

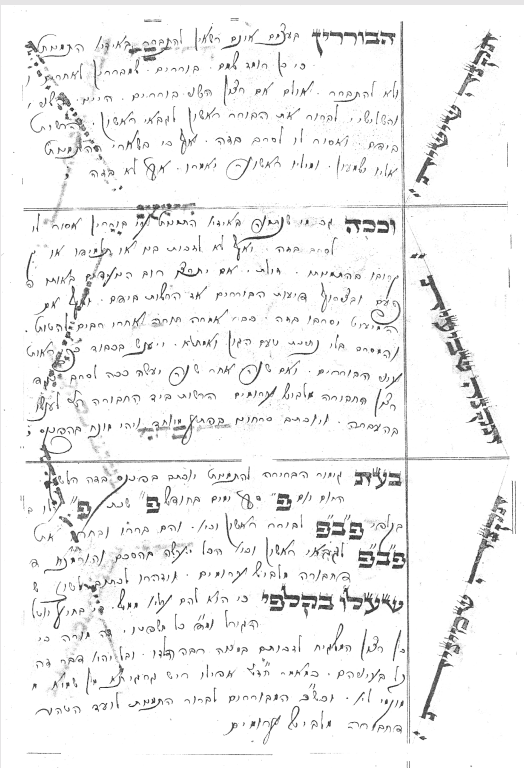
SYNAGOGUE RECORDS AND PINKASSIM

Many Jewish communities in Eastern Europe kept internal records that supply considerable historical and genealogical information. The communities usually created pinkassim (register books) or księgi duchowne (community books) to record births, marriages, deaths, community tax rolls, synagogue-seat ownership, community charitable contributions and other information. Although the majority of these invaluable books were either destroyed in the Holocaust or ritually buried by the community to preserve them from profanation after becoming unusable, many have survived. The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem has one of the largest collections of extant pinkassim. For a partial listing of the pinkassim available at the Central Archives, see A. Teller, H. Volovici and H. Assouline, eds., *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). The Jewish Theological Seminary Library in New York and the Jewish National Library in Jerusalem also have collections.

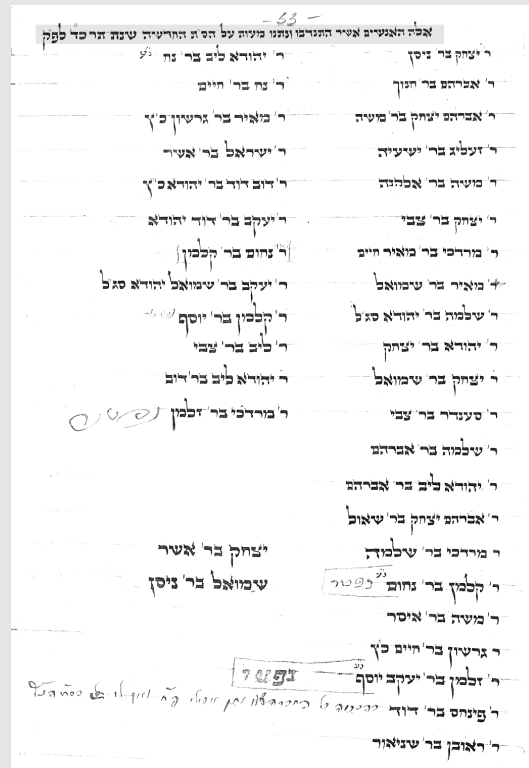
In a recent meeting with Irina Sergeyeva at the Vernadskyi National Library of Ukraine, she described the extensive collection of pinkassim now held in the library's Manuscript Department. Among the 100,000 books and 8,000 manuscripts, there are some 100 pinkassim. It is believed to be the largest collection of Eastern European pinkassim in the world.



Pinkas from Sudilkov, Ukraine, published by Pinkas Hevrah Malbish Arumim, a society for providing clothes for the poor; entries begin in 1858 (56 pages) 44-A



Sample pages from the Sudilkov pinkas in the Vernadskyi Library in Kiev 44-B



"These are the men whose contributions supported the new Sefer Torah [5664], 1903–1904" 44-C