



הארכיון הכללי לתולדות ישראל

Reviewed work(s):

Source: *Zion / ציון*, Vol. (תשכ"ח), ג' חוברת ג-ד (תשכ"ח), pp. VII-IX

Published by: [Historical Society of Israel/](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/70054411>

Accessed: 19/11/2011 13:05

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IN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ISRAEL

The Fourteenth Annual Convention

On December 15 and 16, 1968, commencing with the lighting of the first Hanuka candle, the 14th Annual Convention of the Historical Society in Israel, in cooperation with the Association of History Teachers took place. It was devoted to the subject: "The Mediterranean: its Place in the History and Culture of the Jews and other Nations". His Excellency President Z. Shazar, Honorary President of the Historical Society, took part in the opening ceremony. The following lectures were heard:

Prof. H. H. Ben-Sasson: General Introduction.

Prof. M. Avi-Yonah: The Mediterranean — its Place in History.

Mr. Z. Hermann: Expansion of the Phoenicians and their Culture along the Shores of the Mediterranean.

Dr. M. Amit: Routes of Peace and Routes of War in the Mediterranean during the Classical Greek Period.

Dr. S. Appelbaum: The Spread of the Jewish Dispersion along the Shores of the Mediterranean during the Roman Hellenistic Period.

Dr. A. Grabois: Medieval Christian Pilgrimages to the Mediterranean Basin and their Influence on Christian Awareness of the Holy Land.

Dr. D. Jacoby: The Venetian Empire from the 13th to the 17th Centuries.

Dr. A. L. Motzkin: The Daily Life of a Jewish Family in 13th Century Fostat (from research on Genizah documents).

Dr. E. Sivan: Islam and the Mediterranean — a Renewed Examination of the Pirenne Thesis.

Mr. E. Sternberg: The Corsairs of Barbary and their Relationships with Jews in the Western Basin of the Mediterranean during the 16th and 18th Centuries.

Sgan-Aluf (Res.) M. Gihon: Effect of the Mediterranean Coast-line on Israel's Security as seen from a Historical Viewpoint.

On the second day of the Convention there was a guided tour to the excavations of the Southern Wall with an introduction by Dr. S. Safrai and explanations by Mr. M. Ben-Dov. As in former years, a large number of members and teachers participated in the Convention.

THE JEWISH HISTORICAL GENERAL ARCHIVES

During the last few months the Archives made the following acquisitions:

Austria

Dr. Hugo Gold, Tel-Aviv, gave the Archives reports, statutes, various prints, newspaper cuttings, lists of community members, minutes and letters (original and photocopy), all relating to the community of *Vienna* (1918—1945); Dr. Gold also presented the Archives with a number of manuscripts on the history of the Jews in that city, their institutions and buildings (17th—20th centuries). — In continuation of the survey which the JHGA are carrying out in the State Archives in *Vienna*, additional lists of documents and files on Jews were received. The State Archives also sent approximately 20,000 frames of microfilm (1487-1824), which had been ordered.

Finland

Through Mr. I. Gordin, Helsinki, the following records of the Jewish community in *Helsinki* were filmed: Minute-Book of the Burial Society (1865-86); Minute-Books of "Bikur-Cholim" society (1879-1944); Family register (1895-1918); Birth register (1903-1919); Register of community members (1919); Minute-book of the community (1909-1917). The records are in Yiddish, Russian and Swedish.

France

The library of the Alliance Israélite Universelle, Paris, sent microfilms of documents and manuscripts on the history of the Jews in *France* and *Italy* from the 17th to the 19th centuries.—In the course of the survey undertaken by the JHGA in French archives, lists were received from the following: Bibliothèque Arsenal, Archives Nationales (12th—14th centuries) and Bibliothèque Nationale in *Paris*; Musée Calvet in *Avignon*; the Departmental Archives in *Colmar* (1660-1823) and in *Strasbourg* (1720-1786); the Municipal Archives of *St. Rémy de Provence* (1294-1488).—The Bibliothèques Nationale in Paris sent microfilms on the history of the Jews in France in the Middle Ages, as well as specific material on the Jews of *Metz*.

The Archives received a list of the private archives of *Cerf-Berr* which are kept in the *Archives du Palais* of *Monaco*.

Germany

Mrs. H. R. Mayer, widow of Dr. Eugen Mayer, Jerusalem, donated the Minute-Book of the "Burial Society" of the community of *Worms* (1714-1721, 1747-1843). The late Dr. Mayer had been a close friend of the Archives for many years and made much use of their collections; the minute-book originated from the legacy of his grandfather, Rabbi Moses Mannheimer of Worms and during his lifetime Dr. Mayer provided for its ultimate transfer to the Archives.—Mr. Eli Rothschild, Tel-Aviv, sent a photocopy of the "Rendt Protocoll" of the City of *Friedberg (Wetterau)* in Hesse (1652-1779), which contains mainly the payments of the Jews.—The Museum of Religious Art of "Hechal Shlomo", Jerusalem, lent, for filming, the copy of the minute-book of the County of *Wied-Runkel* (1733-1782), parts of which were published by B. Wachstein in the *Yivo-Bleter*, VI (1934), as well as in the *ZGJD*, IV (1932).—Dr. Raphael Lerner, London, kindly made possible the filming of several important minute books from the Triple Community of *Altona-Hamburg-Wandsbek*: a) Registers of the "Erekh" (wealth assessments) of the members of the community (1741-1808); b) Book of contributions to Eretz-Israel (1687-1805); c) copies of "Tenaim" (betrothal agreements) (1786-1793); d) "Pinkas ha-Metim", a listing of burials, first of all three communities, later of *Altona* alone (1714-1895 and isolated entries 1925-1938).

Greece

Mr. Daniel Alhanatis, Athens, sent photocopies of some of the editions of "Israelitica Chronica", which appeared in *Corfu* (1862-1863).

Italy

The State Archives in Milan sent: a) xerox copies of documents and monographs on the history of the Jews in *Cremona*, *Pavia*, *Como*, *Terni*, *Fano*; b) a shipment of about 1100 microfilm frames from the "Fondo Missive" (1450-1472); c) xerox copies of the "Sermon do auto da fé"—Lisbon, 1705.—The "Libreria Estense" in *Modena* sent microfilms from the Formiggini Collection: "The Grand Sanhedrin of

VIII

The Jewish Historical General Archives

Paris — 1806". — The State Archives in *Perugia* sent lists from the "Fondo Notarile". — Dr. S. Cusin, Milan, sent xerox copies of various documents including the statutes of "Hevrat Rodfe Mizwot" (1701) and of "Hevrat Ezrath Ahim" (1712) in *Venice* and of the extension (1742) of the Charter of Tolerance given to the Jews of *Mantova*.

Morocco

Material from various communities in *Morocco* dating from the 18th to the 20th centuries was acquired by the Archives. The material includes rabbinic court decisions, copy-books of deeds of communities, isolated deeds, marriage contracts, bills of divorce, etc., as well as correspondence between the leaders of different communities. Most of the documents relate to the Jews of *Fez*, some to the Jews of *Casablanca*, *Meknes*, *Sefrou*, *Marrakech*, *Demnat* and to those from townships and villages near *Fez* in the North and *Marrakech* in the South. — In addition the Archives acquired letters from the "Comité de la Communauté Israelite Marocaine à Jérusalem" to Jewish community leaders in *Marrakech* (1903-1924).

Poland

With the generous assistance of the Minister of Tourism and Development, Mr. Moshe Kol and the organization of former members of the Pinsk and Karlin community, the Archives were able to obtain two notebooks containing entries of about 1230 births, marriages and divorces in the community of *Pinsk*, as recorded by Rabbi Abraham Isaac Gruszko in the years 1927-1935. — Mr. A. Sirkis, Jerusalem (through the good offices of Mr. Z. Fischer, Tel-Aviv) made possible the microfilming of the minute-book of the community of *Zgierz* (1915-1930). — Dr. J. Klausner, Jerusalem, presented copies from various minute-books: "Old Klaus", "New Klaus", Burial Society, "Bedeck Habait" Society and "Pinkas ha-Shi'budim" (securities for loans and obligations) of the community of *Vilna*, in addition to printed material relating to the community.

Portugal

The American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati sent copies made from their microfilm records of Inquisition trials in *Lisbon* of "New Christians" who had been brought from *Brazil* (1714-1723). The files were filmed in the Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo, *Lisbon*, which kindly authorised the transfer of copies to the JHGA.

Russia

Mr. U. Gordon, Givataim, sent to the Archives several sheets of internal currency worth 5 roubles each, which had been used by members of the Jewish cooperatives attached to the "Central Office of Cooperatives in Minsk" (early twenties of this century).

Private Archives

Mrs. E. Eibschütz, Ramat-Gan, transferred the collection of her late father, Dr. S. Wininger, which includes additions in hand-writing and print to his "*Grosse Jüdische Nationalbiographie*". — Mrs. Ruth Kisch-Arndt, New York, sent the archives of her late husband, Professor *Bruno Kisch*. The archives contain documents of the Kisch and Pollatchek families in *Prague*, as well as much material on his varied activities in the community of *Cologne* and in *New York*. — Through Prof. H. Beinart, Mr. Joseph Lasry, Madrid, donated a file containing papers of his grandfather *Rabbi Samuel*

Lasry, who was chief rabbi of *Gibraltar* (1859-1905). — Dr. Kurt Grunwald, Jerusalem, turned over personal papers and manuscripts of his father, *Rabbi Dr. Max Grunwald* (1898-1953). — Mrs. D. Frank, New York, sent additions to the archives of her late husband, *Herman Frank*. — Mrs. H. J. Cohn, Haifa—Jerusalem, sent additional material to the collection of her late husband *Abraham Cohn*, relating to the history of the Jews in *Hesse*. — Mr. S. Broches sent additions to the collection on American Jewry in his name (the new material concerns Jewish soldiers who fell in the Civil War, 1861-1865). — A microfilm of the correspondence between *Ismar Elbogen* and *Julius Rosenwald* (1923-1928) was sent from the *Rosenwald collection* in Chicago.

The Jewish Historical General Archives wish to express their thanks to all the above, as well as to His Excellency, President Zalman Shazar; the Central Zionist Archives; the Leo Baeck Institute, New York; the Committee for bringing Shalom Schwarzbard's remains to rest in Israel, Tel-Aviv; Mr. A. Ben-David, Jerusalem; Mr. H. Böhm, Dillingen-Donau; Dr. K. Frenkel, Jerusalem; Dr. M. Heymann, Jerusalem; Rabbi A. J. Karp, Rochester, N.Y.; Mr. Michael Levi, Jerusalem; Mr. Leopold Marx, Shavei-Zion; Mr. Ernst Noam, Frankfurt am Main; Mr. David Pinkhasi, Tel-Aviv; Mrs. N. Rosenzweig, Tel-Aviv; Mr. J. Walk, Jerusalem.