YIZKOR BOOKS AS A GENEALOGICAL TOOL

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WHAT IS A YIZKOR BOOK

Yizkor Books are memorial books for Jewish communities written after the Second World War, published by Landsmanschaftn (organizations of Jewish immigrants from the same town) and individuals.

Over 1,000 written documenting a single town or region
What Does A Yizkor Book Contain

- Descriptions and histories of shtetl/kahila-broken into different eras
- Biographies of prominent people
- Institutions, town characters and first-hand accounts of the Shoah
- Necrologies (List of town and vicinity victims of the Shoah)
- Photos, maps, sheet music, memorabilia
- Population information for each town including a list of years and the general population and the Jewish population of the town.
- Brief history of town
- Information on the religious life in the town
History of Zakroczym

Zakroczym

(District: Warsaw; Province: Warsaw)

Translated by Morris Gradel

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total population</th>
<th>Jews</th>
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<tr>
<td>1826</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>239</td>
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<tr>
<td>1827</td>
<td>1,057</td>
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<td>1837</td>
<td>2,347</td>
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<td>1877</td>
<td>4,210</td>
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<td>1921</td>
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Zakroczym (Z) is mentioned in documents in the year 1065. Initially it was a village owned by the nobility. In 1387 it received special privileges from Vazos, Prince of Mazovia. It is not known when and from whom Z received full municipal status in accordance with the Magdeburg Law - presumably it gained this in 1492. In 1564 it contained 276 houses and several workshops. Z developed rapidly, and in that same century was one of the most important towns in Mazovia. In 1639 its municipal privileges were reconfirmed by King Sigismund III. Z suffered badly during the war with the Swedes in the 50s of the 17th century, and did not recover until the end of the 18th. It then came under Prussian rule (with the division of Poland in 1795), and thereafter was included in the Principality of Warsaw (1807) and then in the Kingdom of Congress Poland (1815). In the second half of the 19th century some industrial plants were established there, in particular a factory for forging iron and rolling copper. In 1915 Z was occupied by the Germans, and at the end of the war was returned to Polish sovereignty.

The Jews had always been permitted to settle in Z without restriction. As early as the 15th century there was a small Jewish community there, but only in the 18th century did the Jewish population actually increase. At that time there were about 100 Jewish families, most of them with their own houses. Many Jews had workshops in various trades (tailors, shoemakers, tinsmiths, etc.) Under Congress Poland the Jews were subjected to restrictions with regard to housing and employment. In 1827 a Jewish quarter was promulgated, but the transfer of Jews to this quarter was postponed from year to year. Until 1862, when the edict was
Map of Sochaczew
Photo From Lomza YB
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Most are written in Yiddish and/or Hebrew—although there are others in their original language: i.e. *Pinkas Hakehillot, Yavan* (Encyclopaedia of Jewish Communities in Greece) also: French, Spanish, German, Polish, and Russian
Translations are being done by the Yizkor Book Project of JewishGen
http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/translations.html

820 Yizkor Books on JewishGen.org
Adding new translations every month
### Names of Those Who Migrated from Galicia to Slovakia

Pinkas Hakehilot, Encyclopaedia of Jewish Communities

600 pages and covers over 260 communities

In process

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<th>secular</th>
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[http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/pinkas_slovakia/files/PinkasSlovakia_IndexOfNames_EnglishAlphabet.pdf](http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/pinkas_slovakia/files/PinkasSlovakia_IndexOfNames_EnglishAlphabet.pdf)
Locating Yizkor Books

Yad Vashem
Jewish Public Library –Montreal
US Library of Congress
NYC Public Library-Dorot Collection
YB can be seen/downloaded at NY Public Library:
http://yizkor.nypl.org/
Hebrew Union College LA
Simon Wiesenthal Center/Yeshiva University Library
UCLA Research Library
American Jewish University Los Angeles
http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/yizlibs.html
Purchasing Yizkor Books

Difficult to find as few originally printed—expensive if find them—seek out E-bay closing Jewish libraries
Digitized copies available from National Yiddish Book Center
http://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/node/252
38 titles available for purchase at:
http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/ybip.html

• In 3+ years:
  • Published 38 titles
  • Sold over 2300 books
• Have 6 more titles in the works
• Will publish any book when fully translated
BREST-LITOVSK - VOLUME II
Encyclopedia of the Jewish Diaspora
(Belarus)

Translation of
Brisk De-Lita:
Encyclopedia Shel Galuyot

Stawiski Memorial Book
(Poland)

Translation of Stawiski; sefer yizkor
Yizkor Book Master Name Index (YBMNI)
Index of all persons mentioned in the translated portions of the Yizkor Books appearing in translation project:
28,000 entries from 43 YB
http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Yizkor/Names/

Necrology Index:
Index of names of persons in necrology (those who perished in the Shoah)
http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/yizkor
345,907 entries from 412 necrologies