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בארכיון המרכזי לתולדות העם היהודי

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## THE CENTRAL ARCHIVES FOR THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

In February 1979 the Central Archives published "Inventory No. 1: Judah Leib Magnes Papers, 1890-1948 (including the archives of the New York 'Kehillah', 1908-1922)", edited by Mrs. Hadassah Assouline. This is the first of a series of inventories to be published by the Central Archives. This record group contains material on Dr. Magnes' activities in the United States and Palestine, as well as the archives of the New York "Kehillah", which Magnes founded and headed throughout its existence.

The cataloguing of the archives of the Viennese Jewish Community has been completed, and the inventory of this large and important record group will shortly be brought to press.

The Central Archives recently purchased new storage facilities in Talpiot, Jerusalem. This acquisition was made possible by the bequest of the late Judah Solomon Idzelman Rabin of England, which was made available to the Archives by the Central Administrator and Official Receiver of Israel, Attorney Amram Blum, upon recommendation of His Excellency, the President of Israel.

The premises are now being adapted to the requirements of archival storage. It is hoped that the necessary funds will soon be found to equip the new premises so as to facilitate the accessioning and proper storing of archival material due to arrive from abroad.

The Minute Book of the Jewish community of Poznań, "Sepher Hazichronot", 1592-1689, was restored and rebound at the Restoration Department of the National and University Library.

The Central Archives suffered a severe loss with the untimely death of two of their oldest friends who had assisted them with wise counsel and practical help over a long period.

On January 8, 1978 *Prof. Dr. Berthold Simonsohn* died in Frankfurt on the Main. He had been active in Jewish communal affairs in Germany after the Holocaust and had helped the Archives in all their activities related to the transfer of Jewish communal archives from Germany to Jerusalem since 1954, when the negotiations over the fate of the Hamburg-Altona-Wandsbek community archives had begun.

On October 2, 1978 the Ambassador of Israel to Italy, *Mr. Zeev Sheck*, passed away in Rome. He had been connected with the activities of the Archives since 1946 when he collected in Czechoslovakia material on the Theresienstadt (Terezín) camp. Later, as Ambassador to Austria, he tried very hard to redeem the archives of the former Jewish communities of Burgenland which had been confiscated during the Nazi period, but which unfortunately the Austrian authorities have not returned to the Jewish people to this very day.

Blessed be the memory of both our friends.

The following acquisitions, surveys and microfilm projects were made by the Archives in the course of 1978-1979:

### *International Jewish Organizations*

*The International Council of Jewish Women* deposited its archives covering the years 1951-1978. — The *Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany* sent additional files of its central offices in New York. — *JRSO (Jewish Restitution Successor Organization)* sent additional files from its office in New York.

### *Argentina*

In accordance with a decision by the *Jewish Colonization Association (JCA)*, London, and through the good offices of the Hebrew University, the Central Archives received the extensive archives of JCA in Buenos Aires, reflecting its activities in *Argentina*.

### *Austria*

The Jewish Community of *Vienna* deposited additional records and files of its archives, recently discovered, dating from the 18th to the 20th centuries. Among the items found was a photographic copy of the first part of the old community's Memor Book (see: *Newsletter*, 2, p. iii). — The systematic survey and microfilming of sources on Jewish history in Austria was continued and the Archives received: a list of documents relating to Jews in *Tirol* and *Vorarlberg*, 1510-1628, held at the "Ferdinandum" Museum of Tirol, Innsbruck; — regesta of documents at the *Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv*, Vienna, on Jews in *Austria*, 1351-1535, and from the Municipal Archives of *Vienna*, 1588-1593; — regesta of documents of Jews, from the State Archives of *Lower Austria* in Vienna, 1371-1428.

### *Brazil*

Mr. Egon and Mrs. Frieda Wolff, Rio de Janeiro, sent photographs of Jewish tombstones at cemeteries in *Rio de Janeiro*, *Belém* and *Franca*.

### *Czechoslovakia*

Mrs. Anči Weisskopf, Haifa, gave the Archives a manuscript on the representative organization of *Bohemian Jewry*, 1853-1875, written by a contemporary.

### *France*

Mrs. Liz Schwarzfuchs, Jerusalem, gave the Archives a betrothal contract from *Dambach*, 1737, and a marriage contract from *Wolfisheim*, 1872. — The Archives received a microfilm of the Memor Book of the *Haguenau* community, 18th-19th centuries. — The Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, sent lists of their holdings on the Jews of *Marseilles*, 1777-1906, and a microfilm of the register of wills from the community of *Metz*, 18th century. — The Archives received seven documents on the Jews of *Metz* and *Nancy*, 1688-1752. — Regesta of documents relating to Jews, 1390-1544, were received from the Departmental Archives at *Strasbourg*.

### *Germany*

Mr. Shimon Würzburger, Tel-Aviv, gave the Archives the "Golden Book" of the Jewish convalescent home in *Bad Kissingen*, 1927. — Mr. Gerhard Ballin, Seesen, sent a German translation of the *Beverungen* community's Memor Book, 1690-1848. — Rabbi Yonah Merzbach, Jerusalem, gave a copy of memoirs by Karl Darmstädter of *Birkenau/Odenwald*. — Courtesy of Dr. Michael Heymann, Jerusalem, the Archives received from Mrs. Therese Mayer, Tel-Aviv, the *Breslau* community budget, 1932-

1933. — The Archives acquired an account book of the Burial Society in *Freystadt*, Prussia, 1819-1877.

#### *Survey and Microfilming*

The following lists of files, regesta of documents and microfilms of material relating to Jewish history were received in the course of survey and microfilming projects in German archives: Regesta, 1477-1524, from the Municipal Archives of *Annweiler*. — Regesta, 1360-1596, from the Municipal Archives of *Cologne*. — Regesta, 1375-1451, from the Municipal Archives of *Constance*. — Regesta, 1277-1611, as well as a microfilm of the record group "Commission for Jewish Affairs", 1785-1823, from the State Archives at *Darmstadt*. — Regesta, 1390-1453, from the Municipal Archives of *Esslingen*. — A list of files, 1520-1591, from the Municipal Archives of *Goslar*. — Regesta, 1297-1573, from the State Archives at *Karlsruhe*. — Regesta, 1353-1472, from the Diocesan Archives of *Mainz*. — Regesta, 1375-1535, from the State Archives at *Marburg/Lahn*. — Regesta, 1350-1585, from the State Archives at *Munich*. — Regesta, 1357-1514, from the Municipal Archives of *Neustadt/Weinstrasse*. — Regesta, 1367-1461, from the Municipal Archives of *Oberlahnstein*. — Regesta, 1387-1523, from the Municipal Archives of *Speyer*. — Regesta, 1354-1559, from the State Archives at *Wertheim*. — Regesta, 1403-1593, as well as photocopies of reports by the Jacobson School in *Seesen*, 1838, 1876-1885, from the State Archives at *Wolfenbüttel*. — The Central Archives also received: A microfilm of the commercial notebook of a Jewish textile merchant at *Buchen*, 1755, from the Archives of the Princes of Leiningen at *Amorbach*. — A list of files relating to Jews, 1882-1940, from the Municipal Archives of *Langen* (Hesse). — A list of files, 1763-1968, from the Municipal Archives of *Nordhorn*. — A list of files, 1862-1952, from the Municipal Archives of *Offenburg* (courtesy of Dr. Joseph Walk, Jerusalem). — 176 photographs of tombstones in the old cemetery of *Worms*, from the Municipal Archives there.

#### *India*

Mr. Abraham Benjamin, Thana, collected and sent to the Central Archives much material on the Jews of *India*, especially on the "*Bene Israel*", from 1884 to the middle of the 20th century. Among the items sent are correspondence, 1884-1936, and a minute book, 1925-1933, of the "Sha'ar Hashama'in" synagogue in *Thana*. — Mr. Ychudah Weissberger, Bombay, sent photographs on Jewish sites throughout *Cochin*.

#### *Italy*

The Archives acquired a register of births, marriage contracts and wills, containing also the registration of new memberships, from *Pisa*, 1691-1749. — Prof. Guido Tedeschi, Jerusalem, presented the Archives with a manuscript of the statutes of the community of *Rovigo*, 1880. — In the course of the systematic survey and microfilming of sources on Jewish history in Italian archives, the following were received: Regesta of documents from notarial records relating to Jews, 1442-1448, held by the State Archives at *Palermo*. — Regesta of documents, 1401-1485, held by the State Archives at *Pisa*. — Regesta of documents, 1432-1710, regesta of documents, from the "Governor" files, 1813-1851, as well as a microfilm of documents from the "Balìa" record group, 1502-1780, all held by the State Archives at *Siena*. — Regesta of documents, 1312-1431, held by the State Archives at *Udine*. — The "Badia di Cava" Monastery near Salerno

sent a microfilm of the account book of a Jewish moneylender in *Cava*, 1492. — Files from the Jewish Community archives of *Florence* from 1690 to the end of the 18th century were microfilmed at the State Archives of Florence. — The Royal Library in Copenhagen sent a microfilm of an Inquisition trial and “Auto da Fé” in *Palermo*, 1586. — Microfilms of documents, 1566-1806, were sent by the State Library in *Turin*. — Dr. Amadeo Tagliacozzo, Rome, sent xerox copies of documents relating to the Jews of *Bagnoregio*, 1546-1567, which are held by the State Archives at Viterbo. — Mr. Ugo Finzi, Leghorn, sent additional clippings on the *Middle East* from the Italian press, 1977.

### *Kenya*

The *Nairobi* Hebrew Congregation sent a list of its archival records, 1907-1977.

### *Morocco*

Rabbi Machlouf Lasry, Bet-She'an, donated to the Archives documents on the Jews of *Erfoud*, *Midelt* and *Djerba* (Tunis), 1929, 1946-1963. — The Archives acquired: Two notebooks of deed formulas. — A collection of deeds and letters, 1855-1915. — Two Pinkassim of deeds from the Rabbinical Court, 1934-1948, and a collection of 50 deeds, 1923-1943. from *Sefrou*.

### *Netherlands*

The Municipal Archives of *Amsterdam* sent a preliminary list of the records of the *Ashkenazi* community, 1816-1943, which are deposited there.

### *Pakistan*

Mr. Avner Arazi, Consul General of Israel, Milan, sent the statutes of the Jewish community, 1922, as well as the statutes of the “Magen Shalom” synagogue, 1926, in *Karachi*.

### *Portugal*

The National Archives Torre do Tombo, Lisbon, sent regesta and microfilms of documents relating to Jews, mainly from the notebooks of the Chancellery of Dom Manuel I, 1456-1521, as well microfilms of 86 Inquisition trials in *Evora*, 1616-1653. — The Central Archives acquired two sermons from “Autos da Fé”, *Lisbon*, 1645, 1664.

### *Russia*

Courtesy of Mr. Yechezkel Keren, Jerusalem, the Ya'akov Heifetz family, New York, gave the Archives the diary of Mr. Heifetz' father, Rabbi Zvi Heifetz, *Feodosia* (Crimea), 1904-1925.

### *Spain*

From various archives in *Jaen* regesta and photocopies of documents relating to Jews and Marranos, 1456-1614, were received. — From the Municipal Archives of *Alcala la Real* at Jaen regesta, 1382-1390, were received.

### *Tunisia*

The Archives acquired two collections of letters: of Rabbi Halfon Moshe Hakohen of

*Djerba*, 1902-1951, containing letters received from various rabbis and institutions in *Israel* (Palestine), and of Rabbi Shushan Hakohen of *Djerba*, 1934-1940, containing letters from Moshe Ya'akov Sofer, Jerusalem, on trade in religious books and articles.

### *Turkey*

The Archives acquired a register of dowries, betrothal contracts and financial agreements from the *Balat* and *Haskoy* quarters in *Istanbul*, 1846-1879.

### *Yugoslavia*

The Federation of Jewish Communities in Yugoslavia, Belgrade, sent: photocopies of documents from the Ashkenazi and Sephardi communities in *Semun*, 1854-1930. — Photographic negatives of tombstones in the old cemetery of *Sarajevo*. — Microfilms of remnants from archives of the following *Slovenian* communities: *Križevci*, 1862-1935; *Varaždin*, 1912, 1946; *Vinkovci*. 1839-1942 and *Karlovac*, late 19th century — 1941.

### *Private Archives*

Miss Ida Bonfiglioli, Ferrara, gave to the Archives the papers of her late father, *Renzo Bonfiglioli, Ferrara*. — Mrs. Erika Davids, Tel-Aviv, gave, courtesy of the Institute for Research on Dutch Jewry, Jerusalem, additional files from the archives of her late husband, *Rabbi A.B.N. Davids, Rotterdam*. — Mrs. Therese Mayer, Tel-Aviv, gave the Archives, courtesy of Dr. Michael Heymann, Jerusalem, additional documents from the *Freudenthal-Eckstein* and *Michael Sachs* family collections. — Mrs. Lily Itai, Kibbutz Gat, submitted for microfilming documents from the family of *Louis Lewin, Penzlin* (Mecklenburg), 1859-1896. — Prof. Max Marcus, Ramat-Gan, submitted for microfilming documents of the *Marcus* family in *Rees* (Germany), as well as documents from the Jewish community in *Rees*, 1623, 1761-1929. — Dr. Maria Modena Mayer, Milan, gave the Archives part of the papers of her late father, *Eng. Astorre Mayer, Milan*. — By a decision of the Magistrate's Court, Jerusalem, the letters of *Yitzhak and Hannah Nemirovski, Argentina*, to their children, 1917-1923, were deposited with the Central Archives. — Mr. Giuseppe Viterbo, Florence, sent photocopies of documents relating to the *Uzielli* family, *Florence-Rome*, 19th century, as well as the private archives of his late father, *Carlo Alberto Viterbo*.

### *Genealogy*

Mr. I. Levi-Alvarez, Kiryat-Gat, gave to the Archives the *Levi-Alvarez* family tree, France. — Dr. Michael Heymann, Jerusalem, gave additional material on the *Spanjaard and Spier* families, Netherlands. — Mrs. Thea Levinsohn, née Wolf, gave, courtesy of Dr. Joseph Walk, Jerusalem, the history of the *Wolf* family, *Essen*.

The Central Archives wish to thank all the above as well as Mr. Abraham Ben-Harosh, Jerusalem; Rabbi Joseph Buchsbaum, Jerusalem; Mr. Raphael Cohen, Kiryat-Yam; Mr. David Ephrati, Jerusalem; Mr. Ben-Ami Gordon, Kibbutz Mishmar-Ha'emek; Mr. Azriel Hildesheimer, Jerusalem; Mr. Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem; Mr. Manfred R. Lehmann, New York; Rabbi Menachem Mendel Levitas, Jerusalem; Mr. Stefen Löwengart, Kiryat-Bialik; Mr. Raymond Ranford, London; Mr. Eli Rothschild, Tel-Aviv; Mr. Richard Scheuer, New Jersey; Mr. Isser Steinhardt, Giv'at-

Savyon; Dr. Michel Stüss, Tel-Aviv; Mr. Charles Tucker, London; and Dr. Werner Weinberg, Cincinnati.

*Use of Archival Material*

Over the past years there has been an increase in the number of scholars applying to the Central Archives, both personally and in writing. The Archives received hundreds of genealogical queries, mostly from the United States of America, a small part of which only could be handled, mainly those referring to France and Germany.

There has also been an increase in the number of studies in the histories of Jewish communities throughout the world, including those in India, Dagestan, Morocco, Greece, and the Saphardi community of Chile. Among the other topics to be mentioned are: Emancipation in Poland; converts and the Christian society in Poland; the Jewish struggle for national rights in Russia; Jewish autonomy in Galicia (Poland); Jewish mobility in Alsace; the recruiting of Jewish soldiers to the Austro-Hungarian army; American Jewry and the separation between Church and State; Jews and the trade relations between Italy and the Ottoman Empire; assimilation in Germany.

As to internal Jewish life, some of the subjects studied were: the image and integration of Eastern European Jews among German Jewry; contributions to the poor of the Holy Land by Venetian Jews in the 16th-18th centuries; American Jewish aid to Polish Jewry in the 1920's; Jewish education in Iran. Economic, intellectual and religious history were represented by subjects such as: an economic history of German Jewry: historical awareness among German Jews, the Chief Rabbinate of the Netherlands.