

# PRZEMYŚL

Przemyśl, located on important medieval trade routes, is one of the oldest towns in Poland. According to a Hebrew source, in the eleventh century the city had a significant colony of Khazar Jewish merchants (Khazars were a Central Asian tribe said to have converted to Judaism). In the fourteenth century, the city and its region became part of Poland; Polish kings granted the Jewish community charters of rights in the sixteenth century, and the city experienced growing prosperity as trading links developed with the port city of Gdańsk (Danzig) and later with Silesia and Hamburg. Przemyśl became an important center of trade in salt, freshwater fish and livestock.

The city and its Jews suffered greatly during the economic and political decline of the Polish Commonwealth in the eighteenth century. Under the Austrians, who ruled from 1772 to 1919, there were at first new restrictions on Jews, but also new educational and political opportunities; in the nineteenth century, half the members of the Przemyśl city council were Jews. By the interwar period in independent Poland, most Jewish political parties, including various Zionist parties, the Jewish socialist Bund, the orthodox Agudas Israel and the Folkist Party, were active in Przemyśl. The city was the home of Mojżesz Schorr, an outstanding Assyriologist and historian of the Przemyśl Jewish community.

In September 1939, Przemyśl was briefly, but brutally, occupied by the Germans, who then turned it over to the Soviets. In June 1941, the city fell to the Germans, who immediately deported 12,500 Jews to the Bełżec death camp. They established a ghetto for the remainder, who were also subjected to periodic deportations until the ghetto was liquidated in September 1943 with the deportation of 3,500 Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau. In April 1943, a group of young Jews fled the ghetto hoping to join partisans in the nearby woods, but they were all killed. Under the auspices of the Red Army, which liberated the city in July 1944, some Jewish communal activity resumed and continued for several years under the postwar Polish government.

## Location

185 km S of Lublin  
49°48' / 22°47'  
Voivodship: Przemyśl

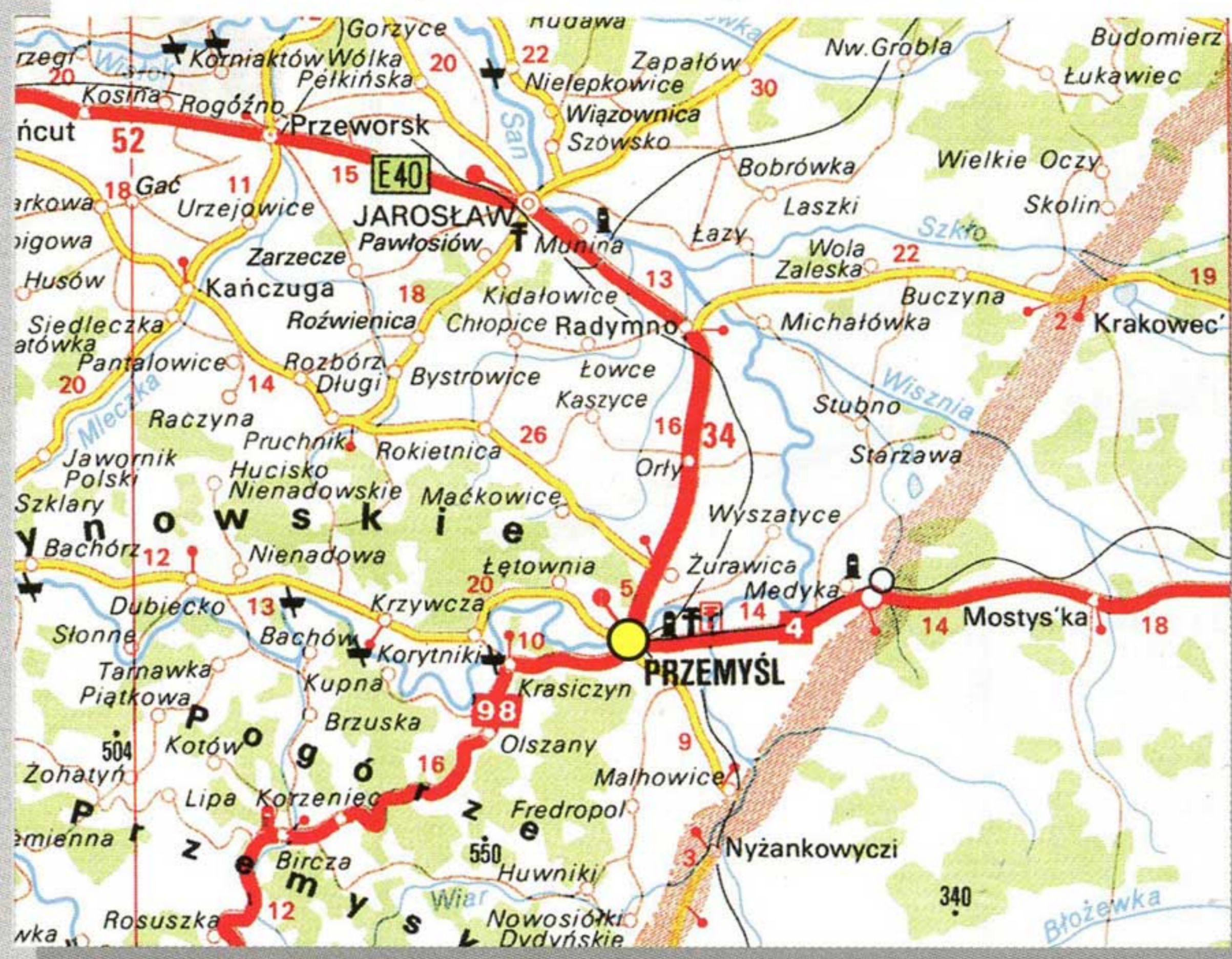
## General Population, 1939

80,000 (33% Jewish)

## General Population, 1994

71,000

## PEREMYŠHL, PSHEMISHL, PSHEMYŠL



## SYNAGOGUES

ul. Słowackiego 15  
Steinbach Synagogue, constructed in 1910.  
Current use: library.

ul. Unii Brzeskiej 6, Zasanie Quarter  
Synagogue constructed in 1890.  
Current use: office.

## JEWISH CEMETERIES

ul. Słowackiego  
Cemetery founded in 1822.  
Remaining tombstones: 1,000.  
Holocaust memorial in cemetery.

ul. Rakoczego  
Former cemetery, completely destroyed.  
Current use: vegetable garden.

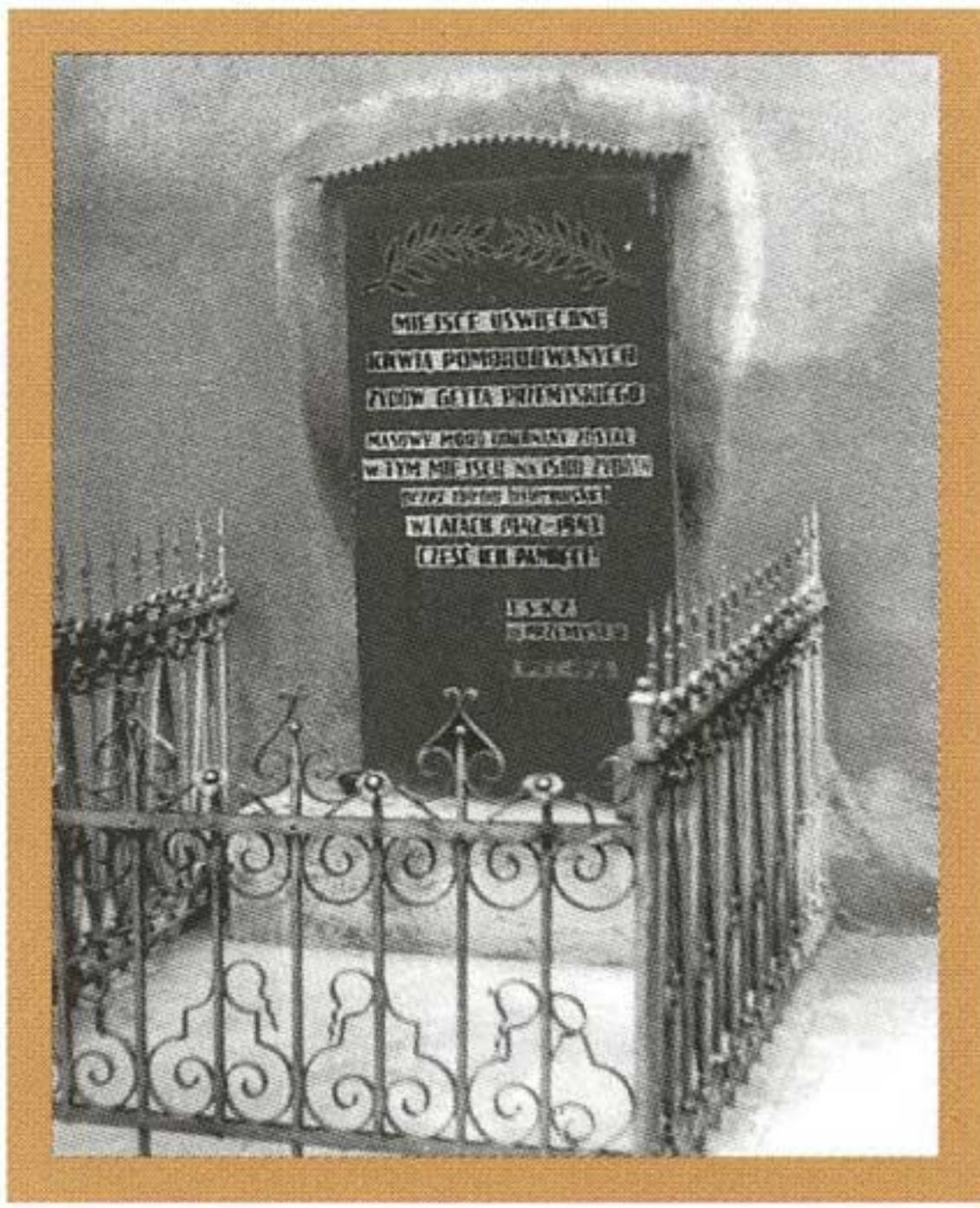


Former Steinbach Synagogue (right) in Przemyśl, now a library, 1976

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIALS

ul. Kopernika 14

Memorial tablet erected in 1956 at place where 2,000 Jews died in the ghetto.



Holocaust memorial,  
ul. Kopernika 14, 1956

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Near Fort Kunkowce

Monument to Jews who died in small ghetto.

## DEPORTATIONS

Bełżec, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Janowska camp in Lwów.



Market square, c. 1915

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Market square, today

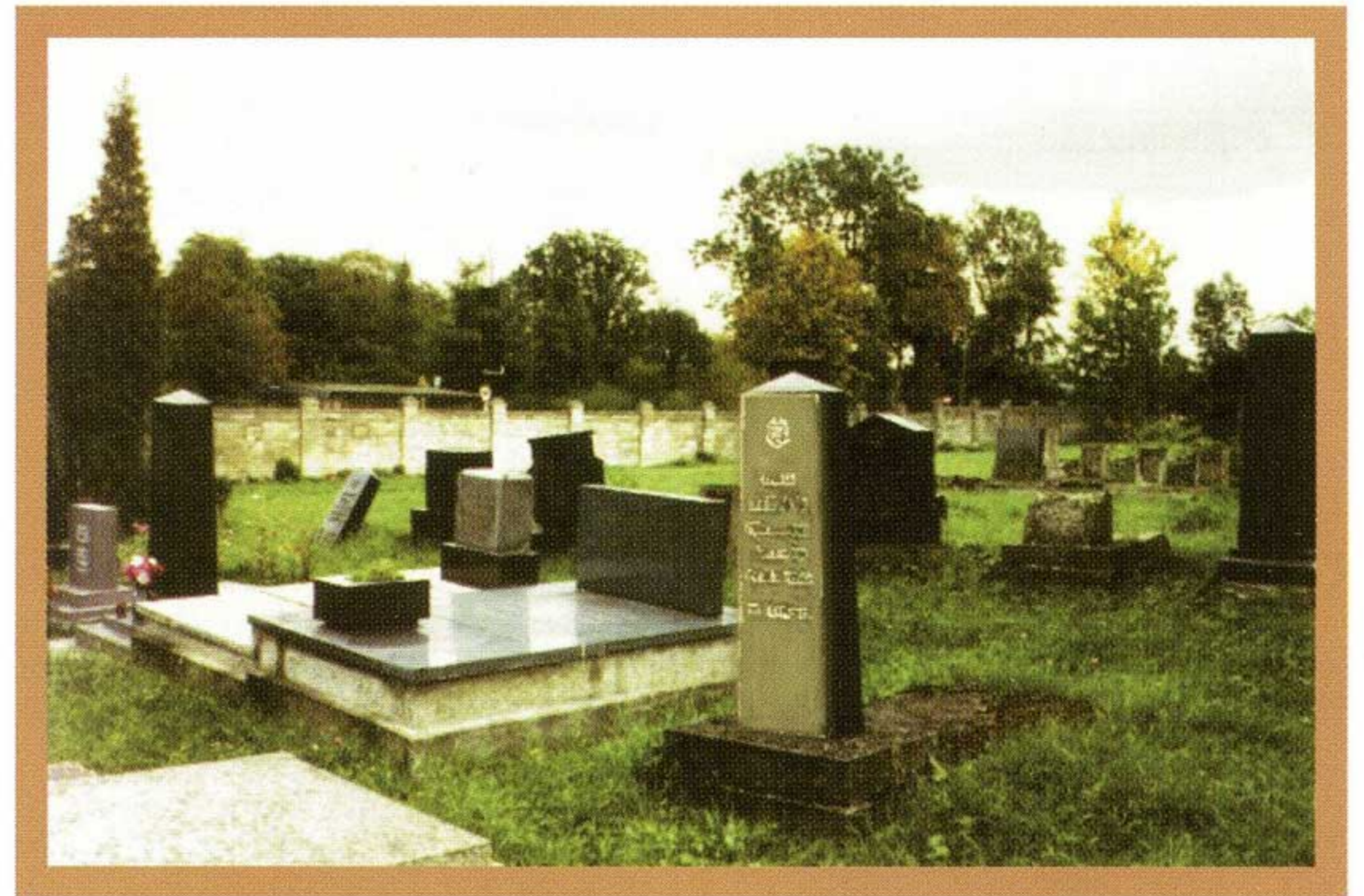
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## SELECTED READING

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Jewish cemetery, ul. Słowackiego, 1994

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## BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES

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