New York in 1947.

Some of the Jewish slaves, knowing the value of what they were documenting, hid things in Vilna. That material also has

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found its way to New York. Recently, close to 70 more boxes of unsorted material was found in Vilnius. Zachary Baker went there to negotiate for its release. He saw the 18th century monastery the Soviets had used as a warehouse for the library and material from other sources. Examples of the documents found include a postcard from Lodz in the 1930s advertising machine-made matzoh and a list of the rules for the reading room in the Vilna ghetto. The reading room was established by Herman Kruk who also wrote a diary of his experiences. There is also a unique collection of autobiographies of 400 teenagers written by them in the 1930s as part of a *Judendforschung* ("research into youth"). YIVO hopes to publish excerpts from some of these. The newspapers are being microfilmed. The rest of the material is being sent to New York. Thirty-four boxes arrived in February and the rest are expected shortly.

The YIVO branch in Buenos Aires consists of a library, archive and art gallery housed on the third and fourth floor of the Jewish Cultural Center. While the New York branch has become a very American institution, the Buenos Aires branch is very Yiddish-oriented. The bombing of the Cultural Center last year that killed over 100 people was devastating to the community in other ways. For instance, all its cemetery records were destroyed. Luckily, YIVO did not suffer any fatalities as the bombing was at 9 a.m. and it did not open until after 1 p.m.. As well, the bulk of the collection is housed at the back of the building and the bomb destroyed the front of the building. YIVO did lose its card catalogue and the books it had for sale. Baker visited the branch to see in what ways the New York YIVO could help. They have begun the task of conserving what was saved and attempting to determine what was lost.

Among the lost are the paintings of Maurice Minkowski.

YIVO New York is currently working on moving into a new building. Similar to the situation in Buenos Aires, it will share space with the Leo Baeck Institute and the American Jewish Historical Society. While in temporary space on 57<sup>th</sup> Street, it will continue its work of publishing and research. Some of the volumes currently in print include a *Modern Yiddish-English, English-Yiddish* dictionary, *Image Before My Eyes* and a *History of Yiddish* published in both Yiddish (4 vols.) and English (1 vol.). The discrepancy in the latter two is because the last two volumes of Yiddish are the footnotes, which the English omits. As well, there is a scholarly *Annual* and the *Blater*.

The recent changes in Eastern Europe have lead YIVO to a new role. Project Judaica, initiated in the Fall of 1991, is a formal archivists course that is affiliated with the Historical Archives Institute of Russia. Twenty to twenty-five students study with scholars from all over to learn to become archivists. Under Marek Web, YIVO's Chief Archivist, and with the cooperation of the other republics of the former Soviet Union, a survey of the Soviet archives has begun.

Today, YIVO has over 350,000 volumes in many languages, including a Japanese-Yiddish primer. There are over 22 million pieces of paper in the archive. The collection measures 8 km (5 miles) and also includes 15,000 posters and 100,000 or more photographs, musical recordings, scripts from wherever Ashkenazy settled. The collection has particular strengths in the Holocaust because zamlers were very active in the displaced persons camps and even in Shanghai. As well, there are documents from the ghettos, photographs, and

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The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada was founded in 1985 and currently has about 150 members. Membership costs \$30 per calendar year, \$20 for persons living beyond both Metro Toronto and its adjacent suburbs. Meetings are held September to June, usually on the last Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. (doors open at 7:30) at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 470 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto (unless announced otherwise). Guests are always welcome. Details are usually printed in the *Canadian Jewish News*.

The goals of the Society are to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and information through meetings, outings, workshops and guest lecturers, and thereby to promote an awareness of genealogy within the Jewish community of Canada. The Society is affiliated with the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto and is registered as a non-profit charitable organization.

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memorial books - enough for 14 museums!

Of every ten clients who contact YIVO, five are searching for their roots. YIVO has the HIAS materials for the United States and a collection of French case files from the Holocaust. The documents from the National Desertion Bureau are also on file. Baker collects maps and gazetteers and so can answer some place questions. But due to limited resources and, until they move into the new quarters, limited space, YIVO cannot do the research for you. He can tell you whether they have a particular book.

The library has a collection from Vilna of 12-15,000 volumes of subscription lists. All are in storage right now. The library would need several days' notice to access these. The photo collection, which has material from Europe from the 1860s to 1939, is organized by place. Some of the photos are on a videodisk. The Bund archives and library were donated to YIVO three years ago but the 40,000 volumes and other materials related to the Jewish labour movement are not yet organized to Baker's satisfaction.

After 39 years in a gorgeous, French-style building in the museum quarter of New York, YIVO has moved, temporarily to the 11<sup>th</sup> floor, 555 West 57th Street between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues. In 1996 or 1997 (depending on the success of fundraising and cooperation with the Leo Baeck Institute and the American Jewish Historical Society) YIVO will move to the flatiron district, to 16<sup>th</sup> Street. In the meanwhile, the library is open 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday to Thursday. It is closed on United States national and Jewish holidays.

☞ ☛

### Biography

*Zachary Baker has been Head Librarian of YIVO since 1987. He is president of the Association of Jewish Public Libraries. He has a long list of publications to his credit, some of which can be found in Avotaynu, Microfilm Review, The Book Peddler, and the YIVO Annual. He also wrote "Bibliography of Eastern European Jewish Memorial Books" first published in the anthology "From a Ruined Garden", edited by Jack Kugelmass and Jonathan Boyarin and subsequently in "Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area", edited by Estelle Guzik, and separately by the Jewish Genealogical Society of New York.*

☞ ☛

The standard for transliteration/transcription of Yiddish (at least for English readers) is that set by YIVO. You can find tables of letter-equivalents in Uriel Weinreich's Modern English-Yiddish, Yiddish-English Dictionary and in his textbook, *College Yiddish*. ☆

## ☞ UPCOMING MEETINGS ☛

at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue  
470 Glencairn Avenue

Wednesday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>30</sup> p.m.

Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the JGS: "Refreshments and Retrospective". This will also be an opportunity to meet and share information with your fellow members.

Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>30</sup> p.m.

"The Sephardic Legacy: Wanderings From Spain to the Four Corners of the Globe", a lecture by Yitzhak Kerem, Ph.D. Mr. Kerem is coming to us from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He is a specialist on the Jews of Greece, a community originating from ancient times, and on Sephardic history and genealogy in general. He is also a member of the Israel Genealogical Society.

Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>30</sup> p.m.

"Finding the Six Million: Using Holocaust Records to Trace Victims and Survivors" by Peter Landé. Mr. Landé is a retired U.S. Foreign Service Officer who spends much of his time at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington as a Volunteer Researcher. He has written many articles in Avotaynu on Holocaust-related genealogy and is now working towards the computerization of ghetto and concentration camp records. This event is our society's contribution to Holocaust Education Week.

## WE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS TO OUR SOCIETY

Dr. Allan Brenman  
Dr. Arnold Goldberg  
Senator Jerry S. Grafstein  
Michael Hart  
Paul Herman  
Steven Muller  
Hana Rubin  
Ella Stoch  
Leslie Stoch

## USING VOTERS' LISTS TO LOCATE MISSING RELATIVES

by Glen Eker

Voters' Lists can be an important source for genealogical research and aid for locating individuals at a particular place and point in time. They are especially important when other commonly used sources such as city directories and telephone books are either not available or fail to yield information on the individual being sought. Voters' lists generally provide a listing of all adults over eighteen years of age, along with their occupation and street address, who are eligible to vote in an election at a particular level of government. In Canada these levels are local, municipal, provincial, and federal.

The Canadiana Room on the sixth floor of North York Public Library has finding aids available for two types of voters' lists in their collection. The first is primarily for local and municipal elections. These are listed alphabetically and are for selected cities, towns and townships in Ontario. The periods covered are for scattered years in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. They are on both microfiche and paper copy. Those on microfiche are pre-1900 and belong to the Canadian Institute Historical Microfiche Collection (CIHM). This is a collection of early Canadian documents from the seventeenth century to 1900 covering all areas of written material including novels, poetry, historical and scientific works, community and organizational publications, brochures and pamphlets, biographies, church and religious publications, directories, indexes and voters' lists, etc. The collection contains anything that pertains to the pre-1900 printed and written history of Canada. Many of the voters' lists in this finding aid are for York County. For example, they have a paper copy of a 1953 Voters' List for Forest Hill Village. This was an area that was at this time a separate village located in the City of Toronto. The population was primarily British and Jewish in origin. This list is ideal for researchers because within each polling subdivision voters are listed alphabetically. Most list voters in numerical order by street address.

The second finding aid is for Federal Election Voters' Lists from 1935-1979. The Canadiana Room has all the Toronto lists for this period available on microfilm. Those for the rest of Canada must be obtained on interlibrary loan from Ottawa. The finding aid contains lists of all federal electoral districts by province for each election year. A listing of microfilm reel numbers is then given for these electoral districts. However, only the first and last district covered on a particular reel is listed in the finding aid. The electoral districts are found alphabetically by province on the microfilm reels. More than one province may appear on a reel. The voters' list pages on the reels are numbered in numerical order, but since no specific page number for each electoral district is provided in the finding aid, locating a particular district may require considerable searching.

Since each electoral district is divided into polling divisions, to search properly it helps to know the division the person resides in and more importantly the street he or she resides on and the polling division in which it is located. Most

streets are subdivided into differed divisions. Otherwise, one must look through all polling divisions in an electoral district to find an individual.

These voters' lists were very useful to me in my own research. I originally sought through interlibrary loan to obtain city directories and telephone books from Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. These were however unavailable. As a result I consulted the finding aid for the Federal Voters' Lists. I was particularly interested in the 1935 voters' list, as this was the time when my great-grandparents were still alive and when our family had numerous relatives in Glace Bay. Glace Bay is located on Cape Breton Island, so an electoral district pertaining to that area would be the one for which to look. The list of Federal Electoral Districts for 1935 showed an electoral district called Cape Breton South. This would be the probable area in which Glace Bay would be found, since the town is located on the south on the island. The list of microfilm reels for the 1935 election showed a reel M-4755 comprising St. Jacques, Quebec, p. 21853 to Colchester-Hants, Nova Scotia. Cape Breton South, it appeared, would be located on this reel. Once Glace Bay was found, I searched every polling division and street for my relatives. The only location clue which I had was from a 1918 Glace Bay city directory which listed my great-grandfather as residing on York Street.

I initially found in Polling Division 1, Ward 5, at 3 Ingraham's Lane, a nephew of my great-grandparents, a Max Shore, merchant, his wife and two sons, Morris and Solomon, both merchants. Further along in Polling Division 2, Ward 2, at 75 Union I found a second cousin, a Rose Silbert listed as a housekeeper in the house of a Samuel Goldman and his wife. The spelling of Rose's surname was incorrectly shown as Silbert when it should have been Zilbert. Finally, in Polling Division 3, Ward 2 at 17 Yorke, Apt. 2, I located my great-grandparents Ruben and Sophie Eker, a great-uncle Morris Eker, and a second cousin Lily Zilbert, Rose's sister. The family surname was, however, incorrectly spelled in the voters' list as Acker. The family was entered in the voters' list in the following manner:

Yorke, 17, Apt. 2, Acker, Ruben, butcher .....	383
Yorke, 17, Apt. 2, Acker, Mrs. Ruben (w), housewife ....	384
Yorke, 17, Apt. 2, Acker, Morris, unemployed .....	385
Yorke, 17, Apt. 2, Zilbert, Miss Lily (W), spinster .....	386

I also located in Polling Division 5, Ward 3, on Pitt, a Maurice Zilbert, a painter and his second wife Annie. His first wife Lottie Eker was the daughter of my great-grandparents Ruben and Sophie Eker and my grandfather Benjamin Eker's sister. Rose and Lily Zilbert were the daughters of Maurice Zilbert and Lottie Eker.

Thus voters' lists can prove to be a useful way to locate missing relatives when other commonly used sources such as

(Continued from page 4)

directories and telephone books are not available or fail to supply the needed information. They can also provide a valuable source of additional information on individuals as well as a geographic description of the area in which they lived. This information is found on the first page of the reel. ✱

*Glen Eker is a member of the JGSC who has published a number of articles on Canadian Jewry in SHEM TOV. He is a professional researcher who can search census records, passenger lists, assessment records, city directories, indexes, archives, libraries and other available resources in Canada, for your ancestors. Contact Glen Eker at 46 Brady Lane, Guelph., Ontario Canada N1L 1A5 (519) 836-4747 for assistance.*

## NEWS FROM RAGAS

by Linda Cantor

The first edition of its newsletter provides us with much information on the work of RAGAS, the Russian-American Genealogical Archival Service. Its stated goal is to serve as a clearinghouse for requests to the various archives in the republics of the former Soviet Union. Consequently, RAGAS is also working to complete reference guides and indexes to records of these archives.

RAGAS/Moscow has been reorganized as the Genealogy and Family History Society ("G&FHS"), a non-profit organization registered with the Moscow Ministry of Justice. As a result, the Society was able to negotiate official agreements with regional archives in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus.

You can contact the Society directly at P.O. Box 459, Moscow, 127349, Russia or by E-Mail at <vladrag@glas.apc.org> or by fax at 095/246-20-20, addressed to M-200 or 095/245-08-39, addressed to M-200. However, you should still send research requests to RAGAS/USA at P.O. Box 236, Glen Echo, MD 20812, fax:202/219-1250, or <RAGAS@dgs.dgsys.com> via E-Mail, but note that they no longer accept the Specific Request Form. Use the Fuller Request Form, with a non-refundable fee of US\$50, in order to initiate a search. This change was made to reduce the number of negative replies that were generated by the use of the single request form. Using a more general request will create a better chance of success, enabling the Archives to have a choice of records to look up for you.

Several categories of records are available in the various archives - census records (revision or tax census lists and population censuses), vital statistic records (birth, death, and marriage), religious institution records, military records, court

records (business records), police records, educational institution records, newspapers, and city and business directories. They do not all exist for all localities. Many records, in what was the western Soviet Union, were destroyed during World War II. In addition, many religious records were destroyed during the Stalin years.

Most archivists have limited understanding of genealogy and are not necessarily supportive of family research. There are few finding guides, indexes, reference guides and, since most archives have been open to the public only since 1990, few archivists experienced in helping genealogists. RAGAS is trying to fill this void by setting standards and guidelines for all archivists to follow as well as establishing inventories and indexes for all available records.

RAGAS has had positive results in obtaining genealogical information from the Central Historical Archives of Russia in St. Petersburg, of Belarus in Minsk and Grodno, and of Ukraine in Lviv and from Ukrainian regional archives in Odessa, Kamenets/Podol'sk, Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhye, and Chernigov. On the other hand, they have had little success with the Central Historical Archives in Kiev or the regional archives in Ivano-Frankovsk, Ternopol, Rovno, and Lutsk.

In future newsletters, RAGAS plans to provide brief summaries of archival records, descriptions of conditions in particular archives, a profile of the process of obtaining a specific report (with the consent of the requester), and a surname exchange list, without the requester's name and address. They hope this will lead to a permanent database for the family historians with roots in the former Soviet Union.

*Lineage, Spring-Summer 1995*

## ADVERTISING RATES

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by November 1995 for the Winter issue. Please indicate how many insertions you would like. As the chart indicates our basic rate is discounted for advertisements placed in four consecutive issues (one year) instead of a single issue only. By placing an ad in SHEM TOV, you are reaching a growing number of readers in Toronto, across Canada and internationally, and helping to support a unique and vital journal.

	One Issue	Four Issues (1 year)
Full Page	\$60	\$200
Half Page	\$30	\$100
Quarter Page	\$18	\$ 60
Eighth Page	\$10	\$ 32

Search ads are also available. Rates are \$5 for the first 25 words and 25¢ per word thereafter, your name and address are free. Please write advertisement clearly with family surnames you are researching in UPPER CASE letters. Make your cheque payable to Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada and mail to : JGS of Canada, P.O. Box 446, Station A, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5T1.

SIGILLA VERI

Published by Philip Stauff

The first edition of this book was published in Germany in 1911 under the title: Der Semikuerschner. The second edition, which was considerably enlarged came out in stages between 1929 and 1931. It consists of 4 volumes of approximately 1,200 pages each and it was never completed.

Now, what is this obscure German language book all about and why is it of some interest to Jewish genealogists in general and to those concerned with Central and Western Europe in particular?

It is in fact an anti-semitic Encyclopedia which was compiled by a German university professor named Heinrich Kraeger.

Kraeger was a racist and became a member of the Nazi party in the early twenties. He had the book published under the name of Philip Stauff, one of his collaborators, since he preferred to stay in the background. This book is organized alphabetically, the last entry being Polak.

The emphasis is obviously on German speaking Jewry, but there are many entries dealing with Jews and localities in other parts of the world. For instance, there is a 6-page article on Bialystok. Another short note of the Polish town of Gliniany near Lvov states that in this town of 4,000 inhabitants there are 9 banks with 40 Jewish directors and 100 Jewish executive committee members. The names of some of the directors are listed. There are literally thousands of shorter or longer biographies listed of Jews and persons of Jewish ancestry from all walks of life. Doctors, lawyers, businessmen, politicians, writers, actors-- they are all there, even non-Jews who are married to Jews and of course baptized Jews.

In most entries, the anti-Semitic tendency is unmistakable. The entry for the British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli refers to him as a "political adventurer." Nevertheless, there is a lot of solid information there that may be difficult to find elsewhere. Jewish residents in many localities, mostly in Germany, are classified by profession. The entry for Berlin consists of 41 pages, starting with a history of the Berlin Jewish Community from the Middle Ages to the present. This is followed by statistics showing the high percentage of Jews among doctors, lawyers, university students, etc. After that there are long lists of Jewish doctors, lawyers, scientists, businessmen, public officials and others. In most cases the first and second name, title and address are given. Not only Jews in larger German cities are listed but also those in smaller towns, such as Gleiwitz (now Gliwice in Poland), Erfurt, Glogau and many others.

One does not have to speak German to check the lists in this book and the individual biographies can be easily translated by someone who speaks the language. The anti-Semitic content is quite disgusting but we must disregard it.

*Our Society's library (located in the Canadiana Room of the North York Central Library) has photocopies of the first and second editions. As far as I know, the Leo Baeck Institute in New York and several U.S. universities have copies as well.*

Gabriel, S., Dr., GRN, Prof. 0 1907 — ); Galland, Mart., JN, ); Galliner, Dr., RA., Anti; Gahmann, Mag. Dr., Stadtrat, ); Geiger, Lud., Dr., Prof., GRN; Schaperstr. 8, 0 1878 — C ) 2 § Anti; Gimkiewicz, Leop., Stadtrat a. D., ) 2; Glas, S., Dr., JN, ); Glücksmann, Leo, RA, C Wallstr. 1, C; Goldberger, Jos., Ref., Dr., 0 1908 —; Goldmann, Ed., JN, Borj. d. Berliner Anwaltvereins; Goldschmidt, Alex, RA, C Rothenalerstr. 19, C; Goldschmidt, Curt, Dr. ); Goldstein, Hans, Dr., RA., B 8, Leipzigerstr. 112, „Livaria“; Goldstein, Siegf., Ref., B Geisbergstr. 19/11,

Unter den Namen der Mitglieder sind interessante Persönlichkeiten:

Adermann, Rud., Fabrikant; Adler, Ludwig, Rfm.; Adler, Siegfried, Dr., Arzt; Adler Siegfried, Großfm.; Alcher, Ludwig, Fabrikant; Auerbach, Louis, Bankier; Bacharach, Alfred, Dr., RA; Bacharach, Isaac, Rfm.; Bacharach, Julius, Fabrik.; Bacharach, Karl, Dr., Arzt; Bachmann, Mag. Großfm.; Bachmann, Salo, Großfm.; (!) Baer, Lazarus, Bankier; Baerwald, Leo, Dr., Rabbiner; (!) Ballin, Louis, RA; (!) Ballin, Martin, Fabrikant; Baron, Fritz, Dr. jur. SA; (!) Basch, Ju., Fabrikant; Beer, Otto Albert, Rfm.; Beer, Eug., JN

LAWYERS IN BERLIN

und — 20 Juden! Im ganzen zählt Lemberg 278 Advokaten — davon sind 84 Polen, 20 Ruthenen und 174 Juden! In der Provinz sieht es in dieser Beziehung noch viel schlimmer aus.“

St. R. Franzens-Universität: Professoren: Abraham, Ladislaus (Eiserne Krone!), Kirchenrecht; Ruzbaum, Josef, Embryologie; Askenazy, Simon, Geschichte (Neuzeit); Hirschberg, Alexander, poln. Geschichte; Blatt, Gerjon, indo-europ. Sprachen.

Bankwesen: Schönfeld, David, präf. NA Kredit-Union.

FROM THE ENTRY ON LVOV (LEMBERG)

MEMBERS OF BNEI BRITH, MUNICH

II. Medizin: [1913: 35 Ärzte, 10 Zahn-, 6 Tierärzte.] Aronade, D., Dr., (Kinder); Berliner, Ad., Dr. SA, C; Bloch, C., Dr. (Nerven), C; Brandenburg, Schlachthofstierarzt; Brud, M., Dr. (Kinder); Cahn, Alfr., Dr.; Cohn, Martin, Dr., C; Dzialofzynski, D., Dr.; Ehrenfried, Dr., Knappschafstobrenarzt, C ); Glaser, C., Dr.; Glogauer, Dr., SA (Zahn), C ); Kaufmann, Leo, Dr. (Zahn); Königsfeld, Mag. Dr. C ); Paster, M., Dr. (Chirurg); Roebinger, H., Dr.; Lubowski, C., Dr. (Augen); Sulofz, Hans, Dr.; Meyner, Siegm., Dr.; Pinczower, Dr. (Haut u. Blasen); Pintus, Bruno, Dr. (Zahn); Preiß, Edu., Dr. (Frauen), C )

DOCTORS IN KATTOWITZ

**HOW TO DOCUMENT VICTIMS AND LOCATE SURVIVORS OF THE HOLOCAUST**

by Gary Mokotoff, *Avotaynu, Teaneck, N.J., 1995*

The tragic fate of European Jewry during the Second World War, better known as the Holocaust, is one of the best documented events in recent history. Literally thousands of books, reminiscences, scholarly articles, etc., have been published over the last 50 years. However, as far as I know, this is the first time anyone has attempted to list in a logical and detailed manner the resources available today, which would assist in finding either victims or survivors.

Many people still believe that all Jewish records, especially in Eastern Europe, were destroyed either by the retreating Germans or during the fierce battles between the opposing armies. It is a fact, however, that a surprising number of records have survived in Central and Eastern Europe. With the fall of Communism, many captured German records are now becoming available to Western researchers.

The book describes in great detail the types of records, where they are located and how they may be accessed.

In the first part the reader is introduced to the basics of Holocaust Research, what and where to look for and how to approach the various resource centres for information on specific persons or persons with specific family names. The second and most important part of the book gives an overview of the major and minor Archives, Repositories, Libraries, Museums, etc., in North America, Israel and Europe.

Here is a select list:

1. North America:

- The National Archives of the Canadian Jewish Congress
- The U.S. Holocaust Research Centre
- YIVO Institute of Jewish Research
- Leo Baeck Institute
- The U.S. National Archives
- The U.S. Library of Congress

2. Israel:

- Yad Vashem Archives and Library
- The Search Bureau for Missing Relatives

3. Europe: (Various resource centres in the following countries are listed)

Austria, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Yugoslavia.

Apart from the above, attention is drawn to important resources such as Yizkor books, Concentration Camp Museums (List with addresses is included), Landsmanschaftn, Yad Vashem Pages of Testimony, Oral Testimonies, The International Tracing Service, etc.

All in all this is a great resource and should be required reading for anyone trying to find out something about Holocaust Victims or Survivors.

*This book is also in the collection of our library.*

**רשימת ניצולים יהודים מהונגריה שנמצאו בעיר דייר**

15.6.45 במסרה ע"י ההתאחדות הונגרית בחיפה

**LIST OF JEWISH SURVIVORS FOUND IN GYÖR**

Hungarian Settlers' Association, Haifa, 15.6.1945

Adler Pál	Deutsch Miklós	dr. Füredi Leóné	Gróf Irén
Adler Manó	Deutsch Nándor	Frischman Marian	Gróf Jolán
Armut Tibor	Deutsch Károly	Frischman Benjamin	Gróf Klára
Abraham Ernőné	Deutsch György	Frischman Erzsébet	Hámori Pál
Abraham Lili	Deutsch Erzsébet	Friedbauer Ignátz	Holczer Endre
Bakonyi István dr.	Diamant György	Fischer Hedvig	Hercz József
Berger Gábor	Drach Sarolta	Farkas Ica	Hoffmann Mariska
Braun Miksa	Erdélyi Jenő	Farkas Éva	Hoffman Ilonka
Bátori János	Eckman Miklós	Flaschner István	Heinrich Béláné
Blechner Ferencz	Egerman Jenő	Flaschner Lajos	Heltai László
Bettelheim Frigyes	Engel Jenő	Fleischman Kátó	Hercz György
Bittmann Ernőné	Engel Manó	Gross Sándor	Hajos László
Bárdos Zsuzsi	Erdélyi Odón	Gróf dr. Cáspar	Hirsch Magdolna
Bing Géza	Engel Ferencz	Gróf Gyula	Hoffmann Magda
Bányai György	Eisenbach Ervin	Gold Márton	Hoffmann Kátó
Bineth Miksa	Engel Zsuzsa	Grün Endre	Jukker Zoltán
Bakonyi István	Eckstein Vera	Grünwald Berta	Jakab Erzsébet
Boros György	Eredics Miklósné	Geiger László	József Ibolya

VARCHAVSKY	ALEXANDRE	17.07.98	
VARCHAVSKY	HELENE	01.07.41	TOULOUSE
VARCHAVSKY	KATHERINE	29.03.03	TELSIF
VEIL	MAURICE	10.10.71	INLINS
VENEZIA	DICKNO	23.12.25	SALONIQUE
VENGEROWSKY	ABRAHAM	27.04.76	BAKMONT
VENGEROWSKY	RACHEL	23.08.76	ROSTOW
VIDAL	REINE	26.11.03	NIMES
VITMAN	ELISE	09.88	TERUCI
VITMAN	RUDA	17.03.16	WLOCLAWEK
VITMAN	JAMUEL	22.07.12	BUCAREST
VITUCHNOVSKY	LEONIDE	22.12.19	ROSTOW
VOLDMAN	SIMON	14.12.12	BRICERO
WACHSMANN	LEON	26.02.15	CRACOVIE
WAHL	CHARLOTTE	20.05.95	MULHOUSE
WAHL	GINETTE	19.10.22	STRASBOURG
WAHL	HANNAH	08.04.94	LYON
WAHL	HUGUETTE	23.02.14	PARIS
WAHL	SYLVETTE	01.02.19	LYON
WAHRENBERG	GRETE	16.05.10	VIENNE
WATSER	ARON	11.03.09	VARSOVIE
WATSER	SUZANNE	29.01.17	PARIS
WAITZMANN	MARCELLE	25.11.20	

LIST FROM CONVOY No. 62, WHICH LEFT PARIS

Nov. 23, 1943 FOR AUSCHWITZ

LIST OF HUNGARIAN SURVIVORS

**SURVIVORS OF THE HOLOCAUST IN POLAND**  
**A PORTRAIT BASED ON JEWISH COMMUNITY RECORDS 1944-1947**  
 by Lucjan Dobroszycki, M.E. Sharpe, Armonk N.Y., 1994

This new book is an important source for those people who are looking for possible survivors who were found in Poland after the war. The book gives a general overview of the reemergence and subsequent decline of the relatively small Jewish community of Poland after the end of WWII. There is a wealth of statistical information on the number of Jews in Poland and their location in 1946 and 1947.

However the most interesting part as far as genealogists are concerned is Chapter 5, entitled: Lists of Jewish Children Who Survived.

Table 5.1: List of children who survived in hiding with the help of Christians, by provinces in which they were hidden. There are about 300 children on this list (see sample below).

Table 5.2: List of children in Orphanages and Childrens Homes (December 1945). Over 1,000 children are on this list, which gives their names, date and place of birth, names of parents and last known address.

Table 5.3: List of children who had been redeemed by Jewish Organizations and sent abroad with the goal of settling them in Palestine (Summer of 1946). This list of over 200 children provides date and place of birth and names of parents. There are also 50 children listed in orphanages in Crakow, Chorzów and Bidsko.

When I showed this book to our member Anna Cheszes, she immediately found one of her friends who is now living in Toronto. *This book is in the Robarts Library of the University of Toronto.*

Name	Age	Parent's name(s)	Hiding place or whereabouts	Caretaker, remarks
Drenzyk Rachela (Malczewska Janina) Marja	15	Simcha Fajga	ŁOMŻA ul. Dworna 28 Monastery	Shoemaker Matuszewski, ul. Długa 9
Boy	5	unknown	JABŁONIA KOŚCIELNA Wysokie Mazowieckie County	Jablonski Aleksander

PART OF TABLE 5.1

**CALL TO PAPERS**



**The 15th International Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy  
 July 14-19, 1996 Boston.**

The Seminar Committee will consider proposals for talks for presentation at the Seminar on: methodology; newly available, developing or unusual research resources; computer aids; finding techniques; onomastics; relevant history, politics or geography; or other topics of Jewish genealogical interest.

An abstract must be submitted by January 01, 1996. Talks chosen will have hand-out notes included in the published syllabus. Notification of acceptance will be by February 15, 1996. Include a one paragraph autobiographical sketch with the proposal, with full name, address, phone, fax and email address. For further information on submission and suitability, you may write to: Edmund U. Cohler, JGS of Greater Boston, P.O. Box 610366, Newton Highlands, MA 02161-0366; or email at: [ecohler@cspi.com](mailto:ecohler@cspi.com)

**POLISH RESEARCH INFO**

by Leah Bisel

The Polish National Tourist Office, 275 Madison Avenue, Suite 1711, New York, N.Y. 10016 will send you *FREE* many helpful research tools.

They include:

- Maps of Judaics in Poland
- Brochure entitled *They Lived Among Us, Polish Judaica*
- POLAND, A Destination for the 90's, a travel brochure.

*Generations, Spring 1995*

## TEMPEST IN A SAMOVAR OR THE UGLY AMERICAN GENEALOGIST?

by Karen Fejer

*I've been through some of these local and central archives and there's general agreement on the part of archivists throughout all levels of Russian and Ukrainian archives that Jews from America...are uncouth, unpleasant, domineering and full of themselves. Another instance of the ugly American. In contradiction, Jews from Europe and Israel they hold in the highest regard because these people treat them with consideration that should characterize all human relations... There's an old proverb in Ukrainian... "honey works better than vinegar. Why go into their kitchens and spit in their borscht."*

George Bolotenko, archivist, National Archives of Canada, speaking at the 14th Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, Washington D.C. June 1995.

George Bolotenko's words stunned me when I heard them at the conclusion of his presentation, *Beyond the Metrics: Other Sources in Russian and Ukrainian Archives*, at the summer seminar in Washington last June. An informative speaker, his address focused on recently de-classified department of police records.

Why, I wondered, was an invited speaker being so derisive?

It was late in the evening after a long day of seminar activities and the audience dispersed quickly. The couple of people I queried for their impressions said they had been sitting at the back of the auditorium and hadn't heard the remarks or hadn't been paying close attention. A member of the organizing committee urged me to speak to Bolotenko directly if I was upset. "He's a friend of ours," I was told.

Still I hesitated because I felt uncomfortable challenging him on his remarks. It wasn't until August that I finally got around to calling him in Ottawa to ask him about what he meant.

In our telephone conversation Bolotenko explained that archivists in several archives in the Ukraine have complained to him about the way some researchers from American Jewish institutions have treated them. These Americans have accused the Ukrainian archivists of hiding documents they need - genealogical material on communities in the former U.S.S.R. According to Bolotenko, this material is being legitimately withheld because it has not been de-classified yet - something the Americans refuse to accept.

In addition he contends, these American Jewish researchers deliberately break appointments, insist on access to documents without regard to the time required to retrieve them and generally make impossible demands on archival staff.

Also contributing to this climate of distrust are some Jewish American providers of genealogical services who at times treat archival staff in an inconsiderate manner, he said.

These are trying times for Ukrainian archivists, Bolotenko stressed, and these people are trying very hard to accommodate researcher's requests. "If only people from the West would show a little understanding and a little bit of human commiseration or feeling for their plight...you can get so much

from them. They're so prepared to help."

It is a relatively small number of people, he conceded, who have poisoned the atmosphere.

Bolotenko agreed that the traditional distrust between Ukrainians and Jews may be contributing to this hostile climate. "I would think that overall there still is a root anti-semitism there. I don't think it's as consuming as it was at one time simply because the Jewish question has not really been prominent over the last generation and a half, since 1945."

Furthermore, he emphasized, archivists are educated, sophisticated people, less prone to anti-semitic sentiments.

Bolotenko admitted he is angry to a degree and saddened by what has happened. As an archivist with a Ph.D. in Russian/Ukrainian history, fluent in both languages and sharing the same ethnic background, he feels a kinship with these people and compassion for the hardships they have had to endure.

"Only now are they coming out of a colossal isolation that was imposed on them by a very brutal regime. They're in no way guilty for that system or that structure... People have to realize that they feel a colossal sense of shame about their past. They feel very markedly a sense of deficiency in their self-worth from a communist system that deformed them. They get wounded very easily. They don't yell back, they just retreat into themselves and walk away with the hurt which they nurture for a very long time."

Bolotenko explained that the Russian and Ukrainian archival system is not like ours. The structure differs and their patterns of work are not the same. Accessing material is a problem because there are no databases or file lists. In many cases archivists don't even know what records they have on a given locale. This problem is compounded, he said, because these archives have virtually no funding to work with.

To get around these obstacles, Bolotenko and his colleague at the National Archives of Canada, Lawrence Tapper are working to establish a database for the State Archives of the Russian Federation in Moscow - one of the richest holdings on Jews in the former U.S.S.R.

Although I now understand why Bolotenko made his remarks, I still have only one side of the story. It is clear though that the interactions between Ukrainian and Russian archivists and some American Jewish researchers and genealogists have not been smooth and resentments have developed. Since many of us have roots in that part of the world and are hoping to get access to genealogical materials, perhaps it is the right time to get together and fund a project that will give us all that opportunity. ☆

SHEM TOV would like to hear from those who have had positive or negative experiences in light of the above article. Submissions (not handwritten) should be sent to SHEM TOV by November 15, 1995. Please include the sender's name, mailing address and evening telephone number. Material may be subject to condensing or editing.

# ROOTS AND BRANCHES

by Miriam Weiner

## ROUTES TO ROOTS IN MOLDOVA (FORMERLY BESSARABIA)

The changing boundaries in Eastern Europe not only keep the map makers working overtime, but also make it difficult for many of us to identify the current name of our ancestors' country of origin.

If your family came from the area once known as Bessarabia, you would look for "Moldova" on the current maps, located between Ukraine and Romania.

My first visit to Moldova in early 1992 began with a train ride from Kiev to Kishinev, a grueling 16-hour trip with stops at numerous cities and villages along the way. By comparison, the trip by car between two cities is only ten hours depending on the time necessary to cross the border.

Since that first visit, I have returned to Moldova six times and have spent most of this time working in the Moldova National Archives and visiting towns throughout the country: Orgayev, Soroki, Beltsy, Ataki/Atachi, Yedintsy, Khotin, Bendery, Kalarash, Teleneshty, Lipkany and Faleshty.

Although I have worked extensively in archives throughout Poland and Ukraine, I can honestly say that the cooperation and general attitude of the archival personnel in Kishinev is unequalled in my experience. Beginning with the director of the archives, Dr. Mitru M. Ghitu, his entire staff have been shown great enthusiasm in showing me the vast material they have about the Jews from Bessarabia.

What complicates this research is not knowing where all the material could be. My first request was for an inventory of Jewish collections. The director agreed to have this inventory prepared and each time I visit, another segment is ready. However, this request has resulted in some extensive travel. For example, one of the staff went to St. Petersburg and compiled an extensive inventory of Jewish documents from Bessarabia which are now in the St. Petersburg archives.

My great-grandmother, Beila Rovinsky, came from Faleshty, a town in Central Moldova. How and why she later migrated to Sudilkov, hundreds of miles north in Ukraine, is a mystery to this day. In researching the Faleshty Jewish documents in the Kishinev archives, I found the marriage record of her parents: Edis Leah and Josef Zelig Rovinsky.

Research in the Moldova archives requires knowledge of Russian and Romanian or a multi-talented interpreter! For example, pre-1918 documents are in Russian; documents from the period 1918-1944 are in Romanian; after 1930, there were no separate Jewish registrations.

Some of the types of documents to be found include:

- > Registrations of birth, death, marriage and divorce
- > Census lists of Jewish community (includes several generations of one family with their ages)
- > Immigration applications (with much data and sometimes a photo)

- > List of students in Jewish schools
- > List of Jews eligible for the army
- > List of Jews in Orgayev ghetto
- > Passport applications
- > Extensive documentation from 1903 Kishinev pogrom
- > Holocaust documents

It is seldom that I find an alphabetical index to names, but this archive has many name index books and in some cases, they only have the index and not the documents themselves. For example, I have had much success working with an alphabetical index of births for the period 1829-1857 (Kishinev). Frequently, the indexes cover all of Bessarabia and are many hundreds of pages.

Because Jews were not permitted (officially) to live in towns within 50 kilometers of the border, they registered births, marriages and deaths in an "official" town elsewhere, perhaps where they had relatives; therefore, in researching one particular family from Atachi, I found registrations for this family in Lipkany and also in Beltsy. This registration system tends to sharpen one's detective skills.

As is true throughout the former Soviet Union, the archive staff is overworked and hampered by the lack of computers, few finding aids and the modern office equipment and office supplies we take for granted. Only one woman in the archives knows a few words of English. While they receive many requests from all over the world for research by mail, at this time it is not possible to comply because there is no reliable system for the transfer of money and also it is difficult for the staff because of language and the many days necessary to complete the research. Credit cards and cheques are not household words in this country. According to absolutely everyone, sending cash through the postal system is a guaranteed "present" for some postal worker along the route.

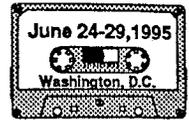
The research process itself is tedious, lengthy and tiresome at times. However, the exhilaration of finding what you want and seeing the names and signatures of your ancestors is a reward that knows no boundaries to the family historian.

If you plan to visit Kishinev and want to work in the archives, Dr. Ghitu and his staff are ready to welcome you and help in any way they can. ☆

☞ ☞

*Miriam Weiner is an author and lecturer specializing in Jewish genealogy and Holocaust research. For information on tracing roots in Moldova/Bessarabia, send a self-addressed stamped envelope with the name of your ancestral town to Miriam Weiner, 136 Sandpiper Key, Secaucus, New Jersey, 07094 U.S.A.*

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LONDON, OLD CLOTHES TO SELL, c. 1820



STREET TRADER OF SMYRNA, c. 1830



*Hebräo-englische Blasebalstler.*

HAMBURG, JEWISH STREET TRADER, 1808

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