

CHAPTER FOUR

URZĄD STANU CYWILNEGO WARSAW ŚRÓDMIEŚCIE (With Jewish Documents from Galicia)

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BACKGROUND

The archives were formed in 1949 as part of the USC Warsaw Śródmieście (district) when an agreement between Poland and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (then part of the Soviet Union) was signed. It was agreed that the metrical books from voivodships that belonged to Poland prior to 1939 would be transferred to Poland. These voivodships included Tarnopol, Stanisławów, Lwów, Wołyń and parts of Polesie.

The books were transferred in stages beginning with the larger towns of Lwów, Stanisławów and Tarnopol voivodships, which were the main economic, social and cultural centers in the region before World War II.

The prewar registration system of civil records was based to a large extent upon religious registrations. The records for the Christians (Roman Catholics, Greek Catholics, Russian Orthodox, Protestants) were prepared by priests or ministers. The documents for non-Christians (including Jews) were prepared by clerks of the public administration assigned to this specific task.

The records were written and stored in Jewish vital registration offices, which had their seats in the local town administration building. The first postwar regulations about civil records from 1946 state that one universal (secular) method of civil vital record registration would be introduced, which is why the records that were previously “scattered around” were transferred to this specially created archive.

JEWISH METRICAL BOOKS

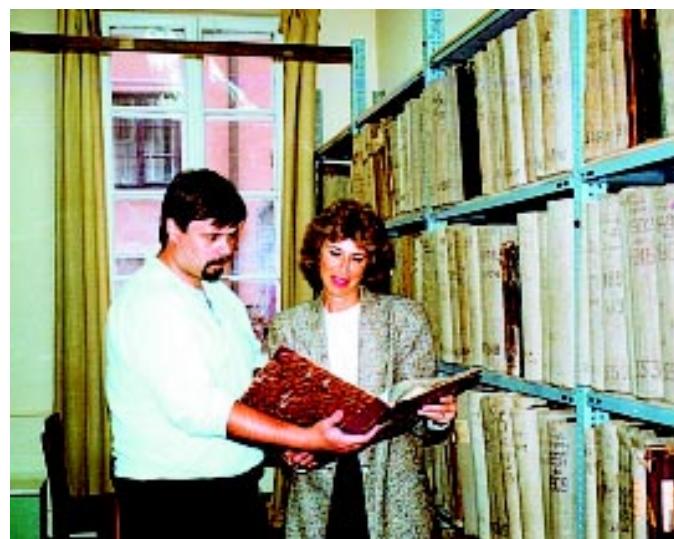
This archive is the repository for Jewish metrical books from the area of the former Lwów, Stanisławów and Tarnopol voivodships (now Lviv, Ivano Frankivsk and Ternopil oblasts in Ukraine). The record books are held in a collection known as the Zabużańskie (“East of Bug River”) archives. The contents of these records are generally written in Polish. In the areas formerly known as Galicia (included in the Austro-Hungarian Empire), the Polish language was accorded equal status with the German language, e.g., vital statistic registrations. However, some books between October 1939 and mid-1941 are written in German or Ukrainian.

The composition of a metrical book is very clear and easy to understand, with a few records per page. There are separate books for births, marriages and deaths.

Generally, the books are in fairly good physical condition, which facilitates their use. It should be noted that the books brought to Poland after the war had traces of neglect and poor storage conditions (some were stored in dirty, wet cellars or attics). However, due to extensive and expensive preservation efforts, many books were saved from destruction.

The typical birth record consists of:

- Sequential order number
- Day, month, year and place (street, house number) of circumcision or naming of the child
- Name of child
- Sex
- Status (legitimate or not) (ritual/religious marriage not recognized)
- Name, profession and place of residence of father
- Name, profession and place of residence of mother, mother's parents' names
- Signature, profession, place of residence of:
 - a. witnesses
 - b. person who performed circumcision
 - c. midwife



Archivist Grzegorz Mucha shows Gloria Resin examples of Jewish metrical books

- If the child was stillborn:
 - a. note about death
 - b. date and place of child's parents' civil marriage
 - c. note if child was identified as legitimate
 - d. note that father recognized child as his

RESEARCH POLICIES AND ACCESS TO ZABUŽAŃSKIE ARCHIVES

The metrical books in these archives generally date from 1896. Older books are transferred to Archiwum Głównego Akt Dawnych (AGAD) in Warsaw at ul. Długa 7 (see Chapter 3).

This USC office is not open to the public for research. Requests for specific documents can be submitted in person at the counter or by correspondence sent through the Polish Consulate or Embassy in the requestor's country.

According to the law concerning civil records in USC offices, certified copies (typed on a form) may be issued, but xerox copies are not generally permitted because of the fragile condition of the books and the need to safeguard the documents for future generations. This same regulation prohibits genealogical searches.

There is a card catalog for birth and marriage records that facilitates the search for these documents, but the index cards do not include all the data from the actual document.

For marriage records, the index card lists only the groom's name. If the last name of the male is unknown, a search cannot be performed through the index cards, as regulations prohibit general genealogical searches in the books without specific data.

Written requests should include the following information:

- Name of person requesting the search and his/her relationship to individual(s) whose documents are requested
- First and last names (also include maiden names)
- Date/place where the event occurred. If exact date is unknown, provide a two-to three-year span.
- Parents' first and last names (also include maiden names)

Author's Note: Jewish metrical books for the former Polish voivodships of Lwów, Stanisławów and Tarnopol (now in Ukraine) can be found in at least four separate archives. The earliest records are housed in the Lviv Historical Archives in Ukraine; the next group of records are in the AGAD Archives (Polish State Archives) in Warsaw (p. 364); twentieth century records are in the USC Warsaw Śródmieście (p. 384) and some twentieth century metrical books are kept in the local archives (ZAGS Offices) of the above three cities.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wien 1901									
Datum und Zahl des obituarisch-widetodesbezeichnungs und Name des Todtenbenachrichtigenden	Des Absterbens	Der Beerdigung	Des Versterbene	Wiesch	7	8	9	Anmerkung	
Ort	Smierei	Pogrzebu	Zmarłego	des	Alter	Stand	Krankheit	U W A G A	
			Vor und Zusatz, Stand Be- schäftigung, ferter Name, Hochzeit- jahr und Geburtsjahr, Alter, Ort, nachweislich das geborene im Innern, ausweislich dem zuletzt gelebten	Wiesch	Wiesch	Wiesch	und Todezeit		
			Ort des	Orts	Jahr	Jahr	Orts		
18th May	Birkenstrasse 10	1901	Gittel Rozman	Barlowe	1901	1901	Barlowe		
1901.			ausgeführt von						
fl. 7.			Moses Rozman						
Wasyl Chramiusz			Schagavitz in						
Bakowce			Bakowce						
25th May									
1901.									
fl. 33.									
Baumrind									
June 8th									
1901.									
fl. 34.									
Baumrind									

Death record for Gittel Rozman, died in 1901, wife of Moses Rozman, living in Bakowce, house #1

CONCLUSION

It is not an exaggeration to describe the Zabużańskie Archives as one of the most well-known archives in Poland because of its unique holdings, as evidenced by the 2,000 to 3,000 requests per year both from within Poland and abroad.

Recently, it has become popular to look for "roots," particularly in the United States, which has resulted in increasing visits by those who wish to explore their ancestry. Many ethnic groups, including Jews, trace their roots to Eastern Europe, especially to Poland in its pre-1939 borders.

The workers in our archives derive great satisfaction when they locate records for a person who visits the USC office. Often, the person's reaction is spontaneously accompanied by memories from the town of their childhood. The people who visit us often had a very difficult and complicated life

in Poland, where they, in many cases, lost their entire families during the tragic years of the war.

Also, the USC office and the Zabużańskie Archives have unique metrical books for parishes in the central part of Warsaw (called Śródmieście), including those for the Jewish religion, where the books (until 1939) were kept by officers of the State Police.

The vast damage to Warsaw during World War II devastated and destroyed a major part of our archival material, including many Jewish metrical books. The liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto resulted in the worst destruction. The remnants that survived are missing large fragments, and often there are gaps between the years.

We have recently begun computerizing the metrical books (current registrations), which will ultimately make it easier and quicker to find records.

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Księga urodzin izraelskiego okręgu metrykalnego **Lwów** za rok 1896.
Geburtsbuch des israelitischen Matrikenbezirkes **Lemberg** Jahrgang 1896.

Liczba porządkowa Fortlaufende Zahl	Urodzenia Der Geburt			Obrzezania lub nadania imienia Der Beschneidung oder Namens-Bedeckung			Dziecięcia Des Kindes			Imię i nazwisko o j c a			
	Data Tag	Miesiąc Monat	Rok Jahr	Miejsce Ort	Nr. domu Haus-Nr.	Data Tag	Miesiąc Monat	Rok Jahr	Miejsce Ort	Nr. domu Haus-Nr.	Imię Name	pleć Geschlecht	jako też jego stan, zatrudnie- nie i miejsce zamieszkania Vor- und Zuname des Vaters, sowie Stand, Beschäftigung
												męska männlich	
580.	28. kwietnia 1896.	Lwów n. St. ul. Grodzka				5.	maj	1896.	Lwów n. St. ul. Grodzka		Leon	male ~ Ślubne	Samuel Harz 2. im. Leibel, synat, syn Karze Lwów.
581.	29. kwietnia 1896 Lwów n. 102 ul. Morskiego					6.	maj	1896 Lwów n. 102 ul. Morskiego			Zygmont	male ~ Niedłubne	

Birth record of Zygmunt Nadel (son of Efraim Nadel) and Freide Streisand (daughter of Hersch and Jútty Streisand), born 1896 in Lwów (first page of document)

Marriage record (1938) of Leib Blank, born 1906 in Czortków (son of Sara Blank) and Pepi Antler, born 1909 in Monasterzyska (daughter of Salomon Antler and Chaya Chana Blech)

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Księga urodzin izraelskiego okręgu metrykalnego **Lwów** na rok 1896.
 Geburtsbuch des israelitischen Matrikenbezirkes **Lemberg** Jahrgang 1896.

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7	8	9	10	II	12
Imię i nazwisko matki, jej stan i zamieszkanie, jako też imię i nazwisko, zatrudnienie i miejsce zamieszkania jej rodziców Vor- und Zuname der Mutter, <i>der Stand und Wohnort, dann Vor- und Zuname, Beschäftigung und Wohnort ihrer Eltern</i>	Własnoręczny podpis z wymienieniem zatrudnienia i miejsca zamieszkania Eigenhändige Unterschrift mit Angabe der Beschäftigung und des Wohnortes	kumów lub świadków Sandeka lub Szamesa der Pathen oder Zeugen, des Sandek oder Schames	obrzeczu- jącego lub obrzeczu- jących des oder der Be- schneider	akuszerki lub akuszera der Hebammme oder des Ge- burtshelfers	Dzieci nie żywo urodzone Todtgeborene Kinder
Chaje Lemel, zamieszkała we Lwowie, córka maweryjczyka Judy Hal- perna i Dorei Halpern we Lwowie.	Efraim Jura Halpern, maweryjczyk dzieci we Lwowie, sandek, potpisany na karcie mel. dunkowej	Lejbel Schiff, Regina Halpern, Majda	~ ~	Rodzice Lejla Schiff w Kopytowicach urodzili dwie 20 lipca 1894 roku, wedle określonych metrykach aktu wystawionego d. 29 lipca 1894 r. w Lwowie, praważających tego metryki akt. nr. 17 w Gminie Chortkow. Rodz. Hal- pern na rok 1894 starały się po. 51) ~	
Freide Kreisand (Kreisand) jedyna, we Lwowie rozpoczęła z gospodarem Efraimem Nadel zaręczynę, córka różnych matczyniów spedytora w Przemyslu Her- scha Kreisand (Kreisand) i b.p. Juttę.	David Reich, stwierdził relatywnie we Lwowie, sandek, potpisany na karcie mel. dunkowej	R.F. Bodlak, Julia Kocher,	~ ~	Potpisany Efraim Nadel przymierza się do aktu i prosi o wpisanie go jako ojca tego dziecka (zgromadzona) Efraim Nadel locum me Salomon Albert niewiadom Bernard Agrest niewiadom Ozgadzam się jako Judka Lewi z gromady Freidy Kreisand juttę potwierdzając akt urodzenia dnia 21/11/1912 #	

(second page of document, see left)

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