

CITIES AND TOWNS IN POLAND

PAGES FROM THE PAST AND PRESENT

by Miriam Weiner

INTRODUCTION

In the 1990s, increasing numbers of Jews from all over the world are traveling to their ancestral towns in Eastern Europe.

The travel agencies and organizations now offering Jewish “roots tours” provide a valuable option for those who feel the need to walk the streets of their ancestors. As an alternative to organized group tours, customized private family tours to Eastern Europe are becoming increasingly popular. Special planning and care (security), however, are necessary in the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Before the Holocaust, approximately 3.3 million Jews lived in Poland. An estimated 5,000 to 15,000 Jews now live in Poland, primarily in the larger cities of Warsaw, Łódź and Kraków. The uncertainty of the population range results from many factors, including the fact that some people are only now discovering their Jewish origins, while others have kept it hidden for many years from fear of repression and anti-Semitism. Almost daily, people come to the Jewish Historical Institute or Jewish organizations in Warsaw with stories about how they have discovered they may be Jewish and want to know more about their roots and their ancestors.

This chapter focuses on the 28 cities within the current borders of Poland that had a pre-Holocaust population of 10,000 or more Jewish inhabitants. The chapter is meant to provide an overall picture of what one may expect to find during a visit to these cities and towns or serve as a resource for those who are unable to make the trip.

There are many Jewish and historic sites remaining in numerous smaller towns throughout Poland. The following travel publications include maps, photographs and historical information:

Gruber, Ruth Ellen. *Jewish Heritage Travel: A Guide to Central and Eastern Europe*. New York: Wiley, 1994.

Kagan, Joram. *Hippocrene Insiders' Guide to Poland's Jewish Heritage*. New York: Hippocrene Books, 1992.

Stephenson, Jill, and Alfred Bloch. *Hippocrene Companion Guide to Poland*. New York: Hippocrene Books, 1991.



■ Poznań (Posen), Am Schloßplatz, 1916

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Other travel books on Poland that may be helpful include the following:

- Dydyński, Krzysztof. *Poland: A Travel Survival Kit*. Hawthorn, Australia: Lonely Planet Publications, 1993.
- Heine, Marc E. *Poland*. New York: Hippocrene Books, 1987.
- Horn, Alfred, and Bożena Pietras, eds. *Insight Guides Poland*. Singapore: APA Publications (HK) Ltd., 1992.
- Jordan, Alexander. *Hippocrene Insider's Guide to Poland*. New York: Hippocrene Books, 1990.
- McLachlan, Gordon. *Off the Beaten Track Poland*. Derbyshire, England: Moorland Publishing, 1995.
- Nagel's *Encyclopedia Guide—Poland*. Geneva: Nagel Publishers, 1986.
- Przewodnik po Polsce (A Guide to Poland)*. Warsaw: Sport i Turystka, 1991.
- Salter, Mark, and Gordon McLachlan. *The Real Guide—Poland*. New York: Prentice-Hall, 1991.
- Salter, Mark, and Gordon McLachlan. *Poland: The Rough Guide*. London: Rough Guides Ltd., 1993.
- Ward, Philip. *Polish Cities*. Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing, 1989.



Jewish cemetery in Gorlice, pre-1939

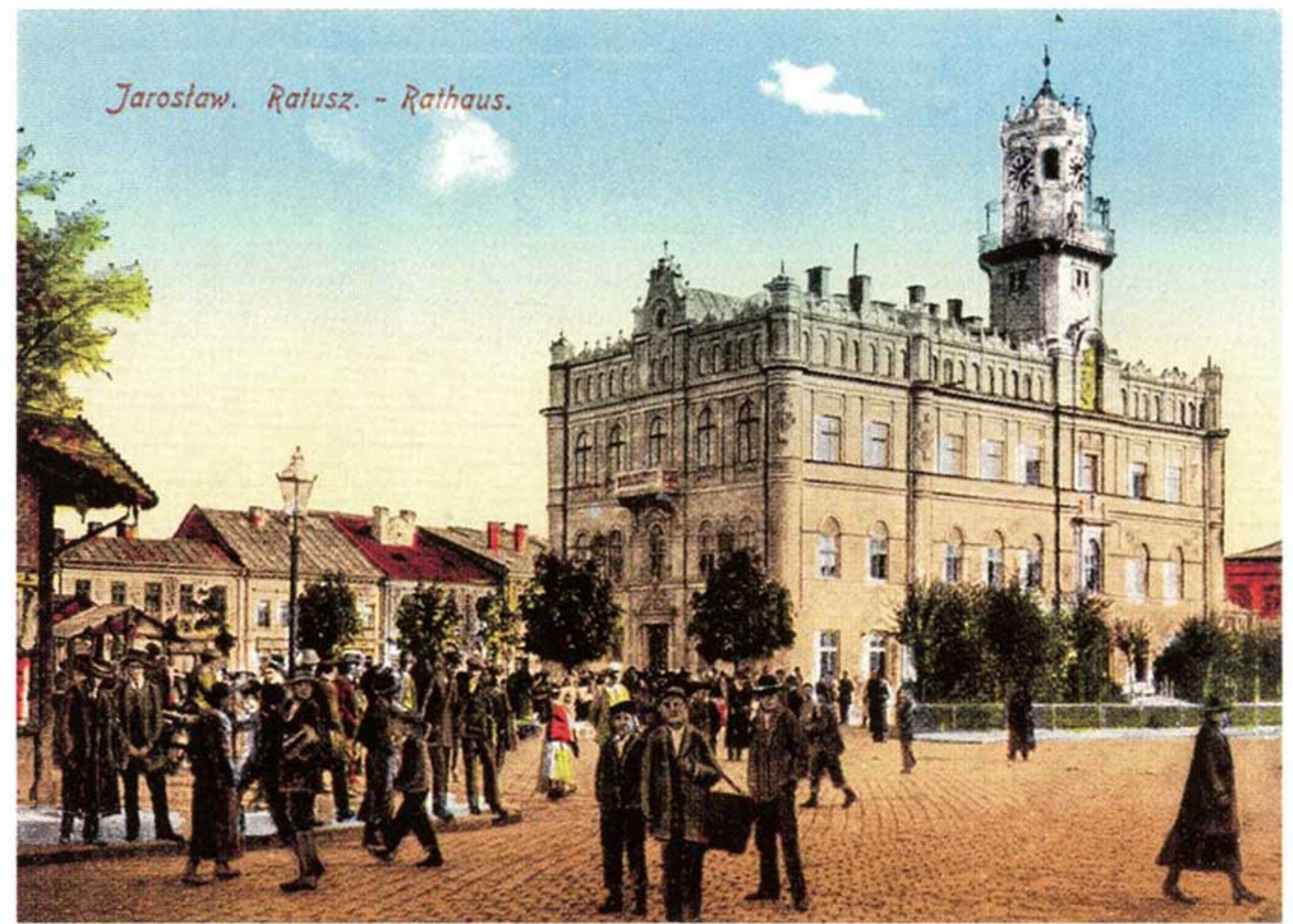
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CHAPTER RESOURCES

A typical town entry in this chapter includes a brief synopsis of the town history, pre- and post-Holocaust population figures, latitude/longitude and reference to a nearby larger town.

Spelling Variations

Alternative names and common spelling variations of town names are shown above the map in each town entry. The spelling of town names is a difficulty encountered by numerous researchers and family historians due to the many changes caused by shifting borders and alternative names. Alternative spellings of town names can also be found in publications listed in the sections within the town entry entitled *Selected Reading* and *Bibliographic Sources* as well as in other reference books.



Jarosław town hall, 1918

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The source for the current spellings of the town names and the latitude/longitude is:

Nazwy Geograficzne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (Geographical Names of the Republic of Poland). Warszawa and Wrocław: Państwowe Przedsiębiorstwo Wydawnictwo Kartograficznych, 1991.

The source for the map shown in each town entry is:

Polskie Przedsiębiorstwo Wydawnictw Kartograficznych, a publisher of maps and gazetteers in Warsaw.

Sources consulted for town histories:

- Gutman, Israel, ed. *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*. 4 vols. New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1990.
- Pinkas Hakehillot: *Poland*. Vols. 1–4. Jerusalem: Yad Vashem, 1976–1984 (H).
- Published local and regional histories
- Roth, Cecil, editor-in-chief. *Encyclopaedia Judaica*. Jerusalem: Keter Publishing House, 1971–1972.
- Yizkor books

Sources consulted for population figures:

- Black Book of Localities Whose Jewish Population Was Exterminated by the Nazis*. Jerusalem: Yad Vashem, 1965.
- Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*
- Encyclopaedia Judaica*
- Klevan, Avraham, ed. *Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust*. Jerusalem: Yad Vashem, 1982.
- Yizkor books
- 1994 statistics issued by the Republic of Poland

In a very few cases where the only available pre-Holocaust population figures were from the early 1920s, the 1939 Jewish population figures were estimated based upon previous growth figures. After the German invasion in September 1939, there was a significant influx of Jews to the larger cities from surrounding towns.

Sources consulted regarding data for synagogues, cemeteries and Holocaust memorials include:

Burchard, Przemysław. *Pamiętki i zabytki kultury żydowskiej w Polsce* (Landmarks and Monuments of Jewish Culture in Poland). Warszawa: P. Burchard, 1990.

Encyclopaedia Judaica

Gruber, Samuel, and Phyllis Myers. *Survey of Historic Jewish Monuments in Poland*. New York: Jewish Heritage Council, World Monuments Fund, 1995.

Hippocrene Insiders' Guide to Poland's Jewish Heritage

Jagielski, Jan. Director of Research and Documentation of Monuments at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

Jewish Heritage Travel: A Guide to Central and Eastern Europe

Rosenstein, Neil. *Polish Jewish Cemeteries*. Elizabeth, NJ: Computer Center for Jewish Genealogy, 1983.

Data resulting from numerous onsite visits to towns in Poland by the author during the period 1989–1997.

Reports and photographs from travelers and researchers.

Yizkor books

Deportation sites refer to:

Forced labor camps
Concentration camps and ghettos
Deaths camps/extermination centers

Sources for Holocaust data include:

Encyclopaedia Judaica

Encyclopedia of the Holocaust

Mogilanski, Roman. *The Ghetto Anthology*. Los Angeles: American Congress of Jews from Poland and Survivors of Concentration Camps, 1985.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Historical Atlas of the Holocaust*. New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1996.

Yizkor books

Sources for historic and present-day photographs:

Most of the photographs included in this chapter and elsewhere in the book are reproductions of antique hand-tinted postcards from private collections (see Appendix 6). Some photographs were found in various archives and institutes throughout Poland. The present-day photographs were taken by both private individuals and professional photographers. In some instances, it was possible to show a contemporary photograph side-by-side with a pre-World War II view of the same site.

Author's Note: Due to space limitations within the town entries, synagogue references in this chapter are generally limited to the larger synagogues and those that survived the Holocaust.



■ Bobowa Jewish cemetery, 1976

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USEFUL ADDRESSES

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY, 35 North West Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150 <<http://www.lds.org>>

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, Hebraic Section, African and Middle Eastern Division, Jefferson Building (First Floor), Second Street SE, Washington, D.C. 20540 <<http://lcweb.loc.gov/homepage>>

YAD VASHEM, P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel <<http://www.yad-vashem.org.il>>

YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH, 555 West 57th Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10019 <<http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/yivo>>

KEY TO SELECTED READING

The *Selected Reading* list within each town entry includes books and articles that were specifically written about the town. The list is not meant to represent a complete or exhaustive study, but will lead the reader to additional source material about the locality. References to books published outside the United States include the language of publication, while books published in the United States are assumed to be in the English language. Sources published outside the United States may be difficult to locate in American libraries. The researcher may wish to visit a local public or university library to consult the OCLC database to ascertain if a desired volume is available through interlibrary loan (ILL). Many of the books and periodicals published in Poland can be found in the library of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

Within the *Selected Reading* list are many references to the *Bulletin of the Jewish Historical Institute in Poland* (Biuletyn Żydowskiego Instytutu Historycznego w Polsce) which is shown hereafter by its standard abbreviation of BŻIH.

Selected Reading Lists

There are individual *Selected Reading* lists for each of the 28 towns described in Chapter 2. The language of publication is indicated in () at the end of the bibliographic entry, as follows:

(F)	French	(P)	Polish
(G)	German	(R)	Russian
(H)	Hebrew	(Y)	Yiddish


KEY TO BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES

The *Bibliographic Sources* list in the town entries of Chapter 2 consists of books that include information about the subject town and other localities.

Alphabetical codes within the source list (e.g., CTD) refer primarily to publications that include information about Jewish communities; the exceptions are the following organizations and institutions: CAHJP, LDS, LYV and RJHS.


CAHJP Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People

This facility contains both original source material and microfilms of documents from state (government) archives throughout the world. The material is often handwritten and generally in the language of the country in which the community was located. The CAHJP can supply information about available documents for the localities relevant to correspondents' queries, but does not generally engage in genealogical research. All town entries that include a CAHJP reference refer to source material from the following publication:

 Teller, A., H. Volovici, and H. Assouline. *Guide to the Sources for the History of the Jews in Poland in the Central Archives*. Jerusalem: Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, 1988.


CENTRAL ARCHIVES FOR THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE, Sprinzak Building, Hebrew University Givat Ram Campus, Jerusalem, Israel (mailing address: P.O. Box 1149, Jerusalem 91010, Israel).

CTD Collection of Testimonies, Memoirs and Diaries

 Klibanski, Bronia, ed. *Collection of Testimonies, Memoirs and Diaries*. Jerusalem: Yad Vashem Central Archives, 1990.


This work contains more than 1,500 testimonies, memoirs and diaries of the Holocaust period accumulated by Yad Vashem beginning in 1954.

EDRD Every Day Remembrance Day: A Chronicle of Jewish Martyrdom


 Wiesenthal, Simon. *Every Day Remembrance Day: A Chronicle of Jewish Martyrdom*. New York: Henry Holt, 1986.

This book is a calendar of anti-Semitic events that have occurred every day of the year throughout history; primary emphasis is the Holocaust and the destruction of European Jewish communities.


EJ Encyclopaedia Judaica

 Roth, Cecil, ed. *Encyclopaedia Judaica*. 16 vols. Jerusalem: Keter Publishing House, 1971–1972. This work is considered by some as the definitive encyclopedia of Jewish history.


EOH Encyclopedia of the Holocaust

 Gutman, Israel, ed. *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*. 4 vols. New York: Macmillan, 1990. There are almost 1,000 entries in EOH. Many focus on localities referenced in this book.


FRG From a Ruined Garden: The Memorial Book of Polish Jewry

 Kugelmass, Jack, and Jonathan Boyarin. *From a Ruined Garden: The Memorial Books of Polish Jewry*. New York: Schocken, 1983. This book is an anthology of accounts selected and translated from yizkor books.

GA The Ghetto Anthology

 Mogilanski, Roman. *The Ghetto Anthology*. Los Angeles: American Congress of Jews from Poland and Survivors of Concentration Camps, Inc., 1985. This book provides both statistical information and descriptions of ghettos, labor camps, concentration camps and annihilation centers in Poland.


GUM Guide to Unpublished Materials of the Holocaust Period

 Bauer, Yehuda, ed. *Guide to Unpublished Materials of the Holocaust Period*. Jerusalem: Hebrew University and Yad Vashem. GUM3 Yad Vashem Archival Material, Part 1, vol. III, 1975. GUM4 Yad Vashem Archival Material, Part 2, vol. IV, 1977. GUM5 Yad Vashem Archival Material, Part 3, vol. V, 1979. GUM6 Moreshet Archives in Giv'at Haviva, vol. VI, 1981.

Volumes III–VI provide an index to archival material at Yad Vashem and other Israeli archives about Jewish communities affected by the Holocaust.

YAD VASHEM, P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel.


GYLA A Guide to YIVO's Landsmanshaftn Archive

 Schwartz, Rosaline, and Susan Milamed. *A Guide to YIVO's Landsmanshaftn Archive*. New York: YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 1986.

The guide describes the archival collection at YIVO Institute for Jewish Research of material concerning landsmanshaftn located primarily in New York City. Landsmanshaftn are Jewish immigrant organizations, most established at the turn of the century, composed of individuals from the same locality or region in Eastern Europe.


YIVO INSTITUTE, 555 West 57th Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10019.

HSL Hebrew Subscription Lists


 Kagan, Berl. *Hebrew Subscription Lists*. New York: Ktav Publishing, 1975.

Noted in this book are the Yiddish names of more than 8,700 towns whose residents subscribed to Yiddish- and Hebrew-language books published during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. An appendix lists the Roman-alphabet names of about 5,500 towns.

JE The Jewish Encyclopedia

 Singer, Isidore, ed. *The Jewish Encyclopedia*. 12 vols. New York/London: Funk and Wagnalls, 1901. The JE was the standard reference source on Jewish history for decades after its publication until the 1971–1972 publication of the *Encyclopaedia Judaica*.

JGFF JewishGen Family Finder

 The JewishGen Family Finder. Houston: JewishGen, Inc., 1996– (formerly Jewish Genealogical Family Finder, published by JGS, Inc., 1982–1996).

This reference is an up-to-date, computerized database of towns and surnames being researched by more than 4,000 Jewish genealogists throughout the world.

JEWISHGEN, INC., 12 Greenway Plaza #1100, Houston, TX 77046.

<<http://www1.jewishgen.org/jgff.html>>

JHT Jewish Heritage Travel

📖 Gruber, Ruth Ellen. *Jewish Heritage Travel: A Guide to Central and Eastern Europe*. New York: John Wiley, 1994.

The opening chapter of JHT includes a historical perspective and geographical listing of Jewish sites. Useful addresses, references to local publications and moving personal anecdotes are interspersed with photographs taken by the author. The practical travel information covers Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Rumania, the former Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. Also included are comprehensive listings and descriptions of remaining synagogue buildings, cemeteries, Jewish quarters and other vestiges of once-thriving communities.

KH Kiddush Hashem

📖 Huberband, Shimon. *Kiddush Hashem: Jewish Religious and Cultural Life in Poland During the Holocaust*. Hoboken, NJ/New York: Ktav/ Yeshiva University Press, 1987.

Rabbi Shimon Huberband was a close associate of Dr. Emmanuel Ringelblum in his "Oneg Shabbos" project to record events and conditions in the Warsaw ghetto and in all German-occupied Poland. These secret archives were uncovered after the war in the ruins of the Warsaw ghetto. Rabbi Huberband's work focuses on the fate of Orthodox Jews during the Holocaust.

LDL Latter Day Leaders, Sages and Scholars

📖 Rosenstein, Emanuel, and Neil Rosenstein, *Latter Day Leaders, Sages and Scholars*. Elizabeth, NJ: Computer Center for Jewish Genealogy, 1983.

This book lists the names of rabbis and scholars alphabetically by town name and surname.

LDS Latter-Day Saints Family History Library Locality Catalog

The Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) has micro-filmed birth, marriage and death registers for towns throughout the world. These records are copies of documents kept at government archives in the countries of origin and are also accessible through these repositories. The LDS holdings are especially rich in Jewish vital statistics records from Germany, Hungary and Poland. Ongoing filming in the archives of Poland and the former Soviet Union is making it possible for researchers to access material not previously available to foreigners. The films may be consulted at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, and at LDS Family History Centers all over the world. By policy of the church, these facilities are open to the public in a secular environment.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY, 35 North West Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150

LYV Landsmanshaftn Records on File at Yad Vashem

Yad Vashem Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem maintains a list of landsmanshaftn located in Israel.

YAD VASHEM, P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034 Israel.

PH Pinkas Ha-kehilot (Encyclopaedia of Jewish Communities)

📖 Dąbrowska, Danuta, and Abraham Wein. *Pinkas Ha-kehilot: entsiklopediyah shel ha-yishuvim le-min hivasdam ve-'ad le-aḥar shoat milḥemet ha-'olam ha-sheniyah-Polin* (Pinkas Hakehillot: Encyclopaedia of Jewish Communities, Poland). Vols. 1–4. Jerusalem: Yad Vashem, 1976–1989. (H)

This continuing series will eventually document all the Eastern European towns where at least 100 Jews lived before the Holocaust. As of October 1997, some 16 volumes were completed, with more planned in the future. The relevant volumes for our purposes are:

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|------|---|
| PHP1 | Pinkas Ha-kehilot: Poland—Vol. I, The Communities of Lodz and its Region, 1976. |
| PHP2 | Pinkas Ha-kehilot: Poland—Vol. II, Eastern Galicia, 1980. |
| PHP3 | Pinkas Ha-kehilot: Poland—Vol. III, Western Galicia and Silesia, 1984. |
| PHP4 | Pinkas Ha-kehilot: Poland—Vol. IV, Warsaw and Its Region, 1989. |

PJH Poland's Jewish Heritage

📖 Kagan, Joram. *Poland's Jewish Heritage*. New York: Hippocrene Books, 1992.

The author, born in Lublin, has compiled a town-by-town guide, supplemented by close to 100 maps, biographies of prominent Jews from Poland, listings of congregations and synagogues, Jewish organizations and "practical information" based upon his early life and frequent trips back to Poland. The index of towns includes more than 250 communities of significant interest to Jews today. Along with the historical background in PJH, there are chronological tables showing the history of Polish Jewry throughout the years and its martyrdom during the Holocaust.

RJHS Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

📖 *Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors*. 2 vols. Washington, D.C.: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum/The American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, 1996.

The American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors created a National Registry, now numbering more than 100,000 Holocaust survivors and their families living in the United States and Canada. The National Registry's database includes individuals' names before World War II (including maiden names of women), places of birth, towns of residence before the war and localities (including ghettos and camps) during the Holocaust. The Registry is now located at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, under the name *The Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors*.

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, D.C. 20024-2150.

AMERICAN GATHERING AND FEDERATION OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS, 122 West 30th Street, New York, NY 10001.

SF Shtetl Finder Gazetteer

📖 Cohen, Chester G. *Shtetl Finder Gazetteer*. Los Angeles: Periday Company, 1980/Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1989 (reprint).

For many years, *Shtetl Finder Gazetteer* was the only gazetteer of Eastern European Jewry. Town names are listed alphabetically by the Roman-alphabet version of the Yiddish name. Entries include names of prominent rabbis and local citizens along with subscribers to various rabbinical works.



■ Węgrów Jewish cemetery, 1976

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

by Michael C. Steinlauf



The cities and towns covered in this volume, currently all located within the Republic of Poland, were ruled until the end of the eighteenth century by the Polish nobility. The exceptions are Gdańsk (Danzig) and Wrocław (Breslau), which were populated and ruled primarily by Germans until World War II. Polish authority over the region was consolidated in the Middle Ages and reaffirmed under the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (1569–1795), which at the peak of its expansion contained not only the area within today's Poland, but also the lands making up today's countries of Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine and Slovakia as well as parts of Rumania and Hungary. It was in this vast territory, populated by a great variety of ethnic and religious groups, that Jews escaping persecution in Germany settled in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries and then rooted themselves over the succeeding centuries.

In comparison to some Western European rulers, the Polish kings and landowners offered Jews favorable conditions under which to develop their lands. Within the relative tolerance and decentralization of the Polish Commonwealth, Jewish communities were able to rule themselves to a great extent. Jewish communities were run by elected councils, called *kehillas*, which were, in turn, subject to a kind of Jewish national council called the Council of the Four Lands. This high degree of political autonomy went hand in hand with religious and cultural autonomy. In other words, these Jewish communities were able to live according to their own traditions and lifestyles, with little outside interference, for many centuries. Within this vast area, which we call today Eastern Europe, they were able to establish a coherent Jewish civilization: the Yiddish-speaking world known as Eastern Ashkenaz.

In the late eighteenth century, foreign invasion and internal political turmoil led to the dissolution of the Polish Commonwealth. The cities and towns covered in this volume were then incorporated, depending on their location, either into the Austrian or the Russian Empire until the end of World War I. Both of these empires—the Austrian primarily with a carrot and the Russian primarily with a stick—tried to break down Jewish autonomy and turn the Jews into “loyal

subjects.” During this period, two new movements divided these Jewish communities internally as well. The first was Hasidism, a mass religious movement, centered around charismatic leaders called *tsaddikim* or *rebbes*, that wanted to instill new life into Judaism. The second was *Haskalah*, a reform movement, at first involving only handfuls of Jews, which wanted Jews to model themselves after “progressive” Europeans. By the end of the nineteenth century, *Haskalah* had produced secular Jewish mass movements, including Zionism and Jewish socialism, which further divided the Jewish communities.

After World War I, the cities and towns in this volume were again under Polish rule, this time within a newly created Polish nation-state. In the new situation, the Jews encountered, on the one hand, comparative democracy to develop Jewish institutions and culture, both traditional and modern, but on the other hand, increasing anti-Semitism, fomented by Polish nationalists.

This was the situation when Germany invaded Poland and World War II began. Most of the cities and towns in this volume were immediately occupied by the Germans, several first by the Soviets and then by the Nazis. Soon after their entrance into a city, the Germans would select a Jewish Council,



Town square in Staszów, 1996



■ Synagogue in Włodawa now houses a museum with a Jewish section, c. 1985



7 ■ Synagogue in Włodawa, interior, 1991 (see fig. 7) 8

which they called a *Judenrat*, to do their bidding, and also established a “Jewish residential quarter,” or ghetto within which Jews were required to live. Within the ghettos, which were soon sealed, hunger and disease took a terrible toll. Eventually, the Jews within the ghettos were either shot on the spot or shipped to camps, where most were immediately murdered and many of the remainder worked to death. Three million Jewish citizens of the pre-war Polish state were murdered; they accounted for half the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. The Germans also killed 2 million non-Jewish Poles.

The reconstituted Poland that arose after the war lost its eastern territories to the Soviet Union, but in return, acquired previously German lands in the west. During the first post-war years, some 50,000 Polish Jews who had survived the Holocaust in Poland, joined by 200,000 who had survived in the Soviet Union, attempted to reestablish lives in Poland. However, a ruined economy combined with near-civil war between Communists and nationalists, and above all, violent anti-Semitism that culminated in a pogrom in Kielce in 1946 in which 42 Jews were murdered, resulted in the departure, primarily for Israel and the United States, of most surviving Polish Jews. Of the handful who remained, some found positions in the government of the so-called Polish People’s Republic, which remained within the Soviet bloc until 1989. In 1968–1970, a government-sponsored “anti-Zionist campaign,” linked to an attack on attempted reforms of the Communist system, drove 20,000 Jews, primarily employed in the government, out of the country.

Beginning in 1980, with the rise of the Solidarity movement which eventually helped to overthrow communism in Poland, some Poles, especially in student and intellectual circles, began to express interest in Jews, Judaism and Poland’s Jewish past. Such interest has deepened since the fall of communism and has taken many forms. Often with help from Jews abroad, Holocaust-related monuments have risen throughout Poland; there are festivals of Jewish music, art and film; in Warsaw and Kraków, there are research institutes for the study of Jewish history and culture; over the past seven years, more than 20 books by Isaac Bashevis Singer have been translated into Polish. At the same time, with censorship lifted, extreme nationalist and anti-Semitic rhetoric can be heard as well. But, particularly as compared to other post-Communist societies, such views have remained marginal and relatively inconsequential.

Today, there are an estimated 5,000–15,000 Jews in Poland, several Jewish periodicals, a Yiddish theater, a Jewish school, a pre-school, summer camp and functioning synagogues in a number of the larger cities of Poland.

Michael C. Steinlauf writes and teaches about Eastern European Jewish history and culture. He is the author of *Bondage to the Dead: Poland and the Memory of the Holocaust* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1997) as well as studies of Jewish theater in Poland and Polish-Jewish relations. He is Senior Research Fellow at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York.