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*** POZNAŃ CITY GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH, EMPHASIZING JEWISH RESOURCES ***

by Edward David Luft <luft1111@hotmail.com>

Editor—This article is somewhat longer than we usually publish, but I thought it had so much substance, and so much good information, that we should print it. Please note that main focus of the article is research on Jewish ancestors, but there's plenty of good information here for all researchers, regardless of religion. If you're not Jewish, don't make the mistake of assuming there's nothing here for you! Note that a Polish-language version of this article appeared in the periodical *Kronika miasta Poznań*.

Introduction

Because the Nazis destroyed so many records in the city, including those dealing with Jews in Poznań, Jewish genealogical and historical research in the city is more difficult than in cities which did not see the ravages of war. In Poznań, 80 chests of records were carried away by the Nazis in 1943 and not returned. Furthermore, the Archives building was set afire on 29 January 1945. The building and all of the records therein were destroyed, especially records of towns from the 19th century. It is possible but improbable that, although town records of the towns were destroyed in the 1945 fire, some records, perhaps duplicates, might remain in eastern Germany or Russia.¹

With respect to the city, we know what was destroyed: Poznań (House building and purchase) (Child murder) (Hebrew vital record books) (Competition with the Jews) (Butchers) (Sales people) (Jewish tailors) (Engravers).²

Beginning Your Search

More about archives later, but let's start with how to begin research. Beginners should understand that just as there is no royal road to geometry, so there is also no royal road to genealogical research. It is best to start with oneself and list all records that you can think of from birth until the present. Then do the same for parents, then for grandparents, and so on. As you go back, you will see that ancestors had fewer and fewer intersections with officials [not just government officials] who made a record. Some, but by no means all, possibilities are records of birth, marriage, death, circumcision, school, hospital, taxes, voting, census, insurance, naturalization, land transfers, and charitable distributions. In short, almost any area of human endeavor could result in a record.

Next, if you can read English, read the relevant chapters in Sack, Sallyann Amdur, and Mokotoff, Gary, eds., *Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy*, Bergenfield, NJ: Avotaynu, Inc., ©2004, 608 pp. You do not have to read the entire book, just the parts relevant to your research, including the beginning chapters, dealing with how to start, since these are the same for almost everyone, everywhere in the world. Of course, you may also wish to read the chapter by this author on Western Poland. The Biblioteka Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza holds a copy of the *Guide*,³ or you may purchase a copy.⁴

Other valuable resources for research by those who know English are:

Brandt, Edward R., et al., with a chapter on Jewish genealogy by George E. Arnstein, *Germanic Genealogy: A Guide to Worldwide Sources and Migration Patterns*, St. Paul, MN: Germanic Genealogy Society, ©1995, 370 pp., including maps throughout, bibliographical references, pp. 274-289; lists of periodicals and indexes to periodicals, pp. 290-291; and index, pp. 339-370. Many useful addresses listed in Chapter XIX, pp. 292-300. A comprehensive guide for all German-speaking countries in Europe. In 1900 in the eastern Prussian provinces, the Jews were mostly in or near Posen, p. 116. Second edition reviewed in *Stammbaum: The Journal of German-Jewish Genealogical Research*, New York: Leo Baeck Institute, Issue 12, November 1997, pp. 28-29. Third edition, 2007, 658 pp., including bibliographical references, pp. 551-566, and index, pp. 621-658; reviewed by Luft, Edward David, *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*, Bergenfield, NJ, Vol. 23, No. 3, Fall 2007, pp. 62-63.

Ellmann-Krüger, Angelika G. and Ellmann, Dietrich, *Bibliographie zur deutsch-jüdischen Familienforschung und zur neueren Regional- und Lokalgeschichte der Juden* (Bibliography on German-Jewish family research and on recent regional and local history of the Jews), Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2006, ISBN 978-3-447-05447-8.⁵ The CD allows searches in German as well as English.

Ellmann-Krüger, Angelika G., with Luft, Edward David, *Library Resources for German-Jewish Genealogy*, Teaneck, NJ: Avotaynu, Inc., ©1998, 80 pp., including bibliographical references, pp. 79-80.⁶

Most people are anxious to get started looking for actual records. If you can discipline yourself, it is better, however, to familiarize yourself with the history of the location and the era that you are researching. Genealogical events did not occur in a vacuum, and history is a vital element in understanding why your ancestors did many of the things that they did or did not do.⁷

In-Depth Search in Published Sources

The Leo Baeck Institute *Year Book*⁸ has an annual list of publications of interest. *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*,⁹ Bergenfield, NJ, is a primary source for Jewish genealogy, including for the Jews of Posen. Most, but not all, of the articles were written by the author of this article. *Stammbaum: The Journal of German-Jewish Genealogical Research*, is available in full-text online without charge.¹⁰ Both publications are in English.

Family histories frequently appear, often with family trees, in books or in journal articles. Check library catalogues for individual reminiscences, biographies, and newspaper articles. Some of these items are online in full-text on Google Books. Advertisements, especially in periodicals, often give vital clues of genealogical value. Many books have appeared about Holocaust survivors, victims, lawyers, doctors, dentists, etc., including immigrants to the USA or Berlin. Lists of late 19th century businessmen abound since so many Jews were engaged in business. The following book may also help, as well as many of the publications, too numerous to mention, by Prof. dr hab. Krzysztof Makowski of the History Department of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań:

Jacobson, J[acob] H[irsch], *Das Großherzogthum Posen in historischer, statistischer und geographischer Beziehung für Gymnasien, Seminarien, Bürger- und Landschulen; nebst einer Charte dieser Provinz und einer Entfernungstabelle der meisten Städte und Marktflecken des Großherzogthums Posen von der Hauptstadt Posen*, Kempen: L. Pulvermann, 1844, 48 pp. and map.

The next step is to consult the basic source on Jews in Posen Province in the 19th and earlier centuries, Heppner, Aaron, and Herzberg, Isaak, *Aus Vergangenheit und Gegenwart der Juden und der jüdischen Gemeinden in den Posener Landen*.¹¹ The 1914 edition, 188 pp., is available in full-text at <<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/publication/8195>> but lacks the town-by-town analysis which makes the later edition so valuable. The 1929 edition of this book is the single most important printed source for reliable information of genealogical value on the Jews of Posen Province.

Then because so many Jews moved to Berlin, you might consult two works by one of the greatest genealogists in German-Jewish history:

Jacobson, Jacob, *Die Judenbürgerbücher der Stadt Berlin, 1809-1851. Mit Ergänzungen für die Jahre 1791-1809*, Berlin: de Gruyter, 1962, 725 pp. with “Wichtigste Archivalien,” pp. 687-689, and *errata* slip, Veröffentlichungen der Berliner Historischen Kommission beim Friedrich-Meinecke Institut der Freien Universität Berlin, Vol. 4; Quellenwerke, Vol. 1.

—, *Jüdische Trauungen in Berlin, 1759-1813. Mit Ergänzungen für die Jahre von 1723 bis 1759*, Berlin: de Gruyter, 1968, 668 pp. Veröffentlichungen der Historischen Kommission zu Berlin beim Friedrich-Meinecke-Institut der Freien Universität Berlin, Vol. 28; Quellenwerke, Vol. 4.

More Specialized Resources

Once you have exhausted these elementary resources, check for relevant names in these indices for the massive compilations on microfiches:

Schmuck, Hilmar, compiler, *Jüdischer biographischer Index = Jewish Biographical Index*, Munich: K. G. Saur for Jüdische Biographische Archiv Buchhändler-Vereinigung GmbH, ©1998, 4 vols., 1491 pp., including index, showing names by family and by occupation group, pp. 1103-1491. Vol. 1: Notes on use, pp. ix-x; list of sources, pp. xi-xiii; A-Glass, pp. 3-365; Vol. 2: Glassberg-Milch, pp. 369-730; Vol. 3: Milder-Z, pp. 733-1092; Vol. 4: Register [Index], covering index of family entries, pp. 1093-1097, classification of occupations, p. 1101, and name index according to occupation groups, pp. 1103-1491. Serves as an index for the *Jüdisches Biographisches Archiv* microfiche collection, Lapide, Pinchas, and Schmuck, Hilmar, eds., *Jüdisches biographisches Archiv = Jewish Biographical Archive*. 661 + 29 microfiches, the latter listing sources.

Baumgartner, Gabriele, compiler, *Polski indeks biograficzny = Polnischer Biographischer Index = Polish Biographical Index*, Munich: K. G. Saur, 1998, 4 vols., 1467 pp., including bibliographical references (list of sources), pp. xiii-xxi, and English introduction, pp. xi-xii. Many Jews listed. Serves as an index to the microfiche collection, Hebig, D., et al., eds., *Polskie archiwum biograficzne*, Munich: K. G. Saur, 1993?-1997?-, 636 microfiches of Polish, German, French, English, Latin, Russian, and Italian sources. Includes sources in fiches I-XX; Balzer, Oswald, Piast gene-

alogy, 1895, fiches G1-G3; and bibliographical entries, fiches 1-613. Supplemental microform, Baumgartner, Gabriele, ed., with Polish, English, French, and German sources. 93 microfiches.

Gorzny, Willi, ed., *Deutscher Biographischer Index = German Biographical Index*, 2nd edition, Munich: K. G. Saur, 1998, 8-volume index, 4017 pp., including bibliographical references; for the microfiche sets, *Deutsches Biographisches Archiv: eine Kumulation aus 254 der wichtigsten biographischen Nachschlagewerke für den deutschen Bereich bis zum Ausgang des neunzehnten Jahrhunderts*, Munich; New York: K. G. Saur, ©1982, 1437 microfiches and *Deutsches Biographisches Archiv: Neue Folge bis zur Mitte des 20. Jahrhunderts: eine Kumulation aus 284 der wichtigsten biographischen Nachschlagewerke für den deutschsprachigen Bereich*, Munich; New York: K. G. Saur, ©1990?-1993, 1457 microfiches.

There was no area in the city of Posen without Jews.¹² So researchers cannot assume that they can exclude the possibility that Jews could have lived in a particular residential area of the city. There was no official ghetto in Poznań even though most Jews did live in one part of the city until well into the 19th century. That being the case, consulting a city directly can prove helpful.

Available City Directories and Similar Resources

Ribbe, Wolfgang, and Henning, Eckhart, *Taschenbuch für Familiengeschichtsforschung*, begr. von Friedrich Wecken, 12. akt. und erg. Aufl., Neustadt an der Aisch: Degener, 2001, 679 pp., including bibliographical references throughout and index, pp. 677-679. The book contains a chapter by Diana Schulle on Jewish genealogy, pp. 159-181, with a bibliography, pp. 176-181. It also contains Christel Wegeleben's article, "Adreßbücher," on pp. 344-370, with a bibliography, pp. 369-370, in the 12th edition, and the article on pp. 301-329 in the 11th edition, listing "all thus far identified city directories published for all German towns," but the article gives no location for the directories. Some city directories listed below are not mentioned in the Wegeleben article. A 13th edition, with an accompanying CD-ROM, appeared in 2006.

Many of the Posen City directories are online on Biblioteka cyfrowa in Poznań.¹³ The first Posen city directory, that of 1835, is interactively searchable¹⁴ online in ways that even the original printed version does not permit. The researcher could reconstruct who lived around the Market Square or along a specific street, even creating a map of residents for the entire city.

The following is a list of Poznań city directories and an indication of which ones are available online. Two numbers separated by a hyphen indicate that every year between those two dates is available. Those years followed by an * show which volumes are available in full-text on the Digital Library of Wielkopolska, <<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl>>

Posen 1835 [Available in searchable format on PolishRoots], 1844, 1845*, 1862, 1865, 1868*, 1884, 1872 only on the Digital Library of Wielkopolska, 1875 only on the Digital Library of Wielkopolska, 1879,* [1882], [1884],* 1885,* 1886-1895,*¹⁵ 1896,* 1897, [1898]*, 1899* 1904* inclusive, 1905-1906*, 1907*, 1908,* 1909* only on the Digital Library of Wielkopolska, 1910*, 1911*, 1912*, 1913*, 1914*, 1916* 1917*, 1925, 1926, 1928*, 1926. As the *Księga adresowa miasta stołecznego Poznania*, w Poznaniu,¹⁶ 1923, 1926, 1930*, 1933,¹⁷ 1936/1937*.

There were also business directories. Since many Jews were engaged in trade, these directories can be especially valuable in searching for names, address, professions, etc.

Adreß- und Geschäfts Handbuch der Stadt Posen, Posen: Druck und Verlag der Hofbuchdruckerei W. Decker 1885, 1890, 1891, 1893. From Biblioteka Uniwersytecka w Poznaniu. Editions from 1891 onward have separate city directories for smaller locations near Posen, such as Bartholdshof, Jersitz, St. Lazarus, Ober- and Unter-Wilda. Available in full-text at <http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/>; available are 1879; 1882; 1885-1897. Each edition contains 30 pp. of advertisements, many of Jewish proprietors [with an index of advertisers in the table of contents]; an alphabetical index of residents, showing name, profession, and address; a street index, showing residents in each dwelling; an index of non-commercial sources, such as government offices, religious providers, etc., alphabetically organized; and an index by profession, alphabetically organized.

Rather more than Poles, Jews moved around, especially from small towns to larger cities and to the New World, and, especially just after World War I, from Poznań to Berlin. Indeed, few Jews remained in Poznań after 1921.

Mosse, Rudolf, ed., *Deutsches Reichs-Adressbuch für Industrie, Gewerbe und Handel*, Berlin: Verlag des Deutschen Reichs-Adressbuchs G. m. b. H. Vols. 1-72, 1909-1941. The Library of Congress holds the years 1909, 1918, 1929-1941. Arranged by kingdom within the Empire, then by province, within the kingdom with a map of the province at the start of the provincial listings, then by the city within the province, then by the specific trade or profession, and, finally, listing the individual businesses or persons in alphabetical order. See Cymbler, Jeffrey K., "Nineteenth- and Twentieth Century Polish Directories as Resources for Genealogical Information," *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*, Teaneck, NJ: Avotaynu, Inc., Vol. 13, No. 1, Spring 1997, pp. 25-31, esp. p. 29. Cymbler indicates that the Genealogical Society of Utah¹⁸ holds microfilms for 1898, 1905, 1911, 1915, 1917, 1926, 1933-1935, and 1938-1939, listed under "Germany—Directories" in the catalogue of its microfilm holdings. The last volume of between three and six volumes, depending upon the year, of each directory includes an alphabetical list of towns with the corresponding page number of the listing of that town in the earlier volumes for that year. Generally, the listings do not include the addresses of the persons listed.

There is a set of directories of personnel involved in the health care of the poor, many of the persons listed being Jewish. Each year contains progressively more information with later years containing all of the following and earlier years containing some of it. The series will indicate some or all of the following: a list of the overseers of the poor and of community orphan commissioners; a list of community commissioners, responsible for all of Posen; a list of city facilities, such as hospitals and clinics, to treat severe or chronic illnesses; a list of the Poor Commission Districts with the various officials indicated, listing name, address, and profession, as well as the street address areas for which they were responsible; an alphabetical list of German streets and plazas in Posen, showing in which poor commission district and quarter of the city each street and plaza is located; and an alphabetical index of the overseers of the poor and of the poor commissioners. Contains four appendices: a list of the Overseers of the Poor, district physicians, poor law commissioners, guardians of the poor and guardians of orphans.

Adreßbuch der Städtischen Armen-Verwaltung von Posen, Posen: Hofdruckerei W. Decker & Co., 1885, 14 pp. At Biblioteka im. Adama Mickiewicza, Poznań, 198386 III/1885 and online in full-text at <<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=33498>>.

Adreßbuch der Städtischen Armen-Verwaltung von Posen, Posen: Hofdruckerei W. Decker & Co., 1886, 19 pp. At Biblioteka im. Adama Mickiewicza, Poznań, 198386 III/1886 and online in full-text at <<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=33516>>.

Adreßbuch der Städtischen Armen-Verwaltung von Posen, Posen: Hofdruckerei W. Decker & Co., 1890, 20 pp. At Biblioteka im. Adama Mickiewicza, Poznań, 198386 III/1890 and online in full-text at <<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=33522>>.

Adreßbuch der Städtischen Armen-Verwaltung von Posen, Posen: Hofdruckerei W. Decker & Co., 1894, 23 pp. At Biblioteka im. Adama Mickiewicza, Poznań, 198386 III/1894 and online in full-text at <<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=33529>>.

Adreßbuch der Städtischen Armen-Verwaltung von Posen, Posen: Hofdruckerei W. Decker & Co., 1912, 92 pp. At Biblioteka im. Adama Mickiewicza, Poznań, 198386 III/1912 and online in full-text at <<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=33535>>.

Adreßbuch der Städtischen Armen-Verwaltung von Posen, Posen: Hofdruckerei W. Decker & Co., 1914, 93 pp. At Biblioteka im. Adama Mickiewicza, Poznań, 198386 III/1914 and online in full-text at <<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=33545>>.

There were also lists of Jewish orphans published in annual reports of orphanages in Posen and Berlin (some orphans born in Posen ended up in Berlin for various reasons). For those in Posen see *Israelitische Waisen-Knaben-Anstalt zu Posen, Jahresbericht der Israelitischen Waisenknabenanstalt zu Posen für 1841, 1843-48/49, 1851-1852, 1854-1871, 1873, 1876, 1881-1884, 1903-1910*, Posen, 1842, 1844-1850, 1852-1853, 1855-1872, 1874, 1877, 1882-1885, 1903-1910.

Jubiläumsschrift zum fünfjährigen Bestehen der israelitischen Waisenknaben-Anstalt zu Posen, Posen: Merzbach, 1886, 67 pp., 8°. This report and the 1882 and 1889 reports contain the names of contributors and orphans, plus the names and death dates of many deceased relatives of the orphans, as well as details of various *Stiftung* and *Legat* funds.

Many Posen Jews, to escape the Nazis, went abroad. Shanghai was an open city and admitted the Jews, even under Japanese occupation. All of the Jews who settled there are listed in the *Emigrant-Adreßbuch für Shanghai 1939: mit einem Anhang Branchen-Register*, Hong Kong: Old China Hand Press, 1995, 155 pp., including bibliographical references, pp. 153-155, with references and introduction in English. Originally published in Shanghai: New Star Company, 1939. Lists the place of birth of many Jews who escaped Nazi Germany to Shanghai.

Since many Posen Jews moved to Berlin after 1918, see the *Jüdisches Adreßbuch für Groß-Berlin*, Berlin, Goedega Verlags-Gesellschaft [n.d.] for 1929/1930 and for 1931 (1994 Reprint).

A country directory that lists some wealthy Jewish landowners is *Adressbuch des Grundbesitzes im Grossherzogthum Posen dem Areal nach von 500 Morgen aufwärts: Mit Angabe des Gutes, der speciellen Culturarbeiten, des Grundsteuer-Reinertrages, des Besitzers resp. Pächters, der nächsten Post-, Eisenbahn- und Telegraphen-Stationen und der Industriezweige, welche auf dem betreffenden Gute betrieben werden* = *Wykaz alfabetyczny wszystkich posiadłości ziemskich w W. Księstwie Poznańskim*, Berlin: F. Bürde & Co., August 1872, 221 pp., including index of locations, pp. 182-196, and name index, pp. 197-221, + Part II, Advertising, XXII. Many Jewish merchants listed, pp. 5-7. Lists owners of large estates by name permitting archives for a given town to be traced. Many advertisements at front and back by Jewish merchants. At Biblioteka Kórnicka, 26291, and online in full-text at the Digital Library of Wielkopolska, <<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/publication/1888>>.

Since so many Poznań Jews emigrated outside Europe, it might be worthwhile to check Kołodziej, Edward, *Emigracja z ziem polskich i Polonia: 1831-1839: informator o źródłach przechowywanych w terenowych archiwach państwowych w Polsce*, Warsaw: Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, 1997, 185 pp., including index of geographic names, pp. 157-162; personal name index, pp. 163-165; index of organizations, etc., pp. 166-169; and subject index, pp. 170-173. Above title: Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, Archiwum Akt Nowych. Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Instytut Polonijny. Archives in Poznań, pp. 117-133. Generally, the topics are organized by archives and then specific town within that archive, but not in every case. For Poznań all headings are for the 20th century except for the Polizei-Präsidium, pp. 123-125.

Archival Sources in Poland

We now turn to archives in Poland, and especially in the city of Poznań:

Poznań—Website: <<http://www.poznan.ap.gov.pl/>>

Archiwum Państwowe w Poznaniu
ul. 23 Lutego 41/43
skr. poczt. 546
60 967 Poznań
POLAND

61 852 46 09/10, 61 852 46 01/02/03

FAX: 61 852 05 36

From 1 November to 30 April: Monday through Friday, 8 a. m. to 3 p. m.

From 1 May to 31 October: 8 a. m. to 7 p. m.

The current vital records holdings of the Poznań District State Archives are listed in:

Laszuk, Anna, ed., for Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych. Centralny Ośrodek Informacji Archiwalnej, *Księgi metrykalne i stanu cywilnego w archiwach państwowych w Polsce: informator*, Warsaw: Wydawnictwo DiG, 2000, 474 pp., including bibliographical references, pp. xi-xiii, and errata, pp. 471-474. At head of title: Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, Centralny

Ośrodek Informacji Archiwalnej. Lists 89 archives with address and telephone number of each, pp. xiv-xvii, and gives Polish names of locations with conversion to German, for religious and civil birth, marriage, and death records by religion and year under each location, arranged alphabetically, pp. 1-469. Shows voivodeship and *powiat* (where relevant) for each location and cross-references by town names. The introduction is only in Polish. Sometimes indicates larger town and county. Example: Leszno births 1808-1809 and deaths 1825 in Lissa archives.

Woszczyński, Bolesław, and Urbaniak, Violetta, eds., for Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, Zakład Naukowy Archiwistyki, *Źródła archiwalne do dziejów Żydów w Polsce* [‘Sources to the History of the Jews in Poland in Polish and Israeli Archives’ was organized on June 7 8, 1999 in Warsaw’], Warsaw: Wydawnictwo DiG, 2001, 600 pp., including bibliographical references throughout + 16 pictures.¹⁹ In Polish and English. “A symposium/collection of essays entitled: ‘Sources to the History of the Jews in Poland in Polish and Israeli Archives’ was organized on June 7 8, 1999 in Warsaw...”—p. [9]. There are 56 essays and 16 illustrations. The table of contents, pp. 594-600, lists the title and number of the first page of each essay in Polish and in English. The Polish essays have summaries in English while the Israeli essays, in English, have summaries in Polish. Illustration 4 is the Posen synagogue. English-language introduction, pp. 9-11; Tych, Feliks, “Sources to the History of the Jews in Polish Archives,” pp. 19-23. Essay on the Jewish holdings at the District State Archives in Bydgoszcz, pp. 101-108, including English summary, p. 108, with few citations to call numbers of record groups. Essay on the Jewish holdings at the District State Archives in Poznań, pp. 269-291, including English summary, pp. 288-291, with some call numbers to record groups in the footnotes. Essay on the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland, Warsaw, pp. 463-467, with English summary, pp. 466-467, but no citations to record group call numbers.

Zielińska, Teresa, ed., *Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych w Warszawie: Informator o zasobie: Opracowanie zbiorowe*, Grzegorz Bartnik et al., authors, Warsaw: Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych: Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych, 1992, 311 pp., including subject index, pp. 244-256; index of persons, pp. 257-270; and place index, pp. 271-288; table of contents in English, pp. 289-196; in German, pp. 297-302; and in Russian, pp. 303-311. Prussian records for 1793-1806, including records covering Posen Jews, pp. 67-69.

The holdings can largely be searched online, however, in Sezam at the website of the Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowe. It is probably easiest to enter Sezam via PolishRoots.²⁰

Another useful way to search for Jewish holdings in Posen and elsewhere in Poland is Jersch-Wenzel, Stefi, and Rürup, Reinhard, eds., for Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, *Quellen zur Geschichte der Juden in den polnischen Archiven: Ehemalige preußische Provinzen: Band 1: Genest, Annekathrin, and Marquardt, Susanne, Pommern, Westpreußen, Ostpreußen, Preußen, Posen, Grenzmark Posen Westpreußen, Süd- und Neuostpreußen*, New York; Munich; London; Paris: Saur, 2003- ; Vol. I, 632 pp., including name index, pp. 529-596; index of locations, pp. 597-15; index of institutions, organizations, and businesses, pp. 617-632. 2 vols.

Even though not in Poznań, another useful archive for research is:

The Jewish Historical Institute of Poland
ul. Tłomackie 3/5
00 090 Warszawa
POLAND

Administrative Director: Eleonora Bergman
+ 22 827 83 72

Website: <http://www.jewishinstitute.org.pl/en/home/index/0.html>

For a listing of information on the synagogue and cemetery by interwar Jewish community, see <http://www.jewishinstitute.org.pl/en/gminy/index/1.html>.

Jewish Historical Institute of Poland archival holdings listed on file cards for Posen Province include Record Group 116: 50. Posen—*Acta* of the Auerbach family from Posen, n. d.

For information on and photographs of the cemetery in Poznań, see <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/poznan.htm>. Many Posen Jews were buried in Weißensee, Berlin, and some were also buried in two other cemeteries in Berlin.²¹

Other possible archival and/or library resources for the city of Poznań include the National Museum in Poznań, its Poznań Historical Museum branch, and the Kórnik Library. There are also archival holding on Poznań Jews in other countries, such as at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America²² and in the Rare Book/Archives Collection at Yeshiva University.²³

Books and Periodicals Available in Poznań

It would be impossible to list every book worth consulting, but the Biblioteka Uniwersytecka im. Adama Mickiewicza²⁴ is rich in older materials as well as newer ones.

One book for bibliographical references on the Jews of Poznań is Wierzbieniec, Waclaw, *Druki w językach nie-żydowskich*, Kraków: Uniwersytet Jagielloński Międzywydziałowy Zakład Historii i Kultury Żydów w Polsce, Vol. I, 1999, 159 pp., including index of personal and geographical names, pp. 149-159. Table of contents also in English, behind Polish table of contents. Series: Studia Polono-Judaica. Series Bibliographica, Vol. 5/1.

Of course, one of the best places to find clues to effective research is in the periodical that you are reading now, *Kronika miasta Poznania* [Editor—This is the name of the publication in which the Polish-language version of this article was originally printed]. Here is a selection of articles with which to start:

Leitgeber, Jarosław, “Z dziejów handlu i kupiectwa Poznańskiego (1793-1815),” *Kronika miasta Poznania*, Poznań, Vol. 10, No. 4, 31 December 1932, pp. 343-366; Vol. 11, No. 1, 31 March 1933, pp. 46-64; Nos. 2/3, 30 April 1933, pp. 129-165; No. 4, 31 December 1933, pp. 289-338; and Vol. 12, No. 1, 31 March 1934, pp. 1-65. Footnotes throughout and sources in the last part, p. 65. Much discussion of Jews and some names.

Modlibowska, Elwira, "Poznańskie warsztaty fotograficzne w latach 1844-1914," *Kronika miasta Poznania*, Poznań, 1991, Nos. 1-2, pp. 41-50, including notes, pp. 49-50. Many names of Jewish photographers and 20 photographs.

Kowalski, Ireneusz, "Poznańska gmina żydowska w latach II Rzeczypospolitej," *Kronika miasta Poznania*, Poznań, 1992, Nos. 1-2, pp. 81-101, with notes, pp. 99-101.

Mika, Marian J., "Materiały do dziejów Żydów Poznańskich w okresie staropolskim," *Kronika miasta Poznania*, Poznań, 2006, No. 3, pp. 51-71, including notes, pp. 70-71. The period covered is 1579 to 1779 and contains many names but usually without surnames.

A few other specific items are listed here as examples of useful sources in print:

Łukaszewicz, Joseph [or Józef], "Vermuthungen über den Anfang der Stadt Posen." (Nach der Chronik des v. Łukaszewicz.), *Provinzial-Blätter für das Großherzogthum Posen*, Lissa and Gnesen: Verlag Ernst Günther, Vol. 1, 1846, Nos. 1-12, consisting of Part I, January-June 1846; Part II, July-December 1846. Prof. Czwalińska, ed. Vol. II, 1846, pp. 100-109 by "Red. [editor]." The article contains an 1845 list of merchants with merchant rights.

Miasteczko Poznań: Pismo o małych ojczyznach i pograniczach kultur, Poznań: Miriam Media, 2003-to present. Zbigniew Pakuła, ed. A current magazine about Jews in the city, usually in the more recent past.

Pakuła, Zbigniew, *Siwe kamienie: wielkopolscy Żydzi*, Poznań: W Drodze, 1998, 187 pp. DS135. P62W6347 1998. Many names but no index.

Rosenstein, Neil, with Oleg Perzashkevich, *Saul Wahl: Polish King for a Night, or Lithuanian Knight for a Lifetime*, Elizabeth, NJ: The Computer Center for Jewish Genealogy, 2006, 331 pp., including bibliography, pp. 313-315, and index, pp. 317-331.

Sherman, Susan C., "Disputes King-for-a-Day Legend," *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*,²⁵ Sallyann Amdur Sack, Ph. D., ed., Bergenfield, NJ, Vol. 6, No. 3, Fall 1990, p. 38. Cites Mayer Bałaban as debunking the legend in his introduction to the second edition of *Gedulat Shaul* (Warsaw, 1925) and in his article "Saul Wahl," *Yiden in Poilen* (Wilna, 1930), pp. 17-39. See also Bałaban, Majer, under "Bibliographies and Reference Works with Respect to Libraries and Archives." For the first edition of *Gedulat Sha'ul*, see Edelman, Hirsch, *s. n.*, 614 (1853 or 1854), 99 pp. in various pagings.

Sztyma-Knasiańska, Tamara, *Między tradycją a nowoczesnością: Żydzi Poznańscy w XIX i XX wieku = Between Tradition and Modernity: The Jews of Poznań in the 19th and 20th Centuries*, Poznań: National Museum in Poznań, 2006, 77 pp.

Books, Periodicals, and a Website in German

The following website, books, and periodicals may be of help in historical/genealogical research on the Jews of the city.

The most useful is the website <<http://www.compactmemory.de>>, which contains 117 complete newspapers and magazines, all in full-text.²⁶ These are the most important Jewish newspapers, largely written in German. Perhaps the most important of all is the *Allgemeine Zeitung des Judentums*, which ran from 1837-1922 and was the most authoritative source of events of Jewish interest during that period. Of particular interest to genealogical researchers is the supplement, “Der Gemeindebote,” which reported on local events at the back of the newspaper, often naming individuals in specified towns, and was always at the back of the issue. Reports might be on persons married 50 years, deaths, awards, etc. The rubric began with Vol. 54, No. 12, 4 April 1890, and continued through the last issue. Prior issues contained similar information, just not as carefully organized. The advertisements are sometimes also valuable for information. The Compact Memory website allows some textual search capabilities.

Posen (Regierungsbezirk), *Amtsblatt der Königl[iche] Regierung zu Posen*, Posen: Ostdeutsche Buchdruckerei und Verlagsanstalt A.-G. (L. Jauernik). At Biblioteka Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza, Poznań, call number 97018 II and at the Poznań archives. It has an annual index in German.

Jacobson, Jacob, “Das Naturalisationsverzeichnis der jüdischen Gemeinde in Posen,” *Zeitschrift für Ostforschung: Länder und Völker im Östlichen Mitteleuropa*, Marburg/Lahn: N. G. Elwert, later Marburg: Verlag J. G. Herder-Institut; later *Zeitschrift für Ostmitteleuropaforschung*, Vol. 17, 1968, pp. 481-533. Mostly names.

Asch, Georg, “Die ersten Naturalisationen der Juden in der Stadt Posen am 2. April 1834,” *Posener Heimatblätter*, Heinrich Kurtzig, ed., Berlin: Ernst Sigfried Mittler, Vol. 8, No. 7, April 1934, pp. 37-40. Lists 39 Jews naturalized in the city of Posen in the order in which they were naturalized.

Asch, Georg, compiler, “(Das) Namenverzeichnis der Stadt Posen,” mit Einleitung und Anmerkungen von Jacob Jacobson, *Zeitschrift für die Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland*, Ismar Elbogen et al., eds., Berlin: Philo Verlag und Buchhandlung G. m. b. H. In full-text at <www.compactmemory.de> and at Biblioteka Uniwersytecka im. Adama Mickiewicza, 296722 II; 1938, No. 1, pp. 1-40. [Photocopy of page proofs of the last unpublished issue.]

—, “Die Stadt Posen in den 1830er Jahren,” *Posener Heimatblätter*, Heinrich Kurtzig, ed., Berlin: Ernst Sigfried Mittler, Vol. 9, No. 9a, June 1935, pp. 55-59 [Julius Knorr picture of “Der Marktplatz in Posen” reproduced; and No. 11, August 1935, pp. 69-72; and Vol. 10, No. 2, February 1936, pp. 9-12.

[—], “Wichtige Hinweise für die Familienforschung,” *Posener Heimatblätter*, Heinrich Kurtzig, ed., Berlin: Ernst Sigfried Mittler, Vol. 10, No. 14, November 1936, p. 87, indicates that Georg Asch of Berlin has made a complete listing of all of the graves in the Jewish cemetery in Posen, showing the date of death, and the grave’s location and number. The present existence of this list has not been confirmed. The article was presumably written by Asch or by Heinrich Kurtzig.

—, “Wo lag der alter Judenfriedhof in Posen?” under “Spaziergänge durch Heimatstädte,” *Blätter des Verbandes Jüdischer Heimatvereine*, Heinrich Kurtzig, ed., Berlin: Ernst Sigfried Mittler, Vol.

10, No. 15, December 1936, pp. 91-92. In 1935 the Nazis forced the publication, *Posener Heimatblätter*, to change its name and its annual year.

Herzberg, Isidor, "Die Posener Juden als Soldaten," *Posener Heimatblätter*, Heinrich Kurtzig, ed., Berlin: Ernst Sigfried Mittler, Vol. 4, No. 5, February 1930, pp. 35-37. Many names.

For Jews deported from Austria but born in Posen, see the Datenbank Ermordete at the website <<http://www.lettertothestars.at/>> and from DOEW [DöW - Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes] <http://www.doew.at/ausstellung/shoahopferdb_en.html>. Search the latter in English by using the Victims Database from the homepage.

1. Alice BIRNBACH, born 16.11.1899 in Posen, last known address: 1020 Wien, Nestroyplatz 34/2/1/25; deported from Vienna to Opole on 15 February 1942.

2. FRANKFURTER, Amanda, born 28.11.1879 in Posen, deported to Litzmannstadt on 28.10.1941, died Litzmannstadt 2.02.1942

3. Alma SAMTER, born 21 July 1890 in Posen, last known address: 1090 Wien, Türkenstrasse 23/19; deported from Vienna to Sobibor on 14 June 1942.

By way of example, an additional type of resource:

Angst-Nowik, Doris, *One-Way Ticket to Hollywood: Film Artists of Austrian and German Origin in Los Angeles (Emigration 1884-1945): An Exhibition*, Los Angeles, CA: The University of Southern California Library, ©1986, 107 pp. + 12 pp. of plates. About the actress Lilli Palmer.

Using German Archival Resources

One nice thing about genealogy is that you might not need to read the language to obtain the most important information because names of persons, places, and dates are universal. A more in-depth understanding of sources on the Jews of the city will require a knowledge of German, however. For those wishing to visit Germany, the following resources are likely to be valuable.

Very useful in locating relevant holdings, usually in archives²⁷ in eastern Germany on the city of Posen is:

Jersch-Wenzel, Stefi, and Rürup, Reinhard, eds., *Quellen zur Geschichte der Juden in den Archiven der neuen Bundesländer*, Munich; New Providence, NJ: K. G. Saur, 1996. Vol. 1: *Eine Bestandsübersicht* by Andreas Reinke, Barbara Strenge, et al., 602 pp., including index of persons, pp. 549-580; index of places, pp. 581-193; and index of institutions, organizations, and businesses, pp. 595-602. Archival holdings are not only in Berlin but in such other places as Dresden, and Greifswald, which holds occasional references to Posen, even though the main holdings are for further north.

The Library of the Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Archivstraße 12/14, D-14195 Berlin, Germany; ++ 49-30-839 0100; FAX: ++ 49-30-839 0180; E-mail: <gsta.pk@spk-berlin.de>. Reading Room hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays—8 a. m. to 3:30 p. m.,

Tuesdays—8 a. m. to 7:30 p. m. The library holds a number of volumes available nowhere else among total holdings of about 190,000 books and 185 magazines. Of course, the archive itself is a major source of information. The archival holdings of the Archives relevant to Posen are in Record Group XVI. See <<http://webdoc.sub.gwdg.de/ebook/p/2005/ghi/www.ghi-dc.org/guide13/germarch.html>> for Geheimes Staatsarchiv-PK and <<http://www.hinterpommern.de/Genealogie/Archive/Berlin-geh-staatsar/#bestand>>.

A very useful book in understanding how to search at the Geheimes Staatsarchiv is Kloosterhuis, Jürgen, ed., for Preußische Historische Kommission, *Archivarbeit für Preußen: Symposion der Preußischen Historischen Kommission und des Geheimen Staatsarchivs Preußischer Kulturbesitz aus Anlass der 400. Wiederkehr der Begründung seiner archivischen Tradition*, Berlin: Selbstverlag des Geheimen Staatsarchivs PK, 2000, 488 pp., including bibliographical references, pp. 475-488. Papers presented at a conference held on the 400th anniversary of the founding of the first Prussian archive. “Anhang: Die Tektonik des Geheimen Staatsarchivs Preußischer Kulturbesitz,” pp. [71]-257, including concordance, pp. 229-257. Series: Veröffentlichungen aus den Archiven Preußischer Kulturbesitz. Arbeitsberichte, No. 2. Posen to 1920, pp. 199-201; Posen (Collection XVI), p. 249.

Some of those holdings appear in *Quellen zur Geschichte der deutschen Juden*, compiled by Dr. phil. Adelheid Constabel, 1951/52, in typescript; not published. The following resource list contains call numbers from when the collection was in Merseburg. These call numbers have sometimes changed. The list appears in *Rep. 77 Ministerium des Innern at the Geheimes Staatsarchiv*:

Posen, Nr. 2: Das Etablissement der Juden in der Stadt, 1819-1840

Posen, Nr. 7: Die jüdische Kranken- Verpflegungs- und Beerdigungsgesellschaft zu Posen, 1835-1911

Peter Landé has compiled the list of the surviving records from the Gesamtarchiv der Deutschen Juden in an article entitled “The Complete Archives of the German Jews,” *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*, Bergenfield, NJ, USA, Volume 9, No. 1, Spring 1993, pp. 28-32. That article indicates the years involved for each entry and the number of items but not the subject matter of each item. One portion of the archives is in the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem, another in the Leo Baeck Institute in New York, and the last portion is in the Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin—Centrum Judaicum. See also his “Gesamtarchiv der Deutschen Juden,” *Stammbaum: Ahnenforschung in Aschkenas: Newsletter of German-Jewish Genealogical Research*, Winter Springs, FL: Harry Katzman, Vol. 1, No. 1, Winter 1992-1993, pp. 3-4. The complete list is also reproduced on pp. 353-357, Sack, Sallyann Amdur, and Mokotoff, Gary, eds., *Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy*, *op. cit.*

The Posen Province portion of the index, now held at the Stiftung, is as follows:

<i>Holding</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Fascicles</i>	<i>Meters</i>
267	Posen (Sammlungsgut)	Po3	1841-1939	5	.04

There is also a fascicle that transcends all towns in the former Posen Province and might have relevant information on the city:

Übergemeindliche jüdische Verwaltungsorgane Verband der Synagogengemeinden des Reg. Bez. Posen

Pol 1897-1902, 1919 1 .02

The researcher may view any of these documents, formerly in Record Group 75A, by making a reservation in advance at the offices of the Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin—Centrum Judaicum, Oranienburger Straße 28/30, D 10117 Berlin, Germany; ++49-30-2801220 or 28401250; FAX ++49-30-2821176. “The Centrum Judaicum’s E-Mail address is <office@cjudaicum.de> and its website is <<http://www.cjudaicum.de/>>. The contact person is Frau Barbara Welker, who speaks English. The director, Dr. Hermann Simon, is also fluent in English. His E-mail address is <Simon@cjudaicum.de>, and his telephone number is ++49-30-88028451.

Wermes, Martina, et al., *Bestandsverzeichnis der Deutschen Zentralstelle für Genealogie Leipzig*, Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1991-1992, 2 vols.; Genealogische Informationen, Vols. 24-25. Summary in English. Vol. I, “Die Kirchenbuchunterlagen der östlichen Provinzen Posen, Ost-, und Westpreußen, Pommern, und Schlesien.” For second edition, 1994, English summary, pp. 13-15, indicates at p. 15 that Jewish records will be in a separate volume with no mention of conversions in Vol. I. See also 3rd edition, 1997, Vol. 1. Die Kirchenbuchunterlagen der östlichen Provinzen Posen, Ost- und Westpreussen, Pommern und Schlesien = Church records of the eastern provinces, Posen, East and West Prussia, Pomerania, and Silesia. Includes indexes. Series: Genealogische Informationen; Bd. 32.

Of course, it is possible that archives in Dresden, Jerusalem, New York (especially the Center for Jewish History),²⁸ and elsewhere hold relevant archives.

Other Printed and Online German Resources

Some of the more valuable printed German sources include:

Aly, Götz, and Heim, Susanne, *Das Zentrale Staatsarchiv in Moskau (“Sonderarchiv”): Rekonstruktion und Bestandsverzeichnis verschollen geglaubten Schriftguts aus der NS-Zeit*, Düsseldorf: Hans-Böckler-Stiftung, 1993, 58 pp., including bibliographical references throughout. Some resources have been taken to Moscow and not returned.

Aus dem Posener Lande: Blätter für Heimatkunde, Lissa: Ostdeutsche Buchdruckerei und Verlagsanstalt. The name changed to *Aus dem Ostlande: Illustrierte Monatsblätter für Heimatkunde, Kunst, Wissenschaft und Verkehr des Deutschen Ostens*, Lissa: Oskar Eulitz, starting with Vol. 11, 1916. Issues from Vol. 4 onward list births, engagements, marriages, and deaths of “prominent persons” but no specific dates or locations.

Neuer Nekrolog der Deutschen..., Ilmenau: Bernhard Friedrich Voigt, ed., 1824-1834; Weimar: Bernhard Friedrich Voigt, ed., 1835-54. With decennial index for 1823-1832; 1833-1842; and 1843-1852. Each half year bound as one volume.

Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie, Leipzig: Duncker & Humblot; see <<http://www.deutsche-biographie.de/>>. Biographies of prominent Germans from the earliest period to the end of the 19th

century, edited by Liliencron, Rochus Wilhelm Traugott Heinrich Ferdinand, Freiherr von, assisted until 1897 by Wegele, Franz Xaver von; Vol. 54, edited by Bettelheim, Anton; and Vol. 55 edited by Gerlich, Fritz, eds. for Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Historische Kommission. Reprint: Berlin, Duncker & Humblot, 1967 1971. 56 vols., with general index in Vol. 56. The more recent successor is the *Neue Deutsche Biographie*, which cannot be searched in full-text online.

The following is just one example of the many books on those who perished in the Nazi death camps:

Gedenkbuch: Häftlinge des Konzentrationslagers Bergen-Belsen, Bergen-Belsen: Niedersächsische Landeszentrale für politische Bildung, Gedenkstätte Bergen-Belsen, April 1995, 652 pp., no bibliography. Notes that the book lists more than 25,000 names of former inmates, p. 8. The 2005 edition was published at Celle: Stiftung Niedersächsische Gedenkstätten, Gedenkstätte Bergen-Belsen, 2005 in 2 volumes and notes that it contains about 50,000 names of the prisoners, p. 13.

A particularly valuable website for searching the victims of the Holocaust is <<http://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/directory.html>>. Selecting “Geburtsort,” “Wohnort,” and “Deportationsort” returned 10,613 names on 213 pages. The hits are alphabetical and typically give the maiden name of women, the date and place of birth, the last place of residence, the place and date of deportation and the destination, as well as the date of death. The problem is that if Posen is mentioned anywhere in the record, that record will be listed so all deportees from Posen Province are listed among the 10,613 entries. The researcher will thus have to know or guess at a name. Adding search fields increases the chances of hits; it does not narrow the number of hits. Exact spellings are required.

Check themed books like those on Jewish architects, lawyers, physicians, dentists, etc. For example, see Koren, Nathan, *Jewish Physicians: A Biographical Index*, Jerusalem: Israel Universities Press, 1973, 275 pp., including abbreviated bibliographical references, pp. 269-271, and additional bibliographical references, pp. 272-275. Part I: From earliest times to the beginning of the 19th century, pp. 1-142; and Part II: Modern times, pp. 143-268. Many names but listed only by country, not a more specific location.

Sources in Hebrew

Another useful resource are 19th century subscription lists for books that were published and contained the list of those who paid for publication in advance, mostly from the early middle 19th century to early in the 20th century. The items were usually, but not always, in Hebrew and often were prayer books or other items on a Jewish theme likely to be popular with the Jewish bourgeoisie. See Kagan, Berl, *Hebrew Subscription Lists With an Index to 8,767 Jewish Communities in Europe and North Africa* [*Sefer ha-prenumerantn* in Yiddish], New York, NY: The Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and Ktav Publishing House, Inc., 1975, 384 pp. + Introduction, pp. vii-xii, and geographic index, pp. 338-379 in Roman script.

Another source in Hebrew is the Posen religious death register which is from 1826 to 1853. It is available on Mormon Film 1334544, item 1,²⁹ and made from records at the Deutsche Zentralstelle für Genealogie Leipzig. Many items are difficult to read and accuracy is therefore often problem-

atical. Furthermore, the use of “son of” from the Hebrew might mean “child of” instead, as Hebrew usage does not always distinguish the sex of the child in this situation. The entire document is 127 pages in length with the first 69 pages being Posen City deaths and some other entries in, perhaps, three different hands. Pages 70-127 appear to be a list of the *Pesach gelt*³⁰ for the same period as the death records. The records may possibly have been kept by Deputy Rabbi Samuel Lasi Vogelsdorf, deputy rabbi to Akiba Guens Eger, the last Gaon [Talmudic genius] of Posen.

One Final Resource

Finally, check this author’s list of publications at <<http://www.GetCited.org/mbrx/PT/99/MBR/11078005>>. Because this website is updated periodically, it may be worthwhile to recheck this list at regular intervals.

Endnotes

¹ *Guide to the State Archives in Poznań and their Branches*, pages 754-759, Skopowski, Czesław, ed., for Archiwum Państwowe Miasta Poznania i Województwa Poznańskiego, *Archiwum Państwowe Miasta Poznania i Województwa Poznańskiego oraz jego archiwa terenowe: Przewodnik po zasobie archiwalnym*, Wydanie 1, Warsaw: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Oddział w Łodzi, 1969, 792 pp.

² Warschauer, Adolf, *Die Städtischen Archive in der Provinz Posen*, Vol. 5 in the series *Mittheilungen der k. Preussischen Archivverwaltung*, Leipzig: S. Hirzel, 1901, pp. 306-307. At Biblioteka im. Adama Mickiewicza, Fs 23118.

³ Sygn. 1517900 III.

⁴ <<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/guide.htm>>

⁵ See a review with vendor information at <<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/KruegerLuftReview.pdf>>.

⁶ <<http://www.avotaynu.com/books.htm#krueger>>

⁷ “Genealogy in Its Historical Context,” *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*, Bergenfield, NJ, Volume XI, Number 2, Summer 1995, p. 41. At Biblioteka Uniwersytecka im. Adama Mickiewicza, sygn. 1207136 III.

⁸ <<http://www.leobaeck.co.uk/publications.htm>>

⁹ <<http://www.avotaynu.com>>

¹⁰ <<http://www.lbi.org/Stammbaum.html>>

¹¹ Koschmin-Bromberg, 1904 1914, 1921, Breslau, 1927 1929, 1034 pp.; Koschmin: I. Tuch, 1904 1928, 1,000 pp., including bibliographical references. Also available on 17 microfiches, catalogue no. J 23 112/1, from Inter Documentation Company bv, P. O. Box 11205, 2301 EE Leiden, The

Netherlands. The 1904 edition is available online at <<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/publication/8278>>. The 1909-1928 edition of the full 1,034 pp. is online at <<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/Content/14995/directory.djvu>>. The Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Haus I, holds an offprint entitled *Aus Vergangenheit und Gegenwart der Juden in Posen*, 1914, 188 pp. Signatur 1: Ez 9731<a>, apparently being just the portion dealing with the city of Poznań.

¹² Trzeciakowski, Lech, “Polacy i Niemcy w życiu codziennym w Poznaniu w XX wieku,” Wiesiołowski, Jacek, ed., *Kronika Miasta Poznania*, Poznań, 1992, Vol. 8, pp. 7-18, with notes, pp. 17-18, at p. 9. At Biblioteka Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza, Poznań, call number 1210174 II; and at Raczyński Library, Poznań, Zbiorów Specjalne Czasop. C111507 (mag.).

¹³ <<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra?action=ChangeLanguageAction&language=pl>>. That website enables checking other digital libraries for other regions as well. Furthermore, the website <http://www.birchy.com/GenWiki/index.php?title=Wielkopolska_Digital_Library> organizes information and may aid in searching.

¹⁴ <http://www.polishroots.org/databases/posen_1835.htm>.

¹⁵ 1888 is not available at <<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl>>.

¹⁶ At Biblioteka im. Adama Mickiewicza, Poznań, 297698 II, 201371 II, and 95628 II.

¹⁷ Available in a reprint: *Księga adresowa miasta stołecznego Poznania: opracowana w roku 1933*, Poznań: Wydawnictwo Miejskie, 2001, 2 vols. in 1 + 1 folded map (1937). Series: *Kronika miasta Poznania and Biblioteka kroniki miasta Poznania* (Poznań, Poland: 1974). Facsimile reprint of the 1933 edition, in which are interspersed many pages of photographs not in that edition. Dział 1: Spis mieszkańców w porządku alfabetycznym. Nazwiska są ułożone według kolejności alfabetu imion (wpierw męskie, potem żeńskie), 497 pp. + VI pp.; Dział 2: Alfabetyczny spis ulic miasta stołecznego Poznania. Spis ulic z nieruchomościami i mieszkańcami miasta stołecznego Poznania, 376 pp. + XXXVIII pp. of advertisements. With many photographs not in the original edition throughout the book.

¹⁸ <http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp>

¹⁹ At Biblioteka Uniwersytecka im. Adama Mickiewicza, Pracownia rękopisów 1358866 I, Biblioteka Uniwersytecka im. Adama Mickiewicza, Księgozbiór Główny - Magazyn 1358867 I; at Biblioteka Instytutu Historii, Poznań, źródła 31119 I and 30224 I; at Biblioteka Narodowa, Warsaw, Poland, Warsaw, Informatorium Kw 40.447; Czyt Humanistyczna 943.8(093) Zró; Czytelnia Zbiorów Specjalnych 997.198; Mag Ks II 2.137.830 A; Mag Zdk 997.062.

²⁰ <<http://www.polishroots.org>>.

²¹ See <http://www.berlin-juedisch.de/jewish-berlin/info-jewish_cemeteries.html>.

²² <<http://www.jtsa.edu/x2351.xml>>

²³ <<http://www.yu.edu/libraries/archives/index.asp>>. In particular, see the Lewis and Daniel Lewin Collection microfilm 26. For a more complete list, see Avivi, Yosef, and Berger, Pearl, for Mendel Gottesman Library, *Osef kitve ha-yad ha-rabaniyim, Sifriyat Mendel Gotesman, Yeshivah-Universitah/Rabbinic Manuscripts, Mendel Gottesman Library, Yeshiva University*, New York: Yeshiva University Libraries, 1998, 12, 262, 146, xii pp., including author index, pp. 231-236, index of categories, p. 244, index of copyists, p. 245, index of manuscript owners, pp. 246-247, index of persons mentioned, pp. 248-253, index of titles, pp. 254-255, index of manuscripts by date, pp. 256-258, and index of locations, pp. 259-262. In Hebrew with English translation by Gertrude Hirschler, condensed and revised by Pearl Berger. Many manuscripts from Posen Province, frequently with the name of the letter writer, if the manuscript is a letter.

²⁴ Ul. Ratajczaka 38/40, 61-816 Poznań; telephone: 061 829 38 72; FAX: 061 829 38 24; <library@amu.edu.pl>; and its website is <<http://lib.amu.edu.pl/>>. Use that website to reach the catalogue, searchable online.

²⁵ The index to *Avotaynu* is available online, free of charge, at <<http://www.avotaynu.com/indexsum.htm>>; copies of Vols. 4-23 (1988-2007) are at the Biblioteka Uniwersytecka, sygn. 1207136 III.

²⁶ Also available in full-text at <<http://www.juedische-presse.de>>.

²⁷ For a listing of archives in Germany, see <<http://www.ghi-dc.org/publications/ghipubs/rg/rg013/index.html>>.

²⁸ <<http://www.cjh.org>>; also Yeshiva University and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, all of which have relevant archives.

²⁹ <<http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/fhlcatalog/supermainframeset.asp?display=titledetails&columns=%2C%2C0&titleno=92244&disp=J%C3%BCdische+Toten+%2C+und+Familienli++>>>

³⁰ Charitable contributions given at Passover, generally to help the poor and infirm.

***** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *****

Subject: *Behind Closed Doors: Stalin, the Nazis and the West, Cracks in the Alliance*

Noticed mention of this programme in *Gen Dobry!* Have you seen this website?

<http://www.pbs.org/behindcloseddoors/episode-1/index.html>

There's plenty of background information that I suspect might be extra to the actual programmes. Just wish I could find time to read it all.

Bronwyn Klimach

Editor—Thanks for the info. As for finding time to read it all, boy, do I know THAT feeling!

Subject: More on *Behind Closed Doors*

I watched the documentary *Behind Closed Doors: Stalin, the Nazis and the West, Cracks in the Alliance*. I agree with Ms Hammes about having the subtitle, *The Sellout of Poland and/or the Heroism of the Polish People*.

Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin not only sold out the Polish people but all of Eastern Europe. These countries lived in hell for 50 years. It amazes me that many Americans do not read about their own history but for sure do not read about other countries history. Maybe if we learned about other countries we would have a better understanding of how and why they feel as they do, and want to protect themselves as best they can.

The documentary was excellent and gave the truth about what happened and why it happened. Every senior in high school should watch this film. It would be a learning experience of what happens when people allow man to take control of one's life and lose everything that means anything to live in a civil society with laws and rules.

Cathy Deprey <rcduprey@embarqmail.com>

Editor—I do often wonder why the Poles still trust America and Britain after the way they were sold out at Yalta. I guess it says something about their experiences with Russia that they still find dealing with us to be preferable.

Subject: *The USATS General Harry Taylor*

Editor—This is in response to the item on the sinking of this ship in the last issue.

Interesting ... our family, including myself, came over on this troopship in April 1949; destination, New Orleans, LA.

I did extensive research into this particular ship for my family's genealogy ... and posted the results on our genealogy page (private) on <http://www.rozylowicz.com>. I am also familiar with its subsequent conversion to a missile monitoring ship and its final glorious death. If anyone is interested, I have extracted the salient ship parameters and have added them to the bottom of this mail. All of my information was obtained from the USMMS before the Wikipedia data was compiled. The two links (familiar to me) Mr. Sadauskas provided add additional technical facts less the 'human interest' portion.

Good to see a familiar byline that is 'close to home' for me.

BTW ... myself and many of my fellow immigrants cringe whenever the acronym “DP” is used. It has a negative connotation. Most all prefer the full designation of “displaced person.”

Dr. Ed Rozylowicz, Las Cruces, NM USA

Editor—I’m glad you enjoyed the article. I apologize for the use of the term “DP.” I have been told before that it has a negative connotation, and I should have caught it and replaced it with “displaced person.” It was an oversight; I had no intention of offending.

Subject: Sculpture commemorating the Katyń Massacre at St. Adalbert’s Cemetery

I don’t know if this will be of interest to your readers, but my cousin sent me a newspaper article about the dedication of a sculpture commemorating the Katyń Massacre at St. Adalbert’s Cemetery in Niles, IL. The sculpture was done by Wojciech Seweryn, age 70, whose own father was one of an estimated 4,000 Polish POWs executed in April 1940, by Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin’s secret police in what has become known as the Katyń Forest Massacre. Polish Cardinal Jozef Glemp traveled from Poland to bless the memorial, which resembles Michelangelo’s Pieta. The Madonna cradles an executed Polish officer, whose hands are bound like those of the Katyń victims. The month of the massacre, the Soviets exterminated more Polish officers and civilians in nearby areas. The death toll was about 22,000. Many of the soldiers’ bodies were found shot at point-blank range in the back of the head. The soldier’s widows and children were often deported to Siberia. Some of them, now Chicagoans, were in attendance at the memorial. One person said she hoped that the statue will teach people about the atrocity because so many people don’t know anything about Katyń. The statue is in a prominent spot on Milwaukee Avenue. Maybe some of your readers have family buried at St. Adalbert’s, as I do.

Armela Hammes

Editor—I’m sure some of our readers will be glad to hear about this, and I thank you for sending us this information.

***** MYSLOWITZ/MYSŁOWICE: DREIKAISERECKE, TRIANGLE OF THE THREE EMPERORS, A UNIQUE SPOT IN POLAND *****

by Paul S. Valasek <hallersarmy@aol.com>

It is often said (especially by Fred Hoffman) if you want to learn about a subject, write a book. This is very true, BUT, I am not writing a book on the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Rather I recently created a PowerPoint lecture as a brief introduction of its nature and some of its unique situations. When speaking of the AH Empire, one immediately finds a polyglot of ethnicities, nationalities, and religions, probably more so than any other empire in Europe. Austria-Hungary, at its peak, was only second in size to the Russian Empire in Europe, and for Polish Roots read-

ers, it of course comprised a large portion of Poland/ Ukraine (Małopolska) which many of us research daily.

As I perused the Internet for information to add substance to many graphic materials which I have collected over the years, I came across mention of Myslowitz (German) aka Mysłowice (Polish). I found an image that caught my eye. Here was a postcard of the town with multiple names and men in multiple uniforms. A monument was on one bank of what appeared to be a tri-forked river, much like Pittsburgh's three rivers, but the Mysłowice rivers were much smaller.

In Pittsburgh, the Monongahela and Allegheny join to form the Ohio River. These rivers divide the city of Pittsburgh into a North side, Downtown, and a Southside, all of which have Polish influence. In Mysłowice, the White Przemsza and Black Przemsza rivers (more like large streams) converge to form the larger Przemsza River. All fine and good, maybe not unique that two rivers form a third yielding three areas of land. What is special for this junction is that all of the three partitioned portions of land were not only three different countries, but three different empires of Europe, the Prussian, Russian, and Austrian. For it was here that the three partitioning powers of Poland met at a common point, later to be restored to Poland after World War I.

From the town's website, <http://www.myslowice.pl/english.php> —

“Just as it came up Mysłowice was a border town. The Przemsza River, on which the town is situated, constituted the border between Silesia—a part of the kingdom of Bohemia then—and Poland. During the centuries the owners and sovereigns of the town often changed; the town belonged to Bohemia, Habsburgs, Prussia, Poland, 3rd Reich and again to Poland.”

This description fails to mention that if you were a bit adventurous (and wacky enough to do things differently), you could wade out to the middle of the stream where all three branches met and stand on a point where three political entities—not just countries, but empires—met. Those entities reached from France, the Low Countries and the Baltic, through the Balkans and the Mediterranean Sea, all the way to the Sea of Japan. I don't know if such a point exists anywhere else on the planet. Of course now, the streams, the juncture, and all lands connected to the rivers are solely within Poland.

The town and some of its genealogical importance are mentioned by a friend of mine, Dr. Dominic Pacyga, in his book, *Polish Immigrants and Industrial Chicago*:

http://books.google.com/books?id=pSPzslKMO44C&pg=PA32&lpg=PA32&dq=myslowitz+pacyga&source=bl&ots=uu7S_-TaLk&sig=2asnB4I8fymJU9RQ3Rw0BHsPqAg

If that link doesn't work, perhaps this TinyURL will:

<http://tinyurl.com/nwrv5w>

Dr. Pacyga mentions how this point in the great field of Poland was a channel for Russian-Polish and Austrian-Polish immigrants to funnel into German Poland and the great ports of Bremen and Hamburg beyond.

Since those days of great migration ended a very long time ago, the importance of this area is now consigned to history. Looking at this site

<http://wikimapia.org/#lat=50.208549&lon=19.14505&z=12&l=0&m=a&v=2>

will show you how this once bustling area looks today, a far cry from when hundreds of thousands of immigrants passed through and over these small rivers. When the Wikimapia image comes up, look for a small box just a little bit above center. When you run your cursor over it, the title “Triangle of the Three Emperors” shows up. A smaller window will appear with several photos of the area. The first two are historical postcards of what was, the other views are how it is today.

Have any of our readers been to this point and care to add more information? Does anyone have any history in their families mentioning such a place? We at PolishRoots would like to hear from you.

***** UPDATES FROM CEIL JENSEN *****

Ceil Wendt Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net> Michigan Polonia, LLC <http://mipolonia.net> The Polish Mission <http://polishmission.com>

Editor—Ceil posted three interesting notes on various Polish genealogy mailing lists, and I thought some of our readers would find them worthwhile.

POLISH-AMERICANS AND THE 2010 CENSUS

The Census Bureau is making final preparations to launch the 2010 census which will take place in April 2010. It is important for Polish Americans to participate fully to ensure that the communities we live in get the full representation in Congress and state legislatures they deserve and the full allocation of federal funds for our senior citizens, police departments, etc. The main reason for the census is to redraw districts for the U.S. House of Representatives and for state legislatures.

“The census is the one great event in which all residents of the United States participate. We join with all of our neighbors to take stock of who we are and what we are becoming as a nation,” according to Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, President of the Piast Institute. The Piast Institute is one of 56 Census Information Centers (CIC) in the United States. The Piast Institute’s CIC is the only officially recognized resource for census and demographic information on the Polish Americans since 2005.

There is a major change in the 2010 census which makes it different from the previous censuses. There will be no question on ancestry so that you will not have an opportunity to write in “Polish” as in previous years. In previous census counts one out of six households received the “long

form” which contained the ancestry questions along with other additional questions. The ancestry numbers were developed from that one in six sample.

The 2010 census will be a short form only sent to all households. It will only ask 10 basic questions - name, sex, age, date of birth, race, Hispanic origin, housing tenure and family relationship.

The questions formerly asked on the long form will be covered by the American Community Survey (ACS). It will include a question on ancestry. The ACS will be sent to a small percentage of the population on a rotating basis through the decade between censuses. Not only will get such a questionnaire more than once every five years. If you receive an ACS form it is vitally important to write “Polish” for the question on ancestry. It is from this much smaller percentage of questionnaires in the on-going ACS that the Polish population will be calculated.

All Polish organizations should seek to become official census partners to help spread the word about the census and to bring the Polish community to the attention of the Census Bureau. You can use the occasion to ask the census office to see that the ancestry questions gets on the census form for 2020 to get a more secure count. For information on partnerships go to the U.S. Census home page and click on “Partners with US!”

For more information on the 2010 census, call Polonia’s Census Information Center at the Piast Institute at 313-733-4535 or e-mail us at <skrzyniarz@piastinstitute.org>.

YOUNG MEN WHO COME TO ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS AFTER WORLD WAR II

I am developing a spreadsheet of data for the young men who came to Orchard Lake Schools after World War II. I have found a great deal of information on ancestry.com and have a copy of their “yearbook”. Originally known as “Chłopcy z Polski” and composed of the boys who came aboard the General M B Stewart arriving 24 Nov 1945, it expanded to 100 + men. Many settled in metro Detroit, some eventually settled in Chicago.

We would like to invite the men and their families to the 1 September 1939 Commemoration to be held at OLS on the weekend of 4-6 September, 2009. Some of the members are deceased. Please help us spread the word.

Here are some of the names:

Surname Name, Given Name

Baczynski, Kazimierz
Baniowski, Jozef
Baranowski, Julian
Bobrowski, Kazimierz
Borkowski, Piotr
Ciaston, Leopold

Derecki, Jan Andrzej
Dubiel, Ryszard
Dubis, Marian
Dzendrowski, Piotr
Glejf, Robert
Golebiowski, Alfred

Goleniewski, Ryszard
Jablonski, Julian
Jeziorski, Zygmunt
Kaczmarczyk, Bronislaw
Kaminski, Mieczyslaw
Kaminski, Ryszard
Kamotowski, Tadeusz
Kasprzak, Antoni
Kataj, Tadeusz
Krolik, Hilary
Kus, Mieczyslaw
Kutiuk, Kazimierz
Kwiatkowski, Kazimierz
Lichodziejewski, Czeslaw
Maksymow, Jozef
Malarz, Antoni

Maziarz, Czeslaw
Nagrocki, Wacław
Piekarski, Stanislaw
Pienta, (W)Ladislaus A.
Przybylski, Marian
Rekawek, Janusz
Skowronski, Kazimierz
Sukiennik, Mieczyslaw
Swastek, Franciszek
Tubielewicz, Boguslaw
Volzynski, Jozef
Wajda, Edward
Walawender, Antoni
Witaszek, Zdzislaw
Wlodkowski, Stanislaw
Zarczynski, Roman

ORAL HISTORIES: POLISH GIRLS OF SANTA ROSA, MEXICO (WWII DISPLACED PERSONS)

Currently, I am working on plans to honor the Poles who came to Michigan after WWII. We (The Polish Mission at Orchard Lake, Mi) received a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council to document the museums and stories of WWII Poles who came to Michigan. We'll hold a weekend event in Sept and publish a catalog for the museums. I'm also developing lesson plans for teachers which will be online at <<http://polishmission.com>>.

I encourage other PGS to locate the girls who were resettled in their Polish communities. In *The Polish deportees of World War II* by Tadeusz Piotrowski (2004) are listed several orphanages besides Guardian Angels in Detroit: St. Hedwig in Niles, Elmsworth (Holy Family), Milwaukee (St. Joseph), and Buffalo (Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary).

In light of the forthcoming commemoration, I am researching the children in exile—those taken from their homes by the Soviets. If you can help us get in touch with family members, it would be greatly appreciated. We will be recording their oral histories this summer. We have seven museums on campus of WWII collections including camp art and survivor art. We recently visited with the experts at the Auschwitz Museum in Poland to document our holdings.

I am developing a spreadsheet of data for the 25 young women who came to the Guardian Angels Home after World War II. I have found a great deal of information on ancestry.com and have a list and a few articles from Sr. M. Elaine at the Felician Motherhouse archives.

The girls arrived in the US via the Hermitage sailing from Bombay, India to San Pedro, California on 24 Oct 1943. They were taken to the Polish refugee camp of Santa Rosa in Leon, Mexico. They left Santa Rosa by train and entered the US at Laredo, Texas 10 May 1946. I published their photo in *Detroit's Polonia*. There is a nice website that describes the camps:

http://www.electronicmuseum.ca/Poland-WW2/colonia_santa_rosa/csr.html

We would like to invite the women and their families to the 1 September 1939 Commemoration to be held at OLS on the weekend of 4-6 September, 2009. Some of the women are deceased. Please help spread the word.

Here are the names:

Surname, Given Name

Beltkowski, Teresa	Lew, Janina
Bera, Emilia Rozalia	Mazurczak, Maria
Birecka, Romualda	Michalska, Irena
Brochocka, Kazimiera	Michalska, Wacława
Huk, Maria	Mitura, Lucyna
Jarżab, Apolonia	Morzik, Genowefa
Karpowicz, Waldysława	Pakiet, Lucja
Kolesnikowicz, Lidia	Pluto, Antonina
Kolesnikowicz, Maria	Pluto, Wanda
Kolesnikowicz, Nadzieja	Rajchel, Janina
Kowalska, Wictoria	Saranięcka, Stefania
Kuc, Danuta	Sedziuk, Leokadia
Kwiatkowska, Kazimiera	

***** UPCOMING EVENTS *****

July 24 – 25, 2009

**SUPER CONFERENCE 2009
JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY**

Joint Conference / Convention of the Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (SGGEE) and the Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS)

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Radisson Hotel North Shore

(Mention the FEEFHS conference when booking, or book online at the URL below using “FEEFHS” in the special code box to receive your special conference rates.)

For more information, go to <<http://www.sggee.org/conventions/ConventionNews>>.

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Sunday, August 2, 2009, Noon to 5 p.m.

What: **LITHUANIAN HERITAGE DAY PROGRAM**

Where: **Anthracite Heritage Museum, McDade Park, Scranton, Pennsylvania**

Lithuanian Heritage Day Program to be held at the Anthracite Heritage Museum

On Sunday, August 2, 2009, the Anthracite Heritage Museum will present Lithuanian Heritage Day at the Museum from noon to 5 p.m. The day will feature a special exhibit, film, and music.

For more information or directions, call (570) 963-4804 or find us on the web at <www.phmc.state.pa.us> or <www.anthracitemuseum.org>.

[From a note posted by Richard Gostautas to the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list.]

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August 2 - 7, 2009

29TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

**Sheraton Philadelphia Center City Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

The annual conference of the IAJGS (International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies) is always the premier event in the United States for Jewish genealogists. This year, there's an interesting twist: the keynote speaker is a Catholic priest! Father Patrick Dubois, author and humanitarian, will speak on "The Holocaust by Bullets: A Priest's Journey to Uncover the Truth Behind the Murder of 1.5 million Jews," which is also the title of his recently published book. Fr. Dubois is best known for his work in searching for and uncovering mass graves in Ukraine.

The fascinating people who will be there include Dorin Dobrinicu, the Director General of the Romanian National Archive system, and Deputy Director Olga Muzychuk, a representative from the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine, who will be giving a talk. Among the huge roster of speakers, names that may be familiar to our readers include Matthew Bielawa, Logan Kleinwaks, Gary Mokotoff, Stanley Diamond, Stephen Morse, Kahlile Mehr, and Warren Blatt. Check out the entire program at <http://www.philly2009.org/program.cfm>.

For more info, visit the Website <http://www.philly2009.org/>.

[From a posting to the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup by Mark Halpern]

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August 7-8, 2009

PGS-CONNECTICUT/NORTHEAST 2009 CONFERENCE -- 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

For detailed information on this event, visit this page on the Society's Website:

<http://www.pgsctne.org/Conference%202009%20materials/index%20page.html>

This is the 25th anniversary of PGSCTNE's founding and the organizers have planned a terrific program. Please note, **July 10th is the cut-off date to register early** and take advantage of a reduced rate in the Conference's registration fee.

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August 22, 2009

PGS-CALIFORNIA PRESENTS A GENEALOGY SEMINAR

The Polish Genealogical Society of California is proud to present a genealogy seminar on Saturday, August 22, 2009 in Lakewood, California. A full day is scheduled to review successful research techniques and learn new ones to try. A two-page flyer with complete information can be downloaded from the Website: <http://pgsca.org/seminar.html>.

[From an e-mail sent by Janice Lipinski, President of PGSCA.]

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September 18 – 19, 2009

FALL CONFERENCE OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA (PGSA)

“UNRAVELING THE MYSTERIES”

Friday, September 18th (1/2 day) and Saturday, September 19th (all day).

Location: Chicago Marriott Schaumburg, 50 North Martingale Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173

For more information and updates visit <http://www.pgsa.org>.

Speakers confirmed to date:

- * **Don Litzer**, former librarian of the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN
- * **Kahlile Mehr**, manager of the Slavic/Germanic Collection at the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City
- * **Michael J. Mikoś, Ph.D.**, professor of foreign languages and linguistics at University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee
- * **Cynthia Piech**, Board Member and Treasurer of the PGSA
- * **Craig Pfannkuche**, president of Memory Trail Research, Inc. and genealogical archivist at the Chicago and Northwestern Historical Society

* **Julianna Smith**, editor of Ancestry.com newsletters, author of genealogy books and magazine articles

* **Loretto Szucs**, author of genealogy books and executive director and vice president of community relations at Ancestry magazine

*** **MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES** ***

<http://www.jri-poland.org/psa/neworder.htm>

On the newsgroup soc.genealogy.jewish, Mark Halpern posted a note on how to pay the Polish State Archives for records. I know this is a concern many researchers have, and the URL he gave provides good guidelines, even if you aren't ordering Jewish records. Mark used to be in charge of processing orders from the State Archives through JRI-Poland (Jewish Records Indexing-Poland), hosted by JewishGen.org, so he has a lot of experience in this area. He also gave some advice that struck me as very sound:

“You have identified the biggest issue in dealing directly with the PSA - they require payment by wire (bank-to-bank transfer), which costs many times more than the copy of the ordered record. I have three suggestions:

“1) If you want to pay by a method not identified by the Archive, ask them **first** if your alternative is acceptable. 2) I understand that bank transfers made from another European Union country in Euros is much cheaper. Find a fellow genealogist who can help with such a transfer. 3) Find other researchers who want to order records from the same branch Archive and consolidate the order. This reduces the per record cost of that \$25 - \$50 fee for the wire transfer.”

<http://http://tinyurl.com/naz7k6>

<http://tinyurl.com/l86cw5>

<http://tinyurl.com/7onclp>

On the Polish Genius list, C. Michael Elias posted a note to let people know he has put online his index of selected records for the village of Biechów. The TinyURL's above take you to the index for 1810 births, 1811 births, and village homes 1812-1821, respectively. He added, “This range is also interesting because during these years, the Catholic church was the recorder of vital records for the state. So I have transcribed a number of Jewish records (< 1% of total population appearing in this parish). This village (Biechów) is not listed in JewishGen's list of villages with a Jewish population (probably because it was not a significant population), so this may be a nice find for our Jewish brethren.”

http://www.sztetl.org.pl/?lang=en_GB

A recent edition of *Nu? What's New?* (<http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V010N11.htm>) gave some information on this Virtual Shtetl site, created by the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Using the search engine presents a bit of a learning curve, so I advise reading the article in *Nu?* first. Additional information about the Museum of the History of Polish Jews project can be found at <http://www.jewishmuseum.org.pl/index.php?lang=en>.

<http://galiciajewishmuseum.org/>

Paul Valasek thought this bit of info, from the 15 June 2009 issue of *PGSA Notebook*, on the Galicia Jewish Museum, was worth repeating: “Kate Craddy, the Director of the Galicia Jewish Museum in Kraków, wants to spread news of a planned 2010 exhibition about the Jews of Lwów. The museum is interested in making contact with survivors and their families from the Lwów area to provide useful input into the development of the exhibition and/or be willing to be featured in it. For details, please contact Kate at <Kate@galiciajewishmuseum.org>. You can also contact the exhibition’s research curator, Jakub Nowakowski at <Jakub@galiciajewishmuseum.org>.”

<http://tinyurl.com/kopqrw>

Krystyna Styryna posted this item to various recipients. It’s from the *Am-Pol Eagle*, and she quoted the first paragraph: “It may sound hard to believe, but it only goes to show that in our confused, chaotic and crisis-ridden world even the highly implausible is possible. A mini-car built only in Poland is set to help save Chrysler from extinction. That is good news for the workers of the southern Polish industrial city of Tychy, where the model is built. That integral fragment of a broader agreement will also benefit U.S. autoworkers and the American car-buying public.....” Read more by clicking on the link above.

<http://tinyurl.com/mjz5xc>

Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter had an interesting item on 1 June 2009, describing Google’s plans to get into the business of publishing e-books. As Eastman said, “This could be a boon for genealogy book publishers. The books in electronic format would presumably be much cheaper to produce than the same books printed on paper. The publishers presumably would pass on part of the savings to purchasers and pocket the rest. This could be a win-win for consumers and publishers alike.” For those of you thinking about publishing your family history, it’s something to consider.

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