



The Koshers Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society
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EDITORIAL

As we prepare for Chanukah 5758 and for our summer holidays a big change is about to occur. As a result of the growth of the Society, particularly in NSW and in Victoria, an agreement has been reached that the Victorian branch will become autonomous from the beginning of 1998. As Lionel Sharpe explains in the report from the Victorian branch they will now collect their own membership fees and process their new membership applications with all that this entails. In most respects they have been self-governing from their inception in August 1995 and have run a stimulating programme of their own in Melbourne. From July 1, 1998 they will also be autonomous vis-a-vis the international Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, which is a worldwide loose federation.

For the time being the Koshers Koala will remain the newsletter of the whole Australian Society, the Victorian branch aiming to add an insert, with items of interest purely to their members, two or more times a year. Details of distribution and financing of joint activities remain to be worked out. We will keep you informed.

To mark the recent bicentenary of the death of the Vilna Gaon, two new books on his descendants have been published. One is by our member in Israel, Chaim Freedman "Eliyahu's Branches: The Descendants of the Vilna Gaon and His Family", and another one by USA Jewish genealogist Neil Rosenstein. We will acquire both volumes.

In Sydney we recently had the benefit of an erudite and most interesting talk by Professor David Weinberg, of Wayne University, Detroit, who is an expert on Jewish emigration from Eastern Europe to Western Europe and North America from 1880 to 1939, and who has published several books on the subject. Although we did not have a very large audience, those who came found the talk most enlightening. It seems that although Dr Weinberg had been in Sydney for four months as a visiting academic at the University of N.S.W., we were the first Jewish group to avail ourselves of his expertise, thanks to my hearing by chance of his presence in Sydney after having met him, also by chance, at the YIVO Library in New York in 1981.

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SYDNEY WORKSHOPS 1998

The Society will hold its usual workshops at the North Shore Synagogue, Lindfield in the Rev Katz Library on the following Sunday mornings, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

	February 1	March 1
April 5	May 3	June 14
July 5	August 9	September 6
October 4	November 8	December 6

The library is occasionally open at other times. If you would like to be notified when a day or evening session is planned, please contact 9427-6075.

FOR YOUR SYDNEY DIARY

6th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday evening, 22 March, 1998

SPECIAL WORKSHOP ON POLISH RESOURCES
Sunday morning, March 1, 1998

Please note that the Beginners' Seminar on March 15 has been cancelled.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

<u>New South Wales</u>	<u>Australian Capital Territory</u>
<i>Gary Binetter</i>	<i>Vernon Kronenberg</i>
<u>Victoria</u>	<u>Queensland</u>
<i>Kurt Friedlaender</i>	<i>Carol Stirk</i>

NOW ON THE INTERNET

JEWISH GENEALOGY IN AUSTRALIA
<http://www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/jozgen.htm>

THE HOME OF JEWISH GENEALOGY
<http://www.jewishgen.org>

THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN
<http://www.ort.org/jgsgb>

JEWISH EUROPE
<http://www.ort.org:80/ecjc>

FEDERATION OF EAST EUROPEAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES
<http://www.feefhs.org>

NEWS FROM THE VICTORIAN BRANCH

by Lionel Sharpe, Chairman

The Victorian Branch will be taking a step towards autonomy in 1998. Since the establishment of the Society in 1995 membership fees have been collected by the AJGS in Sydney and retained for the purpose of publishing the Koshers Koala, providing complimentary copies to overseas Societies and purchasing materials such as newsletters and books for the Branch.

This situation will be changing next year when the Victorian Branch will send out its own membership accounts, process new membership applications and place names on the Jewish Genealogical Family Finder. The Victorian Branch will retain a portion of the membership fee to purchase resource materials and undertake new initiatives. Details of the transition are still in the discussion stage.

A number of events have taken place since the last issue of the Koshers Koala.

Les and Sonya Oberman and Lionel Sharpe manned a table at the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies Open Day in October at Blackburn answering questions and giving assistance to people of widely different backgrounds who were researching their Jewish origins. A great deal of interest was shown in the AJGS resource materials. The open day attracted huge crowds and our participation was appreciated.

Ari Unglik from Wilder Ghostwriters, a Melbourne based organisation specialising in writing books for families, holocaust survivors and commercial organisations, addressed the Branch on October 29 on gathering material and publishing family histories. A number of areas were covered such as ethical issues relating to revealing information about relatives, gathering family anecdotes for inclusion among the factual data, self-publishing and publishing costs.

A group of members will visit the Church of the Latter Day Saints Family Research Centre in Moorabbin on Wednesday, 19 November, and further visits are planned for the coming year.

Lionel Sharpe has been invited for an interview to speak about the work of the Society with Uri Palti on the SBS Jewish Radio program on Sunday January 4, 1998 at 11.00 a.m.

Sophie Caplan, AJGS President will be coming from Sydney to address the last Branch meeting for the year on Wednesday evening December 17 at Beth Weizmann Community Centre. Sophie will speak about her recent participation at the Paris International Seminar for Jewish Genealogy and her visit to Poland, Belarus and Ukraine. Prior to the talk Sophie will meet with the committee to discuss AJGS organisational arrangements for 1998.

THE MYSTERY OF A 19TH CENTURY PHOTOGRAPH SOLVED

by Lionel Sharpe

Among the few existing photographs and documents surviving in my family from the last century was a photograph of a tailor shop bearing the name 'Hermann Maass' in large letters above the doorway. Seven people are posed in front of the shop. On the back of the photograph, which was no doubt taken in the 1890's, were the names of the family group, all very well dressed for the occasion.

We had no idea as to how this photo came into the possession of my maternal great-grandmother who arrived in Melbourne, as a small child in 1854 from Schwedt-an-der-Oder in Prussia with her parents, Rosalie and David Lobascher. Nor did we know the people in the picture.

The photo was found in a suitcase in a garage by one of her many great-grandchildren, Trevor Cohen, an active member of the Australian Jewish Historical Society, many decades ago.

Earlier this year I casually looked for the name 'Lobascher' on Jewishgen Family Finder and came across a Canadian, who had emigrated with his mother from Germany in 1939, searching for 'Lobatz' from Schwedt-an-der-Oder in Prussia. I wrote to him out of curiosity to enquire about his interest.

He wrote back that his maternal great-grandmother, Frederike Lobatz, was married to a Hermann Maass and gave me some family details. I phoned Trevor Cohen and asked him about the photograph.

My Canadian correspondent was overwhelmed with surprise when I sent him a copy of the photograph which pictured his forebears. We are still attempting to find a familial connection. The fact that my great-grandmother received this photo late last century and with the similarity of the surnames does seem to indicate a familial connection. I am curious to pursue the search further.

Lionel Sharpe is the Chairman of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

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THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR IN JEWISH GENEALOGY PARIS 13th to 17th July, 1997

We arrived in Paris on Wednesday 9th July, four days before the opening of the seminar and settled into the conference hotel, the Sofitel Forum Rive Gauche on Boulevard St Jacques in the 14th district of Paris. The conference facilities of the hotel proved to be excellent, but the guestrooms though containing all that was necessary, were small, ugly and utterly charmless, unlike the usual French hotel room which oozes comfort and style, even if modest. We were told it was a four star hotel, which was hard to believe, and also that it modelled itself on Japanese hotels, which was believable. Breakfasts in the main restaurant were excellent, with a large selection of foods, until the conference started, when participants were herded into a different breakfast hall and given minimal choice of the cheapest foods. The nearby Metro station was also on a branch line which closed for re-laying on 15th July, making it hard to get into central Paris quickly except by taxi. Earphones for simultaneous translation were available at the main sessions, though translation was not always of the highest calibre as I discovered when a talk I found very moving in the original French, was adjudged dull and boring by those who heard it in English translation. Luckily there were many small restaurants in the vicinity, an excellent fruit shop and small supermarket and a good bakery and pastry shop, even a kosher butcher.

Five Australians made the trip. Dr Albert Braunstein from Melbourne, Peter and Rieke Nash and Sophie and Leslie Caplan from Sydney. The two Sydney couples used the opportunity to make pre- and post-conference research trips, Peter and Rieke first to England and after the conference to Poland, and the Caplans first to Belarus via Poland and later to Ukraine. Reports of these trips will be in further issues of this journal.

The euphoria of spending four days and an extra evening with other addicts to genealogy soon made one forget the small irritations, although I came to the conclusion that four days was too short a time to sample all the things on offer. These fell into six categories:

a) Major lectures by personalities like Serge Klarsfeld, Batya Unterschatz, Sabine Zeitoun, Dr Anthony Joseph, Dr Sallyann Sack, Alexander Beider, Robert Weiss and Alexander Feigmanis. These took place in the afternoons and evening with a much too short dinner break.

b) Workshops on less popular topics likely to interest smaller numbers, which took place from 9 a.m. until late afternoon. There were usually four or five workshops going on simultaneously, so audiences were not always large and one had hard decisions to make regarding what one would attend. I gave a workshop on "Jewish Immigration to Australia After the Holocaust" and was grateful that my friends and supporters attended to fill the ranks.

c) Visits to places like the Paris archives, the French National Archives (CARAN), the Jewish Contemporary Documentation Centre, and the library of the Cercle de Genealogie Juive, as well as places of Jewish interest in Paris for non-participating spouses.

d) So-called wall-posters where people displayed the fruit of their research, generally very complex family trees or the stories of small communities e.g. the multi-poster HOROWITZ family tree over several centuries and most of Eastern Europe, of which I bought a set for \$130 from its originator, Michael Honey from England.

e) Displays of books and CDs for sale which included books published by AVOTAYNU and the publications of the French Cercle de Genealogie Juive, as well as some others. This was manned all day by members of the hosting CGJ and Gary Mokotoff.

f) Last but not least, the discussions over a cup of coffee and a sandwich in the hotel or a meal in the surrounding restaurants with other genealogists. In my case I was able to help people with finding Australian relatives rather than be helped, as I happened to know some of the people being sought. It was all interesting and most rewarding to meet fellow genealogists from France, England, Sweden, USA, Switzerland, Germany. Three people gave me, or sent later, books they had written. Also I met for the first time Stephane Toubanc with whom I had corresponded a decade ago because we had dead relatives in common, but had then lost touch.

It was also great to meet for the first time Eli Garbarz, Dan Leeson, Jean-Pierre Spingarn and Stanley Diamond and to discover that the expert Warren Blatt is so very young. And best of all to meet again those met at previous international seminars Rene Loeb and his wife from Zurich, our English member Dr Anthony Joseph and wife Judith with young sons Harry and Robin, two remarkably sensible boys, Jurgen Sieleman from the Hamburg Archives and now also the Hamburg JGS, Drs Larry and Sallyann Sack, and various French genealogists first met in Jerusalem or even ten years ago in London.

It was gratifying to all of us from Sydney that previous visiting lecturers to our Society and their spouses, like Chava and Hugo Agmon and Arlene and Sidney Sachs, looked on us as old friends, and this was mutual. There also seemed to be a special rapport between us and the English contingent, as I spent lots of time late in the evenings drinking coffee with Judith Diamond, Michael Honey, Julian Kempler and a few others. An interesting bit of feedback, learnt one morning at breakfast, that my brief description in "Jewish Genealogy Bookshelf-Books on New Zealand Jewry" of Stephen Levine's 1995 book "A Standard For the People" on the community of Wellington, NZ, which had been reprinted in AVOTAYNU, had induced a Swiss genealogist married to a Jewish girl from Wellington, both living in Zurich, to buy the book and to get her brother, still living in

Wellington, but who had never heard of the book, to order it for himself also.

The AGM of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies took place with the election of half the executive. The new president is Avotaynu editor and Greater Washington JGS member Dr Sallyann Amdur Sack, Karen Franklin of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York is vice-president, and Saul Issroff of London, UK and formerly South Africa, Bruce Kahn of Rochester, NY JGS, and Laurence Tapper from Ottawa, Canada, were all elected as directors. Two previous directors, Howard Margol of Atlanta, Georgia, and Arline Sachs of Springfield, Virginia, and of the Jewish Cemetery Project, and treasurer Hal Bookbinder of Los Angeles, stay in office till July 1998. At the AGM I spoke up and asked for the Association to strive to be less USA-centered in its attitudes and was then publicly accused of being anti-American. Luckily the new executive did not agree with this chauvinistic attitude. We look forward to a new international consciousness in the Association and an awareness that, for instance, mail outs take longer to reach us from overseas, the cost of purchases in US dollars is much dearer for us, and that overseas societies would like to be consulted in some decision making, or at least taken into account.

The Paris conference was, of course, much more convenient for European genealogists and one of the remarkable group attendances was by the members of the relatively new Hamburg JGS. Not only Jurgen Sieleman, but also Helga and Helfried Heilbut, Elizabeth Sroka of the Hamburg Historic Emigration Office, Steinstrasse 7, 20095 Hamburg. And Michael Halevy, the expert on Sephardim in Hamburg, who speaks not only German, Dutch and English, but also Azerbaidjani and Portuguese (address below) and Benjamin Hertzberg, author of the recent "Help to Jews in Hamburg from 1933 to 1945" in German. Another participant was professional genealogist Egmar Ruppert who specialises in research on Bremen, Hamburg, Hesse, Lower Saxony and Westphalia.

The president of the recently formed Swedish JGS, Carl Henrik Carlsson gave a talk on Eastern European Jewish immigration into Sweden. One of the talks to which I was most looking forward was the one by Diane Pelts, chief archivist at the State Historical Archives in Lviv. She spoke in French and her talk was translated by one of the French CGJ members after several sentences, because there were no simultaneous translation facilities in this small hall. It soon became apparent that he was leaving out a lot and also that he was not exactly an idiomatic speaker of English, so that people started calling out for him to translate more fully, but he took no notice. At that point I started an impromptu second line translation, filling in the gaps. It made the session rather chaotic, but afterwards a lot of people who did not understand French came up to thank me, but the official translator was not pleased. Diane

Pelts revealed the existence of many previously unknown Jewish metrical records, but alas my Dolina and Kalush areas are still absent.

One of the joys of the Seminar for me was the ability to communicate in their own language with so many other genealogists in English, French or German, and a little Spanish. A knowledge of foreign languages is mostly of no use in Australia, but there it was a great pleasure to use them. I could well understand Basile Ginger's exhilaration at the final banquet when he told me that everyone at his table spoke Russian, for he is a lone Russian speaker in the French society. Another pleasure was to help Neil Rosenstein arrange for the display of his CDs on the book-selling table by translating between him and the French contingent.

No great breakthrough in research occurred for me at the congress, but the very fact of meeting so many fellow addicts and putting faces to names from articles read in other newsletters is stimulating and rewarding. I hope that more of you will have that opportunity in Los Angeles in July 1998.

Sophie Caplan

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THE JEWS OF JAMAICA

The BEN ZVI INSTITUTE in Jerusalem has just published "THE JEWS OF JAMAICA, Tombstone Inscriptions 1663-1880", by the late English scholars RICHARD D. BARNETT and PHILIP WRIGHT, edited by ORON JOFFE. This is an important volume for both early American and Sephardi Jewish history.

Hardback 230 pages including 8 plates. Retail price \$US 40 plus \$US 5 for surface mail or \$US 10 for airmail. Discount for bulk purchase. Can be purchased by credit card from Ben Zvi Institute, POB 7660, JERUSALEM 91076, ISRAEL. Tel: 972-2-5639-203 Fax: 972-2-5638-310. Please give expiry date for credit card purchase.

Richard D. Barnett (1909-1986) was keeper of Western Asiatic Antiquities at the British Museum and published widely on Anglo-Jewish and Sephardi history.

Phillip Wright (1910-1975) wrote on Jamaican history.

THE FAMILY I THOUGHT I KNEW

by Vicky Rogut

I joined the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society to trace the remnants of my father's family who might have survived the Holocaust. Despite my best efforts I was unable to find any useful information on the Lithuanian shtetl of KRUK/Krok/Kriukiai which was situated close to the Latvian border. Similarly Zvi Hersch and Menucha LEISEROWITZ, nee JOFFE, could well have been a figment of my imagination, but for the fact that their youngest child, Issy Lazar, was my father.

My maternal grandparents, Meyer and Chaya Shapiro, migrated from Rokiskis (Rakushik) in 1905 with their infant daughter (my mother). All their siblings settled in South Africa and the Shapiro clan was enormous. I knew many of the cousins in person, and was familiar with the names of many of the others. The family scattered throughout South Africa, mainly in small country towns in the Orange Free State such as Koppies, Heilbron, Vredefort and Parys (my home town). I had never felt the need to delve into this side of the family as I thought I knew enough about them. Sheer frustration at my failure to uncover any data on my father's family motivated me to ask Rieke Nash to enter the "Shapiros from Rakushik" on the database.

Not long after I received a five page family tree from a gentleman named Aubrey Mendelow from Cleveland, Ohio. Glancing at the first page I felt somewhat embarrassed. I did not recognize a single name. He had obviously wasted his time. Flipping through the remaining pages, however, I nearly flipped! Name after familiar name jumped out at me from every page. I discovered that these were the descendants of one of my grandfather's brothers. I subsequently made contact with Aubrey as well as another cousin in South Africa, Dr. Alan Ginsberg, whom I remembered as a little boy, but had no idea that we were related. I was able to fill in large gaps in their knowledge and Alan has met with a large number of relatives in Johannesburg and Pretoria of whom he had no previous knowledge.

Aubrey rang me as soon as he received my letter detailing our relationship. His excitement matched mine. His words were 'I feel like Joseph' and I had no difficulty finishing the sentence 'being reunited with lost brethren'. We maintain contact via the internet and by phone. It is indeed a most exciting, exhilarating experience establishing those very important links with the past. We are very fortunate in having people like Sophie Caplan, Rieke Nash and their co-workers whose dedication has made it possible for us to research our roots. We owe them a deep debt of gratitude.

Now if I could find some trace of the Leiserowitzses from Kruk.....

Vicky Rogut is a member of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

ANOTHER SHANNON FAMILY

by Dr John Stanhope

Rabbi Apple writing of the origins of the Sydney Beth Din refers¹ to an "application, presumably for conversion, from a Mrs Shannon" in 1847. Samuel and Emelia Shannon, from whom my wife is descended, were born Jewish and were married and buried by Jewish rites². This second Mrs Shannon, her husband and an Esther Shannon who was buried in 1848³ in the Sydney Jewish burial ground all seemed worth investigating for possible family links.

On 6 November 1847 "an ecclesiastical board" of the Sydney Synagogue consisting of Moses Rintel, Jacob Isaacs and Moses Moses was formed "to report on the case of Mr and Mrs Shannon, but no decision was made and the report was sent to the Chief Rabbi"⁴. Israel Shannon, a convict transported about 1833, had married a Christian woman to whom he had been assigned, and wished to have his wife converted to Judaism and his five children legitimated in Jewish law⁵. Convict indexes list no Israel, but Laurence (sometimes Lawrence, Louis or Lewis) Shannon, who was condemned to transportation for seven years for stealing clothes, at the Middlesex Gaol Delivery on 12 May 1831⁶. He was transported on the "Surrey 1" departing England on 9 April 1834 and arriving in Sydney on 17 August 1834. He was described as aged nineteen, could read and write, Jewish, single and born in London. He was a shoemaker's boy by occupation. He was "fair ruddy" in complexion, had sandy brown hair and brown eyes. His height was five foot three inches (=160 cm). Depending on whether his age was at trial or embarkation, he was born during 1811-1814.

On arrival at Sydney he was assigned to James Hutton of George Street⁷. As no other convict named Shannon was transported about that time, I believe Israel and Laurence to be the same person.

ISRAEL SHANNON

The Israel of interest is probably the one born on 30 January and circumcised on 6 February 1813 in London⁸. His parents were Jacob and Fanny, and his recorded siblings were Judith (born 12 June, 1803), Esther (born 2 September 1807; possibly died in Sydney 14 September 1848 "aged 42 years"³), Dinah (born 20 October 1809), and Sarah (born 16 May 1817).

LAURENCE SHANNON

On 11 February 1839, Laurence married Sarah Tucker at Saint James Church, Sydney⁹. He was described as "bachelor of Saint Andrew parish", she as "spinster of Saint James parish". The children identified as being born to them were Fanny 1839, Julia 1841, Mary Anne 1843, Esther 1845, Louis (Lewis, mayor of Cooma, 1902), and Henry, Samuel and Israel¹⁰, and probably twin daughters (born early 1847, one died "infant" at Clarence Street, Sydney, 13 December 1847, the other

died aged one year at Kent Street, Sydney, both buried in the Sydney Jewish burial ground)¹¹.

His occupation, at least from 1839, was "shoemaker" and "bootmaker"⁹. His address in 1839 was "Sussex Street Sydney". later "Kent Street Sydney". The Kent Street shop was between King and Market Streets, and he was also described as a "general dealer"¹².

ECCLESIASTICAL BOARD OUTCOME

The report of the board was received by the synagogue committee on 21 November 1847¹³. Abraham Moses moved the reception of the report and the referral of the case to Rev Dr N. M. Adler, the chief rabbi in London. The letter was finally sent on 28 January 1848¹³. Dr Adler's reply was apparently unfavourable¹³, for Israel Shannon wrote to the committee asking for a local decision. However the committee resolved that it did not have "the power to form or appoint a Beth Din without the sanction of the chief rabbi, Dr Adler"¹³. The late baptism of child five suggests that the family decided not to be Jewish in 1853.

COOMA

Laurence and family moved from Sydney to Cooma about 1858, based on the places and years of his children's births and marriages. In 1869 he owned freehold property in Cooma¹⁴. Laurence Shannon died in Cooma in 1893¹⁵. His parents were named as "Lawrence" and "Fanny" on the death certificate. His relationship to Samuel Shannon is not clear, but the coincidences of religion, birthplace, Cooma residence, his daughter Mary Anne Williams being a witness to Samuel's daughter Rebecca's 1860 marriage, and the naming of Laurence Shannon's son Samuel are suggestive. Possibly he was Samuel's brother. Samuel's father was Jacob, his mother not known. Sarah died in Cooma in 1896¹⁵. Associated surnames (sons-in-law) in Cooma were Parkinson, Roddan, Williams and Cronin.

Any clues that might link the Shannons mentioned herein with "my" Samuel Shannon (1802-1868) of London and Cooma would be appreciated. Full references available on request.

John M. Stanhope is a medical practitioner working in the field of Drug and Alcohol Addiction and a member of our Society.

Reference Notes

1. Apple, Raymond. A chapter in rabbinic history: origins of the Sydney Beth Din. *Aust Jewish Hist Soc Journal (AJHSJ)* 12:346-353, 1994
2. Stanhope, J.M. Samuel Shannon: Cooma Business man (1802-1868) *AJHSJ* 11:269-273, 1991, and addendum 710-711, 1992.
3. Johnston, K.A. & Sainty, M.R. Sydney Burial Ground. Jewish burial 2756.
4. Bergman, G.F.J. Jacob Myer Isaacs: Sydney Synagogue's second minister. *AJHSJ* 9:4:241
5. Great Synagogue letterbook, ML MSS 3740/102,

CHILDREN DEPORTED FROM KÖLN, GERMANY (COLOGNE)

For many years the late Dieter Corbach and his wife Irene of the Christian-Jewish Dialogue of the Cologne-right bank of the Rhine area laboured to memorialise the Jews of Cologne and in particular the first Jewish Realgymnasium (grammar school), Yavneh, and its founding principal Dr Erich Klibansky. Since Dieter's death a few years ago, Irene Corbach has striven alone to bring to fruition their joint dream of a memorial fountain featuring the Lion of Judah holding the Tablets of the Law near the former location of Yavneh High School., and of bronze tablets around the fountain featuring the names of 1,100 children of Cologne aged eighteen or less, who were deported and mostly perished. This was unveiled on 25 September, 1997. As a supporter of the Cologne project I have received a list of those 1,100 names, but please note I have no other details but names. If you want to know more, please write to IRENE CORBACH, Hochwinkel 79, D-51069, Köln, GERMANY, enclosing a donation for the project which is not yet fully paid. Tel/fax: 49-221-68-35-24.

A book by DIETER CORBACH "6.00 Uhr ab Messe Köln-Deutz Deportationen aus Köln 1938 bis 1945", is on the deportations of Jews from Cologne, 704 pages, English and German text, featuring 7000 names, including one hundred life-histories. It is shortly to be published by Scriba-Verlag of Cologne for DM 34 pre-publication, and DM 48 later.

He had also previously published a book on the history of the Yavneh school in Cologne, the first Jewish high school in the Rhineland, and in memoriam to Dr Erich Klibansky, with short biographies of the Yavneh teachers, in German, DM 24, obtainable from Irene Corbach. Finally Irene requests information and photos on any former synagogues, shtieblech, or minyanim which may have existed in Cologne prior to 1939.

28 January 5608/1848.

6. Convict Indents, NSL fiche 709 p.101 #94.

7. Convict Assignments, HO10/30 ML PRO reel #70.

8. Rodrigues-Pereira M., Bevis Marks records Part V. The Birth Register of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation, London. Published by TS&PJC, London, 1993.

9. Pre 1856 Anglican church registers (accessed through NSW Pioneer Index of BDMs.

10. NSW Pioneer Index of BDMs.

11. Sydney Jewish burial ground register #30 of 1847 and #56 of 1848. AJHS collection.

12. Low, Francis, The City of Sydney Directory for 1844-5. Facsimile edition, Library Aust Hist, North Sydney, 1978 p.98

13. Great Synagogue minutes ML reel CY704 3740/123 p.7, 9, 27, 30

14. NSW electoral roll 1869 Monaro

15. NSW Federation Index of BDMs

A number of people who are searching for their roots suspect, or hope, that they might have some Jewish ancestry, though it can be hard to prove. This is

MY STORY

by Almuth Hauptmann, nee Gurski

We did not often go to see my grandmother, the only grandparent who was alive when I was a child. There was friction in my family, so our visits had that element of formality required by etiquette. The line of divide in the Gurski family had my mother Hanna, my brother Roland, and myself on one side, on the other were my father Dr Walter Bruno Gurski, his mother Valeska Gurski (nee Cyfka), her two sisters Wally and Wanda Gurski, and cousin Jutta. But Christmas is Christmas so, on the 24th of December we would all turn up there, in grandmother's flat in the building she owned in Berlin, suburb Schoneberg. On one of these Christmasses there, between 1948 and 1956, I lost my belief in Father Christmas, when the lady from the neighbouring flat bungled the disguise. Her earrings were dangling in my face, and I recognised them.

I never thought much of the fact that my grandmother spoke German with a touch of an accent, but I was perplexed when I heard her speak in another tongue. My mother was furious when my grandmother said a few words in Polish to her sisters. 'She has no manners, no manners at all', she would grizzle the next day.

Every time I came to grandmother's, the old ladies would burst out in high pitched voices 'Isn't she like Lene! Look at her, she is just like Lene'. I had no idea what to think about all this. One day I asked my mother, 'Who was that Lene?' 'She was your grandfather's sister, your great-aunt'. So, now I knew; I looked like someone from my grandfather's family.

My grandfather Franz Walter Gurski never featured in our lives. They told me, he had died before the First World War, when my father was very little. Before 1914 was light-years ago for me, and I busied myself with all the things children do.

The connection to my grandmother was severed by the separation of my parents. There were no more Christmasses in Schoneberg after 1956.

When my father was transferred from Berlin to Munich, only a few months before the wall went up in 1961, I was 17. Every year, I went to see him, but we never talked about the family on the other side of the divide.

I graduated from high school and went to university. My grandmother passed away in 1965, before I was mature enough to take an interest in family history and ask questions about Knizenitz near Rybnik, where she had come from. In her time it was Prussia, but after the First World War it became part of Poland.

After two years at university I needed out. The next station of my life was Frankfurt, the newsroom of

Associated Press. It sounds glossy now, but then it was not. We worked in shifts, the office was situated in the red light district and had that typical ambience of neglect with functionality. Later, I realised how much I learned there, but at the time I found it quite uninspiring. But inspiration was on its way.

I met the young man who became my husband. He was working in a photo lab, but his hobby had buckets of gloss. All his free time he spent playing the Russian string instrument balalaika, although he had no connection with Russia at all. He was a displaced German from Silesia, a province that was allocated to Poland at the end of the war. On the balalaika he was a real virtuoso.

Russian music became all the rage in the late sixties, triggered by Boris Pasternak and his *Doctor Zhivago*. So, it did not take long for our little group of musicians to turn professional. We recorded several albums and toured all over Europe, in the Middle East, South Africa, and finally Australia.

On some occasions in those eleven years of touring we were hired by Jewish organisations or businesses. Many Jews in Europe had their origins in the East; Russia, Poland, the Ukraine, and the like, so our music struck a chord with them. I always looked forward to these jobs when I noticed that unique sense of successfully marrying creative endeavours with business. Change in personnel then brought a Jew into our group, a young man from the Moldavian region of the Soviet Union. He indicated sometimes that he took me for Jewish. Where on earth would he get that idea from, I wondered? Suddenly I remembered, I looked like Auntie Lene, and I did not know one thing about that side of the family.

Could my grandfather have been Jewish? My father was still alive then and when I talked to him about it, he dismissed the suggestion with gusto. Strangely enough he did not volunteer one bit of information on his father, either. 'He came from the East' (as seen from Berlin), he said. The conversation progressed into other areas. He mentioned that it had remained a mystery to him all his life, why his mother had gone to a lot of trouble and expense to have him declared of age by a Magistrate in 1931, when it was only six months before he turned 21. 'You would not dare ask any questions when my Mother set out to do something', was his only comment on this mystery.

The Nazis were already in the Berlin Parliament in 1931, not ruling, but a growing force. Could that effort have been part of a move by my grandmother to create 'clean' documents?

In 1975 my father suddenly died. The law required that I present his birth certificate to obtain probate. When I looked at the certificate, I found two surprises. My grandfather's religion was written down as dissident. Was there such a thing as a dissident religion? This birth certificate was issued in 1931 when my father was

20 as if someone had lost the original. Of course that might have been the case, but as a business woman my grandmother had kept myriads of documents for many decades. It appeared quite odd that she should have lost just this one. Maybe she lost it on purpose, were my thoughts.

More questions emerged. Why was my father brought up Protestant when his mother was a Catholic, and his father a dissident? I suddenly came to realize that there was no documentation on my grandfather with the exception of a photo of 1906. There was no clue; where was my grandfather born? When did he die? Maybe he did not die at all, then, in 1912 or 1913? Maybe he went back to the East and perished in the holocaust? Or could he have gone to Australia, like his granddaughter seventy years later? There were no more relatives to ask.

Relatives of my grandfather had existed, but we never knew them. 'Grandfather's family wanted nothing to do with us', I had been told. 'Why?' 'They did not agree with his choice of wife'. Later I learnt that Jewish families often shun the son who marries outside their community.

We pursued compensation for the two family properties in the Soviet Sector of Berlin, even though that was going to be a pittance. For one property, it was denied in 1980 on the grounds that my grandmother, the 'German' side, had bought the property to profiteer from aryanisation in 1941. I could not help thinking, would it not be nice if we could prove we were not as German as we appeared?

I started to resent pork. The fragrance of sausage sizzles at German festivities nauseated me, and I wondered if there was a genetic component to eating kosher, or if I was losing the plot.

Not long after in 1983 we moved to Australia, and I put all these things behind me. But you can never escape your ancestors, even if you run to the other side of the globe. This time it caught up with me in the shape of a Canadian novel *Solomon Gursky Was Here* by Mordechai Richler.

That Gursky family was Jewish. Maybe my family Gurski was also Jewish? Where do I start, and is there any point? No. Forget it, no point.

Then came the re-unification of Germany. On the 2nd October, 1990, the four Sectors of Berlin were released from Allied Four Power Control. Naive as I was, I thought, what the Communists had taken would be returned in an orderly fashion by the new Germany.

I was in for a rude awakening. While a new law was being prepared, the authorities planned for the sale of our land to profit the government. Only eleven days after the law took effect, they had studied the extensive building proposal well enough to clinch the deal. It had all been prepared while the attorneys pretended to negotiate.

I should have hired a Jewish lawyer from the US, but it never occurred to me to think along these lines. There was neither compensation nor a share from the proceeds for the original owners. The Government pocketed the whole lot. A fight through the courts was estimated to cost a fortune and the authorities knew it. Folklore had it that many properties were returned to their original Jewish ownership and yes, I have to admit, I became green with envy.

In 1996 my mother died and I had hoped that among her papers would be some clue to the identity of Jewishness of my grandfather. I looked in the *Deutsches Einheitsfamilienstammbuch* of my parents' wedding in 1943. This time my grandfather's religion was listed as 'God believing'. Would that be the same as dissident, I wondered? There was an Aryan Certificate for my mother, but none for my father.

The pages, where the Hitler regime had required the ancestry and racial origins of the bride and groom to be listed were blank. In another document, even the space for my grandfather's birthday was blank as if there should be no traces.

I now look at the big dossiers of the properties in the former Soviet Sector of Berlin, monuments to abuse of power, and the helplessness of the individual. One property has to go back to the original Jewish owners, and I can live with that. On the other we fell victim to government profiteering and that is hard to stomach. Had I made an effort somewhat earlier to research my family's racial background, things might have been different for the property that was in our family since 1928.

Again the race card makes a difference in Germany. Where could I find out about my ancestry, I ponder. The registrar's records in Berlin from before the First World War are unlikely to have survived the bombs of the second war, and even if they still exist, they could have been 'cleaned up' by my grandmother. Maybe in the East, some records have survived, but where is East - Warsaw, Lvov, Kaliningrad, Sverdlovsk?

In the meantime I have made a donation to the German Government in the vicinity of about a Million Dollars, and they did not even say thank you.

Almuth Hauptmann Tel/Fax 61-8-8682-3374
6 Alsace Crescent, Port Lincoln SA 5606, Australia.

From Ancestry, Vol.5 No. 3 September, 1997

Randy Wasserstrom of Raleigh, North Carolina has published in March 1997 a book on the Wasserstrom and Schlesinger families in Poland and Hungary, including their emigration to USA: "THE OLD COUNTRY AND THE NEW: A WASSERSTROM FAMILY HISTORY, 1780-1930", 161 pages, \$US30 plus \$US2.50 postage from Randy Wasserstrom, 5408 M. Creek Ridge Lane, Raleigh, NC 27607, USA. Tel:?? or email: randwass@aol.com

NEW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

A SIG for Jews born in the **DOROHAI DISTRICT OF ROMANIA** and including the towns of DOROHAI, DARABANI, HERTA, RADAUTI-PRUT, MIHAILENI AND SAVENI has been formed by Israeli Jews born in that area. The group has previously published three volumes, written in Hebrew and Romanian on the history of the Jewish communities in that area, with an English summary. More recently they have published a fourth volume, including genealogical data and oral histories with a greater part in English. Airmail price of this volume will be around \$US 100. Contact address: IRGUN YOTZEI ROMANIA SHLOMO DAVID, P.O. Box 134, KIRIAT BIALIK, 27101, ISRAEL.

GRODNO GUBERNIA SIG

A new SIG was established two years ago for Grodno Gubernia, located in what is now north-western Belarus and parts of north-eastern Poland. The localities included are, according to names as in "Where Once We Walked": ANTOPOL, BEREZA (KARTOZ), BIALOWIEZA, BIALYSTOK, BIELSK PODLASKI, BOLSHAYA, BERESTOWICA, BRANSK, BREST (LITOVSK), BYTEN, DERECHIN, DOMACHEVO, FROGICHIN, DYATLOVO(ZETL), GRODEK, GRODNO, INDURA(AMDUR), IVANOVO(JANOW), KAMENETS (LITOVSK), KNYSZYN, KOBRIN, KOSSOVO, KRYNKI, LUNNA, LYSKOVO, MALORITA, MOTOL, NOVOYELNA, OZERY, PRUZHANY, ROSS, RUZHANY, SELETS, SKIDEL, SLONIM, SOKOLKA, SUCHOWOLA, SUPRASL, SVISLOCH, TROSCIANKA, VOLKOVYSK, ZABLUDOW, ZELWA, ZHABINKA.

For information please post a self-addressed envelope and an international answer coupon to JIM YARIN, P.O. Box 1555, BROOKLINE MA 02146, USA with your full address, telephone, fax and if applicable your email address.

Our Shtetlech of POROZOW and SZCZUCZYN LITEVSKI are not included in that list but, geographically speaking, ought to be. Perhaps others from that area have also inadvertently been omitted. It is not known whether this SIG publishes anything yet.

From Dorot, Summer 1995 per Roots-Key, Spring 1996

SHIPPING INFORMATION FROM ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Ralph G. Bennett, M.D. writes that Rotterdam was a main point of departure from Europe in the nineteenth century and in the early part of the twentieth century. Information is available from Gemeente Haus (Government House), coolsingl #40, NL 3011 AD Rotterdam, Netherlands.

From German American Genealogy Spring 1994 via Roots-Key, Summer, 1994.



FOREBEARS AUSTRALIAN FAMILY FINDER

Our Family Finder column will be charged for at the rate of \$AUS 8 for 25 words plus address, telephone, fax or email number of inquirer. For overseas advertisements \$US5 if sent in cash OR for cheques \$US15 due to new high bank exchange rates for cheques in other currencies. Please communicate directly with inquirer, but kindly inform us if this column has helped you to advance in your research.

00057 STEPHANE TOUBLANC. 8 rue du Commandant Rene Mouchotte, 75014 PARIS, FRANCE. Tel:33-1-4335-4418. Seeks descendants of MACHAUF family of LVOV supposed to have emigrated to Australia after WWII and to have changed their name to MACHOWSKY/MACHOWICZ or similar. Also seeking families ROSENMAN/ROZENMAN, STRASSMANN and LANDAU from LVOV, BUCZACZ, TARNOPOL, BORISLAV, some involved in petrol industry in Eastern Galicia.

00058 ALAN TOBIAS, 23 Pentland Avenue, Thornbury, Bristol, BS12 2YB England. Tel: 44-1454-412-831, Fax: 44-1454-281-676; Email: alantobias@compuserve.com seeks contact with anyone called TOBIAS or with OSTROLEKA roots.

00059 MANFREDO TICHAUER, Marius Bauer Plantsoen 19/2, 1062 AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND. Tel: 31-20-617-8333 would like contact with EVA TICHAUER/TISCHAUER, aged about 90 in Australia, friends or descendants.

00060 JOHN KELLY, 67 Burkett Street, PAGE ACT 2614, Canberra, Australia. Tel: 61-262-544-883. Seeking descendants of JOSEPH BENNETT, who had lived in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney and was Orthodox. He owned hansom cabs, then became a printer circa 1890, and was brother of SAMUEL LOUIS BENNETT, a journalist, my grandfather.

MEMORABILIA OF GALICIA

Blossom Glasser of San Diego, CA USA has written that she was able to obtain some pre-World War II memorabilia of towns she is researching in Galicia, including photographs, early postcards and a rare illustrated guide-book of Przemyśl, dated 1917, from TOMASZ WISNIEWSKI,

P.O. Box 351, 15-001 Byalystok, Poland.

Email: tomekwisniewski@vena.telbank.pl.

Blossom says: "Mr Wisniewski was fair in his pricing. He is conversant in English and anxious to do business".

From Discovery, Vol 12 No. 4 Fall, 1997

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATA BASE

Names being researched by our new members

December, 1997

Id	Surname	Old Name of Town	Town	Country	Dates
214	ADLERSTEIN		BAMBERG	GERMANY	1760-1890
276	ALEXANDER		POZNAN	POLAND	Pre 1813
276	ALEXANDER		LONDON	ENGLAND	1813-1850
276	ALEXANDER		GEELONG	AUSTRALIA	1835-1862
276	ALEXANDER		SYDNEY	AUSTRALIA	1862+
285	APPLEBERG		LONDON	ENGLAND	1860-1924
285	APPLEBERG		MIEDZYRZECZ POZNAN	POLAND	1850+
131	BERKMAN		WARSZAWA	POLAND	1906-1932
234	BIERZYNSKI		KOLO	POLAND	19th Cent
293	BLUNKENKOPF		WARSZAWA	POLAND	1872-1942
214	BRULL		BAMBERG	GERMANY	c. 1800
197	CETERBAUM		SIENIAWA	POLAND	
251	CHMIELNICKI		LODZ	POLAND	1875-1920's
281	COLEMAN		CHICAGO	USA	1850+
251	CYMERMAN		WARSZAWA	POLAND	1875-1920's
294	DAVIS		LONDON	ENGLAND	1890's-1950's
214	EISFELDER		BURGPREPPACH	GERMANY	c. 1800
263	EISINGER		POYSDOF	AUSTRIA	Pre 1939
159	EPSTEIN	MEMEL	KLAIPEDA	LITHUANIA	1800-1890
280	FALK		LONDON	ENGLAND	1750-1800
263	FINKELSTEIN	PODWOLOCYSKA	PODVOLOCHISK	UKRAINE	Pre 1900
159	FINKELSTEIN		BOMBAY	INDIA	1890-1906
159	FINKELSTEIN			ROMANIA	Pre 1870
293	FISH		LODZ	POLAND	1850-1940
253	FOLKMANN		CADCA	CZECH REP	Pre WWII
197	GANCMAN		BELZ	UKRAINE	
278	GENES		KREMENCHUG	UKRAINE	1880-1890
280	HAINES		LONDON	ENGLAND	c. 1800
280	HAINS		LONDON	ENGLAND	c. 1800
279	HARRIS		LONDON	ENGLAND	c. 1817
278	HENES		POLTAVA	UKRAINE	1880-1890
279	HYMANS		WARSZAWA	POLAND	c. 1850
275	JACOBS		VILNIUS	LITHUANIA	c. 1870-90
294	JACOBS		LONDON	ENGLAND	1880's-1950's

EDITORIAL (continued from page 1)

The networking of the Society often bears good results. In June we reprinted in our FOREBEARS column an item from a several months-old Theresienstadt survivors newsletter. This led to a family reunion among two new Society members' family.

Another success. In November 1996 our second Jewish Genealogy Day brought an inquiry from Bill Wallace of the Central Coast who had read of our Day as free publicity in DESCENT, the quarterly of the Society of Australian Genealogists. Both Bill's parents had died in 1937, the year of his birth, and he had been brought up by his mother's brother and his wife under their surname, but told that his father was a not so nice Jewish doctor named Szamuel or Simon Bulka who had been shot in Barcelona as an officer of the Spanish army. None of this made much sense to Bill Wallace, but he desperately wanted to learn something more about his father, so he turned to us. By chance he addressed himself to me, who realized immediately that Dr Simon Bulka must have been a volunteer in the International Brigades of the Spanish Civil War, and who possesses a book by the late David Diamant on Jewish volunteers in that conflict, purchased in Paris in a small Jewish bookshop in 1980.

Indeed I found Dr Simon Bulka in the index, and, at Bill's request was even able recently to find a copy of this nineteen-year old book for him on my recent trip to Paris, as well as another more recently published one translated from the German with the title "Shalom Libertad", also mentioning Dr Simon Bulka. In genealogy, as in other parts of life, it is "horses for courses" and I was the right horse.

Alas, so far we have been unable to find any living Bulka relatives for Bill Wallace, or anyone who remembers his father, but his wife tells me that knowledge of his father's idealistic sacrifice of his life has changed Bill's outlook and made him very happy. He is now busy brushing up his French and ploughing through both books.

Our major workshop on first March 1998 will be a half-day seminar on Polish resources, with two or three short lectures on Polish Jewish history and information on how to access the available knowledge on Polish Jewish resources. We hope to see you there if you are researching your Polish Jewish roots.

Have a pleasant and restful summer. See you next year.

Sophie Caplan, Editor

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATA BASE

Names being researched by our new members

December, 1997 (continued)

Id	Surname	Town	Country	Dates
280	KALISCH	LONDON	ENGLAND	c. 1800
281	KALMAN	ANY	POLAND	1800's
281	KALMAS	ANY	POLAND	1800's
281	KALMAS	ANY	ENGLAND	Pre 1850
275	KIRSNER	RIGA	LATVIA	Late 1880's
251	KLUCZYNSKI	LODZ	POLAND	1875-1920's
214	KOTCHINSKI	HAGENAU	FRANCE	1871+
214	KOTCHINSKI	BYTOM	POLAND	
293	KRONENBERG	WARSZAWA	POLAND	1809+
293	KRONENBERG	LODZ	POLAND	Pre 1880
293	KUPERMAN	BRONX	USA	1940's
214	LAMBERTZ		GERMANY	
280	LAZARUS		ENGLAND	c. 1800
275	LEVINE	VILNIUS	LITHUANIA	c. 1870-90
279	LEVY	LONDON	ENGLAND	c. 1817
280	LEVY		ESSEX ENGLAND	1800's
276	LEVY	LONDON	ENGLAND	Pre 1850
276	LEVY	GEELONG	AUSTRALIA	1845+
214	LICHTENSTETTER	BAMBERG	GERMANY	
289	LYONS	BIALA	POLAND	Pre 1795
289	LYONS	EAST STONEHOUSE	DEVON ENGLAND	19th Cent
281	MORRIS	NEW YORK	USA	1900+
279	MOSES	KONSTANTYNOW LODZKI	POLAND	c. 1848
280	MYERS		ESSEX ENGLAND	1800's
280	MYERS	SYDNEY	AUSTRALIA	1840+
263	NAGEL	BATELOV	MORAVIA CZECH REP	Pre 1880
279	NATHAN	LONDON	ENGLAND	c. 1815
263	NOWAK	LOSTICE	MORAVIA CZECH REP	Pre 1880
263	NOWAK	WIEN	AUSTRIA	1880+
251	ORDYNANS	LODZ	POLAND	1875-1920's
214	PFINGST		EAST PRUSSIA	
214	POLACK	RACZKI	POLAND	c. 1836
289	POSENER	ZERKOW	POLAND	Pre 1836
283	RAPOPORT	SIEDLCE	POLAND	Pre 1934
283	RAPPAPORT	SIEDLCE	POLAND	Pre 1934
281	ROBERTS	NEW YORK	USA	1900+
281	ROBOTA	CIECHANOW	POLAND	1820-1940's
267	ROFFMAN	TEOFIPOL	UKRAINE	Pre 1897
267	ROFFMAN	ODESSA	UKRAINE	Pre 1897
267	ROFFMAN	ANY	ANY	
267	ROFFMAN	IZYASLAV	UKRAINE	
267	ROFFMAN	ANY	USA	
281	ROSEN	GDANSK	POLAND	1850-1860
281	ROSEN	LONDON	ENGLAND	1860-1890
281	ROTHENBURG	GDANSK	POLAND	1850-1860
281	ROTHENBURG	LONDON	ENGLAND	1860-1890
214	RUDIN	DABROVNO	BELARUS	1870-1930
268	RUSAK VAL RUSAK	ANY	RUSSIA	
278	SCHAPIRA	IASI	ROMANIA	Up to 1890
278	SCHAPIRA	BUCHACH	UKRAINE	1890-1900
214	SELEM	BIALYSTOK	POLAND	c. 1880
197	SHEINWALD	PRZEWORSK	POLAND	
253	SILBERGER	OSTRAVA	CZECH REP	Pre WWII
281	SILVERMAN	LONDON	ENGLAND	1869-1872
281	SILVERMAN	MELBOURNE	AUSTRALIA	1873+
281	SILVERMAN	PERTH	AUSTRALIA	1873+
276	SIMMONS	LONDON	ENGLAND	Pre 1850
159	SMIEDT	NEUSTADT	GERMANY	1840-1898
159	SMIEDT	TILSIT	POLAND	1800-1880
275	SOCHART	VILNIUS	LITHUANIA	c. 1870-90
280	SOLOMON	LONDON	ENGLAND	c. 1800
280	SOLOMON	SYDNEY	AUSTRALIA	1830+
197	STOSSER	PRZEWORSK	POLAND	
131	SZABASON	WARSZAWA	POLAND	1904-1932
251	TENENBAUM	WARSZAWA	POLAND	1875-1920's
253	VOLKMANN	CADCA	CZECH REP	Pre WWII
234	WARMBRUNN	ANY	GERMANY	19th Cent
214	WITTKOWER	BERLIN	GERMANY	1840+
276	ZACHARIAH	LONDON	ENGLAND	Pre 1850
268	ZAWADZKI	LODZ	POLAND	
267	ZUKERMAN	SIEMIATYCZE	POLAND	Pre 1877
267	ZUKERMAN	KORMA	BELARUS	Pre 1877