

Janice Rosen

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## **JEWISH ARCHIVAL HOLDINGS IN CANADA-II / LES POSSESSIONS ARCHIVIQUES JUIVES AU CANADA-II**

Recent history has not been kind to Canada's Jewish archives. In early 1996, the Jewish Public Library of Montreal suspended active use of its archival collections, having eliminated the archivist's position from the library staff. Access to the collection is now being provided by the Head of the Reference Department and another staff person, assisted by a volunteer. Other archives have seen the number of hours open to the public reduced.

This article revisits the Archives profiled in *CJS/EJC* Volume 1 (1993), and introduces readers to two new historical society-based archival collections. The repositories described below are presented in alphabetical order. For ease of reference, address information for all the repositories described in Part 1 (1993) is repeated in the present article. Recent contact point changes have been updated, with e-mail and web pages furnished where available. However, the archival collections described are based on information available in late 1995.

I wish to thank all the archivists who contributed information for this update, and Phyllis Kimia for her invaluable technical assistance.

**CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

Archivist: Janice Rosen  
Assistants: Bonnie Borenstein, Phyllis Kimia  
Address: 1590 Avenue Docteur Penfield,  
Montreal, Que., H3G 1C5  
Telephone: (514) 931-7531 Fax: (514) 931-0548  
Web site: [www.cjc.ca/archives.htm](http://www.cjc.ca/archives.htm)  
E-mail: [archives@cj.ca](mailto:archives@cj.ca)  
Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:15-5:00,  
Friday to 2:30 (winter) or 4:30 (summer).  
(Appointments advisable)

**DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 1993**

Any recent developments I can report since the first “Jewish Archival Holdings” article are overshadowed by the January 1996 passing of the CJC Archives founder and mentor, David Rome. Although declining health had prevented him from taking an active role at the Archives over the past two years, Mr. Rome’s interest in the Archives and the researchers working here continued to his last days. He will be greatly missed.

Several cataloguing efforts recently completed or nearing completion have increased our capacity to respond in depth to researcher inquiries. The Archives reference library and antique book collection has been catalogued on computer, thereby facilitating the linking of printed materials with associated manuscript collections. A supplement to the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services records, the office files of long-time Director Joseph Kage, were catalogued with the assistance of a grant from the Archives nationales du Quebec (see below).

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of our regular Archives volunteers, the subject contents of more than seven thousand name files in the CJC Archives are now inventoried on computer. Additions to the Montreal Synagogue Finders Guide are ongoing, aiding researchers in tracing family records from amalga-

mated or renamed congregations. In addition, a name index has been created on database for the case files of the United Restitution Organization.

## **NEW COLLECTIONS**

### **1) David Rome Collection**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Newly received from the personal collection of David Rome, CJC Historian/Archivist 1973-1994. David Rome's affiliations prior to this time included: Editor *Western Jewish Bulletin*, Vancouver (1934-36); National Executive Director Labour Zionist Movement in Canada (1939-40); Editor *Daily Hebrew Journal*, Toronto (1940-1942); Press Officer/Editor *Congress Bulletin*, Canadian Jewish Congress (1942-1953); Secretary of Committee of Jewish-French-Canadian Relations (1942-1953); Director Jewish Public Library; Montreal (1953-1972); Lecturer in Jewish Studies at McGill University in the 1960s; private instructor. He was the author of over 60 books and monographs on Canadian Jewish history and Jewish/ gentile relations in Canada.

**CONTENTS:** 8 meters of documents, including numerous scrapbooks and microfilmed documents, reflecting all the affiliations above. A preliminary survey of the collection reveals an emphasis on pre-World War II history of Jewish British Columbia, anti-Semitism in Canada, Montreal Yiddish literary and ideological culture, and Labour Zionism. Inclusive dates appear to be 1860-present. A finding aid will be prepared.

### **2) Pilot Officer Moses L. Usher Collection**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Moses Usher was a World War II air force gunner in the Canadian Armed forces. The collection documents his army career and his reactions to the experience up until he was killed in action, and the subsequent reactions of his family and friends.

**CONTENTS:** 9 cm. of documents and photographs, primarily letters addressed to family members. The development of this

Jewish serviceman's attitude towards the war is discernible in the course of the collection. Inclusive dates: circa 1940-1946. The collection has been partially processed, and is open to consultation.

## **NEWLY-CATALOGUED COLLECTION**

### **3) Dr. Joseph Kage Records of Jewish Immigrant Aid Services**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Dr. Joseph Kage (1918-), a social worker, was among the first professionals in this field to be engaged by the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services. Since 1919, Jewish immigrants to Canada have depended on JIAS during their period of adjustment to this country. Beginning in 1947, and later continuing in the role of Director, Kage continued to shape the direction of the organization until his retirement in 1983. The author of numerous articles and studies on immigration, Dr. Kage played a role in Canadian immigration history which extends beyond the boundaries of the Jewish community.

Dr. Joseph Kage's office papers, deposited shortly after his retirement, had not been treated prior to 1994, as they had been stored in a location which had rendered them virtually inaccessible for processing. As a result of the pivotal position of Dr. Kage in the organization, these records provide information which is essential to a full understanding of the immigrant arrival and adaptation process in Canada.

**CONTENTS:** 16.5 meters of textual records, including minutes, correspondence, studies and reports, financial information, and published materials. Series include: works authored by Kage, JIAS Evening/citizenship school, meeting files, statistical documents, various organizational involvement records, reports and studies conducted by JIAS, personal correspondence, academic studies, etc., visual and other materials. Inclusive dates of material: 1942-1983, with the majority of files dating from 1965-1977. There is a finding aid and automated listings. Currently restricted at the discretion of JIAS.

**THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA / NEMETZ JEWISH  
COMMUNITY ARCHIVES**

Archivist: Diane M. Rodgers  
Address: 950 West 41st Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C., V5Z 2N7  
Telephone: (604) 257-5199 Fax #: (604) 257-5110  
Hours: Monday-Thursday 1:00-4:00 P.M.  
—Appointments preferred.

**COLLECTION UPDATE**

In addition to the JHS Community Archives collection and the Leonard Frank-Otto Landauer Photographic collection reported in the previous “Archival Holdings” article, the collection currently features:

**THE JHS ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** The collection consists of interviews with long-time community members.

**CONTENTS:** 250 interviews on audio-cassette. Dates of collection: 1970-present. There is a finding aid. Some of the material is restricted.

**THE JHS PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** The collection depicts the people, establishments, and events of the Jewish community in British Columbia.

**CONTENTS:** 6000 images; photographic prints and negatives. Inclusive dates: 1880-1995. There is a finding aid.

**THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
SOUTHERN ALBERTA (NEW LISTING)**

President: Jay Joffe  
Address: 1607-90th Ave. S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T2V 4V7  
Telephone: (403) 253-8600 Fax: (403) 253-7915  
Hours: Wednesday 4:30-6:30 P.M.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Founded in 1989, the Society's mandate is to:

- Collect, preserve and make available the history and artifacts of the Jews in Southern Alberta;
- Undertake and encourage research into the history of the Jewish community—individuals and organizations—with particular emphasis on the collection of oral history from the elders;
- Undertake and encourage public information and awareness programs;
- Present the community with historical information based on our research and our archival collection, through the publication of our journal *Discovery*.

At present, the majority of the archival materials in the collection date between 1910 and 1950.

**THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF WESTERN CANADA**

Archivist: Bonnie Tregobov  
Exec. Sec.: Esther Slater  
Address: Winnipeg JCC,  
123 Doncaster, Suite C116  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3N 2B2  
Telephone: (204) 477-7460(7461) Fax: (204) 477-7465  
Web site: <http://www.concentric.net/~lkessler/jhswc.shtml>

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00-4:30, Friday 9:00-3:00.  
(Appointment preferred)

### **IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 1993**

We are involved in an Oral History project entitled “Jewish Involvement in Sports in Manitoba”. A study is underway to determine the best means of preserving our 500 oral histories—e.g., reel-to-reel, compact disk, or digital audio tape.

We anticipate a move in 1997 to the new Jewish Community Campus of Winnipeg, at which time we will retrieve our archival records which are stored at the Provincial Archives of Manitoba. Our new premises will have proper environmentally controlled storage on site. Plans for the new Jewish Museum of Western Canada are underway. The Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada will be closely involved in the preparation of the museum.

### **MAJOR NEW COLLECTIONS**

#### **1) Peter Zvankin Records**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Peter Zvankin was a musician and composer who lived in Winnipeg for many years. He died in 1975 at the age of 96.

**CONTENTS:** 3 linear feet of textual records consisting mainly of music compositions and arrangements, some correspondence. Many of the compositions commemorate historic events, e.g. Elizabeth II coronation, Kennedy assassination. Also includes recordings of Mr. Zvankin’s works. The Provincial Archives of Manitoba has a collection of Mr. Zvankin’ textual records, excluding his music. The dates of the material are currently undetermined. A finding aid is being planned.

#### **2) Hadassah-Wizo Council of Winnipeg**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** This is a collection of several large scrapbooks compiled by each president of the Winnipeg Council describing events during their tenure.

CONTENTS: It consists of scrapbooks, including many press clippings. The collection has not been processed as yet. There will be a finding aid.

### **3) Jewish National Fund Golden Book**

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Provides a history of events in the Jewish community of Winnipeg of the time plus some information on specific members of the community (in Yiddish).

CONTENTS: 1 large bound volume dating from 1909 onwards. A finding aid is being planned.

## **JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY ARCHIVES, MONTREAL**

Contacts: Ron Finegold, Claire Stern  
Address: 5151 Côte Ste-Catherine Road  
Montreal, Quebec, H3W 1M6  
Telephone: (514) 345-2627 Fax: (514) 345-6477  
E-mail: rodef6@hotmail.com [for Ron Finegold]  
Hours: By appointment only.

**IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 1993:** During the past two years, the JPL Archives received a grant from the Canadian Council of Archives to arrange and describe the Histadrut Canadian Association for Labour Israel Collection. A finding aid was compiled by Beverley and Eiran Harris and supervised by Carol Katz, Archivist. Another grant was received from les Archives nationales du Quebec to process the Jewish Community Council of Montreal (Vaad Ha'ir) Collection, and a finding aid is in the process of being produced.

In 1994, a finding aid to the Allan Raymond Collection was compiled by Beverley and Eiran Harris and supervised by Carol Katz.

The Archives has more than tripled its extent and now houses 236 meters of processed textual records.



Over the past three years, ten volunteers in the Archives helped with processing the collections, indexing the photographs and mounting exhibitions.

## **MAJOR NEW COLLECTIONS**

### **1) Temple Emanu-El Congregation, Montreal**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Founded in 1882 as Quebec's first reform Jewish congregation. Its membership consisted of many of the most prominent Jews in Montreal, such as Sir Mortimer B. Davis, president of Imperial Tobacco Ltd., and Mark Workman, president of Dominion Steel Corporation.

**CONTENTS:** 8.5 meters of original books of minutes, correspondence, newsletters, and registers of births, marriages and deaths. Inclusive dates: 1882-1980.

### **2) Jewish Community Council of Montreal (Vaad Ha'ir)**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Founded December 17, 1922 in order to provide law and order to the kosher meat trade in Montreal. As well, it was given the task of uniting the Orthodox Rabbinate and assisting Jewish educational institutions.

**CONTENTS:** 25 meters of textual records: budget and finance, the Rabbinate (the highest religious authority in Montreal, its decisions being considered binding in all spiritual problems), supervision of Kashrut, Soviet Jewry, legal assistance, Jewish arbitration court, and settling of family conflicts. Inclusive dates: 1930-1975.

### **3) Histadrut Canadian Association For Labour Israel**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Began its activities in 1924 as an affiliate of the National Committee For Labour Israel (American Histadrut Campaign). Its major objective is to raise funds to assist Histadrut in Israel in its rehabilitation program, the settling and integrating of the newly-arrived immigrants in Israel. The funds collected by the Canadian Histadrut Campaign are expended to Canada, to purchase Canadian products for the needs of the many newcomers to Israel from Africa, Asia and the former Soviet Union.

CONTENTS: 12 meters of textual records: bulletins, concert books, periodicals, convention books, budget and finance, newspaper clippings, publications, programs, minutes of meetings, correspondence (Yiddish and English); and photographs. Inclusive dates: 1918-1986.

#### **4) Allan Raymond Collection**

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Allan Raymond (1922-) was born in Lithuania and came to Montreal in 1928. He is a researcher and lecturer of Canadian Jewish history and an avid collector of Canadian Judaica. This fonds was accumulated by Mr. Raymond over a period of 35 years.

CONTENTS: 16 meters of textual records of institutions and personalia, memorabilia, ephemera, artifacts, periodicals, newspaper clippings, postcards, vernissage invitations, pamphlets, and photographs. Inclusive dates: 1853-1993. Parts restricted.

#### **5) Aviva Ravel Collection**

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Aviva Ravel (1928-) was born in Montreal. She is a well-known author and playwright.

CONTENTS: 3 meters of textual records: manuscripts and typescripts of her plays and short stories, as well as correspondence. Inclusive dates: 1950-1990.

#### **6) Shulamis Yelin Collection**

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Shulamis Yelin (1913-) is a prolific and respected Quebec Yiddish poet and author.

CONTENTS: 7 meters of textual records: manuscripts and typescripts of her poems and books, newspaper clippings, posters, vernissage invitations, notes of her lectures, and correspondence. Inclusive dates: 1930-1980.

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA

Jewish Collection Archivist: Lawrence Tapper

Address inquiries through: Reference Services

Address: 395 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N3

Telephone (reference): (613) 992-3884

Fax: (613) 995-6274

### **DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 1993**

Since the first Jewish Archival Holdings report appeared, changes have been made to the access procedure for manuscript collections at the National Archives. All inquiries should now be directed to Reference Services, where topic searches can be made via CD-ROM and other automated systems. In cases where collections are reproduced on microfilm and can be loaned out, inquiries are handled by the inter-institutional loan unit. Please note that requests to borrow microfilm must be made through a library or repository participating in the service.

As all archival collections are stored off-site, a 24 hour retrieval period is generally required. In addition, restricted collections involve a slight delay in order for access permission to be obtained. For these reasons, it is important that researchers make arrangements regarding their research before coming to Ottawa.

### **MAJOR NEW COLLECTIONS**

#### **1) David Avid Matas Collection**

**HISTORY:** David Matas (1943-) was born and raised in Winnipeg, where he currently practices law. He specializes in refugee immigration and human rights, is president of the Canadian Council of Refugees, and co-ordinator of the legal network of Amnesty International, Canadian Section. He has served as the senior legal advisor to the League of Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada, and as chairman of the Legal

Committee on War Crimes for Canadian Jewish Congress.

CONTENTS: 12.8 meters of documents pertaining to refugee status claims and other case files (series closed to public); refugee and immigration issues; human rights issues; legal issues, including meetings of Lawyers for Social Responsibility; War crimes prosecution in Canada and Israel; the donor's political activities on behalf of the Liberal Party of Canada; his involvement in Winnipeg Jewish organizations including Combined Jewish Appeal, Jewish War Veterans, Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada; and personal files including father (Judge) Roy Matas and brother Manuel Matas, psychiatrist.

The inclusive dates of the collection are 1946-1994. The collection is restricted.

## **2) Esther Matlow Collection**

HISTORY: Esther Matlow served from 1990-1993 as national president of the Hadassah-WIZO organization of Canada, the largest and most influential national Jewish women's organization in this country. The philanthropic organization Hadassah-WIZO was founded in 1917 and now has over 17,000 members organized into city councils and local chapters in every province across Canada. In 1920 it became an affiliate of the Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO). Through the decades its projects and activities have been instrumental in promoting the health, social, and educational development of Israeli society including the disadvantaged. Hadassah-WIZO has also taken a prominent role in representing and promoting the interests of Canadian Jewish women.

CONTENTS: Personal papers of Esther Matlow relating to her term as president of Hadassah-WIZO organization of Canada. The Matlow papers complement other related collections including the Hadassah-WIZO Organization of Canada fonds (MG 28, V 74) as well as the papers of other past presidents.

The inclusive dates of the collection are 1934-1993. The collection is restricted. There is a finding aid (#1989).

### **3) Bert Raphael Collection**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Bert Raphael (1933-) was born and raised in Toronto. He was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1960. He is a prominent trial lawyer specializing in civil litigation. In addition to his legal career, Mr. Raphael has had a long and distinguished career of service to the Canadian Jewish community. Long active in the Soviet Jewry campaign to secure freedom to emigrate, he served as chairman of Canadian Lawyers and Jurists for Soviet Jewry (1972-1992). He founded and has served as president of the Jewish Civil Rights Educational Foundation (1979-). During the height of the Jewish community's campaign to get the Canadian government to prosecute Nazi war criminals resident in Canada in the 1980s, he was national chairman, Nazi War Crimes Committee, Canadian Jewish Congress. He has been Canadian president of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists since 1980.

**CONTENTS:** 1.4 meters, including material on Mr. Raphael's work on behalf of Soviet Jewry including the Dimitri Berman case; the Jewish Civil Rights Educational Foundation; the prosecution of war criminals and racists in Canada and the promotion of Holocaust education; the Canadian campaign to force the Syrian government to permit Syrian Jewry to emigrate from Syria; the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, of which he is an executive member; and the Toronto-based Reena Foundation for the developmentally handicapped. The inclusive dates of the collection are 1974-1994. The collection is restricted. There is a finding aid (# 2023).

### **4) Naïm Kattan Collection**

**HISTOIRE:** Naïm Kattan (1928-) est né à Bagdad, en Irak. Il poursuivit ses études à la Sorbonne (Paris) d'où il gradua en 1953. Pendant qu'il étudiait en France, Naïm Kattan travailla comme journaliste et participa à diverses émissions de radio. En 1954 il émigra au Canada.

A son arrivée à Montréal, il travailla comme secrétaire pour

le Cercle juif de langue française et fut rédacteur en chef du Bulletin du Cercle juif (1954-1967). Il enseigna à l'Université de Montréal (années 1960) et à l'Université Laval (années 1970). Il travailla également pour la Commission royale d'enseignement et pour la Commission royale d'enquête sur le bilinguisme et le biculturalisme (années 1960). Il fit carrière au Conseil des arts du Canada (1967-1991) où il fut directeur du Service des lettres et de l'édition, et directeur associé.

Naïm Kattan est l'auteur de plus d'une vingtaine de publications qui comprennent des romans, des essais, des nouvelles et des pièces de théâtre.

**CONTENU:** 9,2 mètres de documents. Le fonds Naïm Kattan se divise en six séries: documents personnels, carnets, correspondance, manuscrits, coupures de presse, albums et dossiers par sujets. Ces documents permettent de retracer la vie et la carrière de N. Kattan, surtout à partir de son arrivée en Europe en 1947 et ce, jusqu'à nos jours. La correspondance présente un attrait particulier puisque N. Kattan a correspondu avec bon nombre de personnalités du milieu littéraire et intellectuel canadien, américain, européen et du Moyen-Orient. La série des manuscrits comprend quelques oeuvres inédites. La majeure partie des documents sont écrits en français et en anglais, les autres en langues étrangères. Dates extrêmes: 1944-1991. Instrument de recherche no. 1752. La consultation de la correspondance et de certains documents personnels est soumise à certaines conditions.

### **5) Reuven Bulka Collection**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Rabbi Bulka was born in London, England in June 1944. He moved to New York with his family where he was educated. He was ordained from the Rabbi Jacob Joseph Rabbinical Seminary in 1965, in which year he also graduated from City University of New York. Rabbi Bulka served as Associate Rabbi at Congregation K'Hal Adas Yeshurn, Bronx, New York, 1965-1967. He has been Rabbi at Congregation Machzikei Hadas in Ottawa since 1967. One of Canada's nationally-known Orthodox rabbis, he is an executive

member of the Canadian Jewish Congress, National Religious Affairs Committee. He has been chairman of the Rabbinical Council of America, Family and Marriage Committee since 1978, and served as editor of its newsletter.

Rabbi Bulka is the author of numerous books, journal and newspaper articles on Jewish philosophy, psychology and the relationship between psychology and religion, and psychology and Judaism.

CONTENTS: 10.15 meters of documents including biographical information, personal documents, family history and correspondence; vital records relating to individuals resident in the Ottawa Jewish community including adoption, baby naming and *Brit Milah*, *Bar Mitzvah*, conversions, marriages, *gets* (religious divorces), deaths, obituaries, personal counselling; Halachic issues including *Brit Mileh*, the *Mikveh*, Jewish Divorce in Canada, autopsy, organ transplant, abortion, euthanasia; general correspondence and subject files series including the Rabbinical Council of America, Mizrahi Organization of Canada, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the Canadian Jewish Congress Chaplaincy Service; Ottawa Jewish Community correspondence with many of the local Ottawa Jewish agencies and synagogues and their leadership; Jewish education and the Jewish life on campus including files on the Ottawa Talmud Torah, Hillel Academy, the founding of the Ottawa Torah Institute, etc.; Kashrut series minutes and correspondence of the Ottawa Vaad Hakashruth, correspondence about Kosher food products, etc.; State of Israel Bonds, National Rabbinic Cabinet; issues affecting the Jewish family in Canada; publications, sermons and articles. The inclusive dates of the collection are 1919-1992. The collection is restricted. There is a finding aid (# 1770).

**ALSO NOTABLE** are the recently-acquired collections of Lou Ronson, Willowdale, Ontario community leader (10.25 meters, access restricted), and Ruth and Bert Godfrey, Toronto pioneers of Conservative Judaism (3.9 meters, no restrictions on access).

## THE ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES

Director: Dr. Stephen A. Speisman  
Address: 4600 Bathurst Street  
Willowdale, Ontario M2R 3V2  
Telephone: (416) 635-2883, ext.170 Fax: (416) 635-1408  
Web site: <http://www.feduja.org/puzzled/infohigh/archives.stm>

### IMPORTANT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The Ontario Jewish Archives has completed a finding aid to the records of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, Toronto office. The collection, comprising 55 metres of material, covers the period 1925-1982 and includes minutes, correspondence, ledgers and case files. The seven-volume finding aid was prepared with the financial assistance of the federal government through the National Archives of Canada and the Canadian Council of Archives.

### COLLECTION UPDATE

#### 1) **North American Jewish Students Network**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** This collection documents the educational and cultural activities of Jewish students at Canadian universities, as well as their efforts to combat anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism on campus.

**CONTENTS:** 9 metres of minutes, correspondence, publicity material. The inclusive dates of the collection are 1970s-1990.

#### 2) **David Glanz Papers**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** This collection relates to the Chevra Kadisha (burial society) of the Shaar Hashomayim Congregation in Windsor.

**CONTENTS:** 0.5 meters of burial and cemetery records, financial material and membership lists. The inclusive dates are 1921-1991.



### **3) Toronto Human Hair Supply Company**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** This was a Jewish-owned business which began in the late 1930s and became one of the major Canadian firms in this industry. The collection is particularly significant in illustrating relationships between importers, wholesalers and the retail trade.

**CONTENTS:** 8 meters of correspondence and financial records. The inclusive dates are circa 1940 -1965.

### **THE OTTAWA JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY (NEW LISTING)**

Archivist: Shirley Berman

Assistant: Dawn Logan

Address: 151 Chapel Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1N 7Y2

Telephone: (613) 789-7306 Fax: (613) 789-4593

Hours: Monday and Wednesday by appointment

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Ottawa Jewish Historical Society was founded in October 1969, the Archives in 1972. The collection contains the records of the Jewish community of Ottawa. Major record groups include:

**INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY RECORDS** relating to journalist Max Bookman; early Orthodox settlers John Dover and family; author/ poet Hyman Edelstein; Zionist educators Anna and Dr. Isidore Goldstick; photographer Hugo Levendel (see below); pediatrician Dr. Lyon Pearlman;

**ORGANIZATIONAL RECORDS** including the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*, the Jewish Family Services of Ottawa-Carleton, the Ottawa Hebrew Free Loan Association, and the collections described below);

**RELIGIOUS CONGREGATION RECORDS**, including Congregations Adath Shalom, B'nai Jacob, Agudath Israel, Adath Jeshurun;

**EDUCATION RECORDS**, including the Hillel Academy, the Ottawa Modern Jewish School, and the Talmud Torah.

The total number of collections is approximately 80, measuring 108 metres. The photo collection contains approximately 1000 catalogued photographs.

## **MAJOR COLLECTIONS**

### **1) Jewish Community Council / Ottawa Vaad Ha'ir**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** It was established in 1934 with membership from the four congregations of B'nai Jacob (James Street), Agudath Achim (Rideau Street), Adath Jeshurun (King Edward Street) and Machzikei Hadath (Murray Street) along with some of the other organizations in the community. Membership gradually expanded to include standing committees, agencies and institutions and affiliated organizations. Duties and responsibilities are designed to meet communal needs.

Organizational structure consists of an elected president and an appointed executive secretary. Mr. A. J. Freiman was the first president and continued in that capacity until his death in 1944. Subsequently, presidents have been elected for a two-year term. The Ottawa Vaad Ha'ir is administered by the executive secretary. The first appointment was Harry Goldman, followed by Joe Ages, Hy Hochberg, Gittel Tatz, Gerry Koffman, and Stan Urman. The president and executive director first worked within the administrative structure of regular meetings of the Officers, a body which was replaced in the late 1970s by a Board of Trustees. Annual meetings are open to the community with reports published in the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*.

The Ottawa Vaad Ha'ir received its funding from the four congregations, and from membership fees from participating organizations. With the advent of local campaigns in 1946, the operating budget was obtained from these local campaigns, and since 1952, from the United Jewish Appeal. Since 1973, income is also received from the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation.

Initially, the office was located in Mr. Goldman's home. Around 1940, a room was obtained in the Talmud Torah building, 451 Rideau Street. Offices expanded to the Synagogue and Jewish Community Centre building, 151 Chapel Street, in 1951.

CONTENTS: 14 metres of textual records. The inclusive dates are 1927-1995 (1934 -1980 predominate). There is a finding aid (RG 4 V. 02). We hope to be able to arrange this collection in several series in the future.

## **2) Hugo Levendel**

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: After immigrating to Ottawa from Szatmar (Rumania) in 1929, Mr. Levendel's training as a photo retoucher led him to work with Yousef Karsh, and later to establish his own photography studios, Levendel Studios.

CONTENTS: 1 metre of manuscripts and magazines denoting his early involvement in Zionist activities in Ottawa, and Canada. These began with the Young Jewish People's League in 1931, and continued on to an executive position with the Histadrut League until the 1980s. 125 photographs. Mr. Levendel's photographs of the Byward Market shopkeepers of the mid-1930s constitute the most historical photographic record of the Ottawa Byward Market. The originals of these are preserved by the National Archives of Canada. His unique post card collection of the Davis Family of Ottawa is part of the fonds. There is a finding aid ( RG1 L04).

## **3) Labour Zionish Council of Ottawa**

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The Labour Zionist Council of Ottawa was founded in 1949 to coordinate the activities of all Labour Zionist groups in Ottawa, including the Ottawa Histadrut Campaigns, Israel Forum of Ottawa, the Histadrut League of Ottawa and the Pioneer Women's organizations of Ottawa. Responsibility for the Ottawa Jewish Telephone Directory and Dror-Habonim were added later. Organized Labour Zionism in Ottawa began in 1924 with a Poale-Zion

group, a Yiddish speaking group concerned with education and social activities. Poale-Zion evolved into the League for Labour Palestine, and around 1935 became the Histadrut League of Ottawa. Histadrut, the Hebrew word for the General Federation of Labour in Israel, is dedicated to organizing political support in Israel and contributing to health, educational, and social welfare programs in Israel. Fund raising for these programs started in 1925 as the annual Ottawa Chalutzim Campaign, and in 1944 became the Histadrut Campaign of Ottawa. In Ottawa, members also organized Holocaust Remembrance Day meetings, adult education programmes, the study of Yiddish, and performances of Yiddish theatre groups.

Labour Zionist members first met in members' homes, then rented facilities. The first Histadrut Centre was established at 78 Rideau Street which is now part of the Rideau Centre. In 1949, the Council purchased a building at 292 Laurier Avenue East in Sandy Hill. The gradual shift of the membership to the west end of Ottawa influenced the sale of the Histadrut Centre in 1978 and a temporary move to rented quarters at 1547 Chatelain Street.

CONTENTS: 1.25 metres of textual records of the umbrella organization, the Labour Zionist Council of Ottawa, as well as the Histadrut Centre and Ottawa Histadrut campaigns. The fonds consists of financial records, souvenir booklets, minutes, membership lists, correspondence, invitations, and notices. Other material includes photographs, a book and banner. The material was generated primarily between 1947 and 1974. The textual records are primarily in English, with some Hebrew and Yiddish. Also: related photographs in the photography collection; banner in artifact collection; some records relating to the Ottawa Histadrut Campaigns may be found in the Ottawa Hebrew Benefit Society fonds. The inclusive dates are 1941-1993. There is a finding aid (RG 4. LZCO.07)

#### **4) Na'amat Pioneer Women, Ottawa Council Fonds**

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Ottawa Council of Pioneer

Women Na'amat is a branch of Na'amat Pioneer Women of Canada. Na'amat is Nashim Avdot Umitnavot, a Hebrew acronym for the Movement of Working Women and Volunteers. In Canada, branches provide a broad spectrum of social services to raise the quality of life for women, youth and children in Israel. It is also engaged in disseminating the Labour Zionist viewpoint among North American women.

Pioneer Women was founded in 1921 in Palestine as *Moetzet Hapoalot*, or Working Women's Council. Initially Canadian groups were affiliated directly with American ones. In 1965, Canadian women formed a separate organization, and convened its founding convention in 1966. After the name changed in Israel in 1975 to Na'amat, it was subsequently adopted in Canada in 1976.

In Ottawa, the first group of Pioneer Women was founded in late 1938 under the guidance of Mrs. Dora Green. That group was named Golda Myerson, and later renamed Golda Meir. Programme material was both cultural and political, and conducted in Yiddish. The second group, Daganian, formed in December 1943. It was the first English speaking group, under the guidance of Sylvia Shinder and Ida Krakover. In 1970 it was named Degania. The third group, also English speaking, organized in October 1959 with the name Kinnereth, and Mrs. Dina Shalom as chairman. It was noted for its cultural programs. A fourth group which functioned in the 1940s was Zionia. A fifth group, Chana Szenes, was founded by Sonia Viner in 1959. It stopped functioning about 1985, and resumed activities in 1993. Other groups include Tikvad and Medina (active in the 1950s), Aviva formed in 1975, Nitza formed in 1986 by young women and new mothers, and Ahava formed in 1989. Among a variety of fund raising activities, the publication of the *Ottawa Jewish Telephone Directory* predominates.

CONTENTS: 1 metre (5 boxes) of textual records and telephone directories. The records are divided into two series of administration and telephone directory, and arranged chronologically within each series. There is a finding aid (RG 4

NA.10). Access to some membership donor lists and correspondence in administration record series is restricted for 35 years.

## **THE SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM ARCHIVES**

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Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00.  
Appointments preferred.

### **IMPORTANT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

We have become the major repository for the records of the Jewish community of Saint John, which over the course of time has diminished from three hundred families to the present community of under forty families.

We can now report that all material in the Saint John Historical Museum Archives has been catalogued, organized and stored according to professional archival standards. As well, all archival holdings have been placed on microfilm by the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick in Fredericton, New Brunswick. One copy of the microfilm is held by the Provincial Archives, the other by the Jewish Museum Archives.

### **COLLECTION UPDATE**

#### **Genealogy Records Section**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** The Genealogy records section of the Archives is devoted to the personal histories of community members, past and present, whether or not they still

reside in Saint John. Many prominent Canadians came from Saint John including: Diana Meltzer Abramsky, founder of the Thyroid Foundation, Senator Erminie J. Cohen, internationally known artist Herzl Kashetsky, Hollywood film producer Louis B. Mayer, and American businessman Nathan Cummings. The Freedman family of Saint John is well represented in the collection and remains a major contributor to this section of the archives.

**CONTENTS:** The first section consists of compiled family trees and family histories assembled either by family members or professional genealogists. These range in size from a single page to thick volumes. The Hart/Green/Isaacs, the Jacobson, and the Cummings/Mayer families are well represented.

The second section consists of personal information on community members either donated by the individuals, compiled by the research staff of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, or culled from local and regional newspapers.

The third section consists of oral and video taped interviews with past and present members of the community; many of those interviewed have now passed away. This section had its beginnings in late 1982 and it is notable for the great deal of information that is offered on the history of this community. All interviews have been transcribed.