Established in 1292 on a trade route between Poland and Hungary, Nowy Sącz became an important commercial center. By the fifteenth century, it was the fourth-largest city of Małopolska (Little Poland), after Kraków, Sandomierz and Lublin. The Jewish presence in Nowy Sącz is attested in a document from 1469, but it was not until 1676 that a royal privilege granted Jews the right to build houses and engage in commerce. Jews played an important role in trade, carpentry, tailoring and engraving.

Taking advantage of the political chaos in Poland, Austrian authorities took over Nowy Sącz in 1770, two years before the first partition of the Polish Commonwealth. Under Austrian rule, the once prosperous city declined, its population decreased significantly, and the Jews were compelled to live in a special quarter. In the early nineteenth century, the Zanzer (from Zanz, the Jewish name of the town) Hasidic dynasty was founded in Nowy Sącz by Rebbe Chaim Ben Arieh Leib Halberstam. During the interwar period, the community supported several Jewish schools, a yeshiva, a hospital, and various sports clubs. Following the German occupation of Nowy Sącz, the Nazis established a ghetto in July 1941. In the following year, they created forced-labor camps in Ronów and Lipie. In the ghetto, Jews worked for the Germans as tailors, shoemakers, and carpenters, and they also loaded and unloaded trains. The ghetto was liquidated in August 1942. The Jews from Nowy Sącz were murdered in the Belżec death camp.

**Location**

97 km ESE of Kraków
49°37'/20°42' Vovoidship: Nowy Sącz

**General Population, 1939**
31,000 (34% Jewish)

**General Population, 1994**
62,568

**SYNAGOGUES**

ul. Bóźnica 1 [Synagogue Street]
The Great Synagogue was constructed in 1746. Current use: art museum (Muzeum Okręgowe).

ul. Jagiellońska 50
Current use: apartments.

**JEWS CEMETERY**

ul. Rybaka 12
From 25,000 burials, 200 tombstones remain.

**DEPORTATIONS**

Belżec.
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

ul. Rybacka 12 (Jewish cemetery)
A monument commemorates the sites of mass executions of 25,000 Jews.

SELECTED READING


Mahler, Raphael. Mekorot le-toledot kehilat yehudit be-Polin (Tsants) (Sources for the History of the Jewish Community in Poland [Sants]). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv University, 1963. (H)


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