

CENTRAL STATE HISTORICAL ARCHIVE OF UKRAINE IN LVOV (LVIV)

by
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The Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Lvov has a large collection of historical documents about the Jewish people who have lived in the territory of Western Ukraine for many centuries. Related documents can be found in nearly all of the collections of this archive. However, they are scattered, and thus the research is tedious and very time-consuming. Most of the material is not indexed, so a researcher looking for information based upon specific family names in specific towns would need to research many different files. To further complicate the matter, these files are arranged not by town name but by subject matter.

There are more than 30 fonds (some 12,000 files) for the period from the mid-seventeenth century through the early twentieth century, including documents about religion, science, culture, art and education among the Jewish population of Galicia. The largest collection (and least studied as of December 1998) is the documents of town and local courts as well as the city administrations of Lvov and other towns (1,382 fonds dating from the early twentieth century), in addition to hundreds of other fonds. Almost all of these fonds contain interesting materials about the Jews of Galicia and its environs. Important documents for genealogical research are kept not only in our archive but also in most oblast archives in Ukraine.

In our archive, Fond 701 is of great interest to Jewish genealogists. It is the largest Jewish collection in the archive and includes birth, marriage and death registrations for towns throughout Galicia. The earliest records in the fond date from 1784. These registers (commonly known as metrical books or *kehillah* records) are not indexed. One must search page by page and line by line to find specific names.

Miriam Weiner has undertaken a gigantic project in collecting information and compiling inventories about documents in the archives throughout Ukraine. It is not an easy task because most of the materials regarding the Jewish population were inaccessible during Soviet times.

Ms. Weiner's book will promote the study and use of these documents and will be of great help for those people searching for relatives or information about relatives who were dispersed and scattered throughout the world as a result of World War II and the Holocaust.

We have worked with Ms. Weiner since her first visit in 1991. Most recently, we have verified the material that she has collected; at the same time, we have added new material to

the inventories. When we first discussed this many years ago, I made arrangements for one of my archivists (a specialist in Jewish documents) to travel to Ternopol, Chernovtsy and Ivano-Frankovsk in connection with this survey, and he was able to collect inventory data from these archives as well.

I fully endorse this research project and the publication of this book, which represents the most comprehensive description of the documents in our archives to date.

Orest Y. Matsuk was born in 1932 in the town of Truskavets, in Lvov Oblast, to a teacher's family. In 1955, he graduated from the Economic Department of the Lvov Agricultural Institute. He then attended and graduated from the Moscow Historical-Archival Institute; thereafter he was employed as an economist in the town of Zolochevo. Since 1960, Dr. Matsuk has occupied various positions at the Central State Historical Archive in Lvov; in 1991, he was appointed its director. He is a member of numerous professional organizations and societies and the author of more than 200 scholarly works, including eight monographs.



Dr. Orest Y. Matsuk, in his office at the Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Lvov, 1998

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