

REVISTA DE ISTORIE A EVREILOR DIN ROMÂNIA



Colegiul editorial

Lya BENJAMIN (Centrul pentru Studiul Istoriei Evreilor din România)
Radu IOANID (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)
Ștefan IONESCU (Elon University, North Carolina)
Andi MIHALACHE (Institutul de Istorie „A.D. Xenopol”, Iași)
Lucian NASTASĂ-KOVÁCS (Universitatea „Babeș-Bolyai”, Cluj)
Ion POPA (Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Manchester)
Liviu ROTMAN (Școala Națională de Studii Politice și Administrative)
Michael SHAFIR (Universitatea „Babeș-Bolyai”, Cluj)
Vladimir TISMĂNEANU (University of Maryland)
Aurel VAINER (Federația Comunităților Evreiești din România)
Felicia WALDMAN (Universitatea București)

Colegiul de redacție

Adrian CIOFLÂNCĂ, Natalia LAZĂR,
Anca TUDORANCEA (CIUCIU), George WEINER

Director

Adrian CIOFLÂNCĂ

Coperta: Lucian Amarii (Jup)

Coperta I: Biblioteca Comunității Evreiești din București. Secția copii, martie 1944
(Arhiva Centrului pentru Studiul Istoriei Evreilor din România)

Revistă culturală finanțată cu sprijinul Ministerului Culturii

**FEDERAȚIA COMUNITĂȚILOR EVREIEȘTI DIN ROMÂNIA
CENTRUL PENTRU STUDIUL ISTORIEI EVREILOR DIN ROMÂNIA**

Nr. 1 (16-17)

**REVISTA DE ISTORIE
A EVREILOR
DIN ROMÂNIA**

Editor:
Natalia LAZĂR

**EDITURA HASEFER
2016**

SUMAR

INTRODUCERE

Adrian CIOFLÂNCĂ, *Schiță pentru o istorie a Centrului pentru Studiul Istoriei Evreilor din România*

EMANCIPARE ȘI IDENTITĂȚI MULTIPLE

Lya BENJAMIN, *Problematica emancipării în scrierile unor conducători spirituali ai evreimii române în a doua jumătate a secolului al XIX-lea*

Ildiko GALERU, *Evreii din România între emancipare și integrare: soluții, dileme, incertitudini*

Attila GIDÓ, *Identitatea evreilor ardeleni în perioada interbelică*

Camelia CRĂCIUN, *Bucureștiul interbelic, centru emergent de cultură idiș*

Bogdan CIUREZU, *Zionism in the writings of the Romanian Jews authors in the Interwar. Case study – E. Dorian, M. Sebastian, U. Benador and I. Peltz*

Dana IONESCU, *„Dans le même bateau”. Périples mouvementés*

INSTITUȚII EVREIEȘTI ÎN SFERA PUBLICĂ

Liviu ROTMAN, *From „Kehillah” to Jewish Civil Society*

Anca TUDORANCEA (CIUCIU), *Școala Ciocanul. Prima școală evreiască de meserii din București*

Andreea TOMA, *Revista „Sfetnicul mamelor” – micromonografie*

Cristina TOMA, *Cahal Grande și slujitorii ei*

Lucian-Zeev HERSCOVICI, *Apologetics and the Search for Roots: The Jewish Past in Romania as Presented in „Revista Cultului Mozaic”, 1956-1976*

Florin STAN, *Cronologia relațiilor bilaterale România - Israel (1969)*

SPECTRELE ANTISEMITISMULUI

Liviu NEAGOE, *Chestiunea evreiască în cheie academică: emancipare și drept de proprietate*

Lucian NASTASĂ-KOVÁCS, *Preludii ale Holocaustului. Congreșele studențești antisemite din anii '20*

Gheorghe ONIȘORU, *Considerații privind politica antisemită a guvernului Goga-Cuza*

Ion POPA, *Reaction of Converted Jews and Their Families to Anti-Semitic Laws: Romania, 1940-1942*

HOLOCAUSTUL ȘI URMĂRILE SALE

- Vlad SOLOMON, *Marcel Iancu – mărturie despre Pogromul din București*
Adalbert ROSINGER, *Wapniarka – o republică totalitară în miniatură (1941-1944)*,
cu o introducere de Veronica ROZENBERG
Marius POPESCU, *Eva Heyman – destinul unui copil în timpul Holocaustului*
Adrian CIOFLÂNCĂ, *Erasing Memory. The Destruction of Old Jewish Cemeteries in
Bucharest and Iași during Ion Antonescu's Regime*
Emanuel BĂLAN, *Evreii din Tîrgu Neamț în timpul dictaturii Antonescu: septembrie
1940 - august 1944*
Natalya LAZAR, *Holocaust Survivors and Soviet Policies in Postwar Chernivtsi,
1944-1946*

PREZENȚA ORGANIZAȚIEI JOINT ÎN ROMÂNIA

- Natalia LAZĂR, *Joint Distribution Committee's Early Stages in Romania: 1916-1921*
Mikhail MITSEL, *Jewish Life in Eastern Europe Before the Holocaust through the
Eyes of the JDC Photographer Herbert J. Seligmann*
Zvi FEINE, *Joint Distribution Committee's Activities in Romania: Before and After
the Revolution*

RECENZII

- Ana Bărbulescu, Alexandru Florian (eds.), Alexandru Climescu, Laura Degeratu,
Munca Obligatorie a Evreilor din România. Documente, prefață de Paul A.
Shapiro, Editura Institutului Național pentru Studiarea Holocaustului din
România „Elie Wiesel”; Polirom, Iași, 2013 (*Liviu BERIS*)
Lucian Nastasă- Kovács (ed.), *Pogromul itinerant sau Decembrie antisemit. Oradea,
decembrie 1927*, cuvânt înainte de Alexandru Florian, Curtea Veche,
București, 2014 (*Liviu ROTMAN*)
Geoffrey Hartman, Aleida Assmann, *Viitorul amintirii și Holocaustul*, traducere de
Francisca Solomon, Editura Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, Iași, 2014
(*Gabriela BĂDESCU*)
Liviu Rotman, *The Romanian Kehillah. The Pulse, Character and History of the
Jewish Community in Romania*, traducere de George Weiner, The Goldstein-
Goren Diaspora Research Center, Tel Aviv University, 2015 (*Lya
BENJAMIN*)

Lista autorilor

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Adrian CIOFLÂNCĂ, *A Short History of the Centre for the Study of the History of the Jews in Romania*

EMANCIPATION AND MULTIPLE IDENTITIES

Lya BENJAMIN, *The Issue of Emancipation in the Writings of Spiritual Leaders of Romanian Jewry during the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century*

Ildiko GALERU, *Romanian Jews from Emancipation to Integration: Solutions, Dilemmas, Uncertainties*

Attila GIDÓ, *The Identity of Transylvanian Jews in the Interwar Period*

Camelia CRĂCIUN, *Interwar Bucharest, an Emerging Center of Yiddish Culture*

Bogdan CIUREZU, *Zionism in the Writings of the Romanian Jews Authors in the Interwar. Case Study – E. Dorian, M. Sebastian, U. Benador and I. Peltz*

Dana IONESCU, „*Dans le même bateau*”. *Périple mouvementés*

JEWISH INSTITUTIONS IN PUBLIC LIFE

Liviu ROTMAN, *From „Kehillah” to Jewish Civil Society*

Anca TUDORANCEA (CIUCIU), *The Ciocanul [Hammer] School. The First Jewish Vocational School in Bucharest*

Andreea TOMA, „*Sfetnicul mamelor*” *Magazine – a Micro-monograph*

Cristina TOMA, *The Cahal Grande Temple and her Servants*

Lucian-Zeev HERSCOVICI, *Apologetics and the Search for Roots: The Jewish Past in Romania as Presented in „Revista Cultului Mozaic”, 1956-1976*

Florin STAN, *Timeline of Bilateral Relations Romania - Israel (1969)*

SPECTRA OF ANTI-SEMITISM

Liviu NEAGOE, *The Jewish Question from an Academic Perspective: Emancipation and Ownership*

Lucian NASTASĂ-KOVÁCS, *Previews of the Holocaust. Student Anti-Semitic Congresses in the '20s*

Gheorghe ONIȘORU, *Considerations on the Anti-Semitic Policy of the Goga-Cuza Government*

Ion POPA, *Reaction of Converted Jews and Their Families to Anti-Semitic Laws: Romania, 1940-1942*

THE HOLOCAUST AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

- Vlad SOLOMON, *Marcel Iancu's Testimony on the Pogrom in Bucharest, 1941*
Adalbert ROSINGER, *Wapniarka – A Miniature Totalitarian Republic (1941-1944)*,
forward by Veronica ROZENBERG
Marius POPESCU, *Eva Heyman – A Child's Fate during the Holocaust*
Adrian CIOFLÂNCĂ, *Erasing Memory. The Destruction of Old Jewish Cemeteries in
Bucharest and Iași during Ion Antonescu's Regime*
Emanuel BĂLAN, *The Jews of Tîrgu Neamț during Antonescu's Dictatorship –
September 1940 - August 1944*
Natalya LAZAR, *Holocaust Survivors and Soviet Policies in Postwar Chernivtsi,
1944-1946*

THE PRESENCE OF THE JOINT ORGANIZATION IN ROMANIA

- Natalia LAZĂR, *Joint Distribution Committee's Early Stages in Romania: 1916-1921*
Mikhail MITSEL, *Jewish Life in Eastern Europe Before the Holocaust through the
Eyes of the JDC Photographer Herbert J. Seligmann*
Zvi FEINE, *Joint Distribution Committee's Activities in Romania: Before and After
the Revolution*

REVIEWS

- Ana Bărbulescu, Alexandru Florian (eds.), Alexandru Climescu, Laura Degeratu,
Forced Labor of Jews in Romania (1940-1944). Documents, foreword by Paul
A. Shapiro, The Publishing House of the "Elie Wiesel" National Institute for
the Study of the Holocaust in Romania; Polirom, Iași, 2013 (*Liviu BERIS*)
Lucian Nastasă-Kovács (ed.), *The Traveling Pogrom or an Anti-Semitic December.
Oradea, December 1927*, foreword by Alexandru Florian, Curtea Veche,
Bucharest 2014 (*Liviu ROTMAN*)
Geoffrey Hartman, Aleida Assmann, *The Future of Remembrance and the Holocaust*,
translated by Francisca Solomon, The Publishing House of the "Alexandru
Ioan Cuza" University, Iași, 2014 (*Gabriela BĂDESCU*)
Liviu Rotman, *The Romanian Kehillah. The Pulse, Character and History of the
Jewish Community in Romania*, translated by George Weiner, The Goldstein-
Goren Diaspora Research Center, Tel Aviv University, 2015 (*Lya
BENJAMIN*)

Contributors List

EMANCIPARE ȘI IDENTITĂȚI MULTIPLE

Problematica emancipării în scrierile unor conducători spirituali ai evreimii române

Lya BENJAMIN

Keywords: Civil and political emancipation, self-emancipation, Israel, citizenship, equal rights, libel, allegations.

Abstract

The struggle for emancipation and self-emancipation was a key concern for Jewish spiritual leaders in Romania. Special texts had been written to counter the allegations against Jews by the opponents of their emancipation, and they also provided arguments to prove the connection between their emancipation and the overall progress of society.

Evreii din România între emancipare și integrare

Ildiko GALERU

Keywords: Jews, emancipation, Jewish question, anti-Semitism, legislation.

Abstract

This study tries to provide a description of the legal situation of the Jews in Romania from the social point of view, more specifically, of the various frictions between the legitimate aspirations of the Jews and the limited capability of the Romanian state to fully meet them. The Jewish emancipation – a term coined to designate their access to citizenship – is based on gradually, sometimes very slowly changing trends of ideas that became socio-political realities. Jewish emancipation began in France with the Revolution of 1789. It extended to England and then throughout Europe: Norway in 1851, Sweden - 1865, Denmark - 1848, Netherlands - 1796, etc. In Romania, the large number of Jews, their important role in the development of the economy, their cohabitation in the context of the Romanian society and their struggle for emancipation, for more than half a century, shaped the dimensions of a “Jewish question” with unique social and political implications.

Controverse privitoare la noul viitor național al evreimii transilvănene din anii 1920

Attila GIDÓ

Keywords: Transylvania, Zionism, Assimilation, Hungarian-Jewish identity, Jewish press.

Abstract

The core of my work refers to the controversy surrounding the “path of the Jews”, as it appeared in the pages of Hungarian and Jewish publications in Transylvania, in 1927. It was in 1924, after the general assembly of the Hungarian National Party in Romania (Országos Magyar Párt) in Brașov, that the People’s Literary Society (Népies Irodalmi Társaság) in Budapest, in charge of managing the tacit funding of the institutions of the Hungarian minority in Transylvania, pointed out to the Hungarian Prime Minister, István Bethlen, that Transylvanian Jewry would separate from ethnic Hungarians in a not so distant future. Based on the speeches and disputes within the General Assembly and taking into account the events which took place in Romania/Transylvania after 1918, the Népies Irodalmi Társaság anticipated these alternatives: the Transylvanian Jewry would either be assimilated by the Romanians, or they would become a minority of their own. Three years later, in 1927, these issues were once again put into the spotlight, having been discussed in the circles of Transylvanian Jews. The dispute was triggered by an article written by a Jewish Hungarian lawyer living in Timișoara and published in the *Temesvarer Zeitung* German-language newspaper. He concluded that the Transylvanian Hungarian Jewry would gradually separate from the Hungarian minority, only to be assimilated by the Romanians. In the following pages, I will describe the main elements of the controversy, as it appeared in 1927, and I will also try to provide an interpretation of the formation/transformation of the system of relations between Hungarians and Jews after 1918.

Bucureștiul interbelic, centru emergent de cultură idiș

Camelia CRĂCIUN

Keywords: București, Yiddish theatre, *Di Vilner Trupe*, BITS (*Bukarester Idișe Teater Studie*), Iacob Șternberg.

Abstract

The emergence of a new Yiddish cultural center in Bucharest, the Capital of Greater Romania, far away from traditional Yiddish centers such as Cernăuți or Chișinău and even the Moldavian capital, Iași, came as an unexpected development in socio-cultural terms, but it nevertheless represented a significant element for Yiddish

culture in Romania. Attracted by the capital of the newly unified state and a city with a significant Jewish population, many Yiddish-language intellectuals from the newly attached provinces, especially some of the most significant writers, move here shortly before, but especially after the end of World War I. They were at the center of Yiddish theatre, literary life and press during the interwar period while older centers such as Iași, Cernăuți, Chișinău started to fade away, slowly becoming part of the new periphery after being centers of Yiddish culture on the map of the Eastern European *Yiddishland* for centuries. The current article aims to explain how this development took place and which were the determining factors.

Zionism in the writings of the Romanian Jews authors in the Interwar – E. Dorian, M. Sebastian, U. Benador and I. Peltz

Bogdan CIUREZU

Keywords: literature, Romania, Interwar, Zionism, Jabotinski.

Abstract

The Interwar was in Romania, as it was in most of Europe, a period of relative peace followed by a deterioration of the situation. Romania was one of the last countries to emancipate its approximately 700.000 Jews in 1923 and from this point onwards the legislation became increasingly oppressive and anti-Semitic. In these conditions, it's important to know in what measure Zionism represented a solution for the Romanian Jews. The literature reflects most times not only what a specific group believes about an idea, but also the group itself. Because of this, my study focuses on some of the important Romanian Jews authors like Ury Benador, Isaac Peltz, and Mihail Sebastian. For a more accurate perspective of the reality, the case study will include the diaries of Mihail Sebastian and Emil Dorian. It is important to mention from the beginning that Zionism was not a very important subject in the writings of the mentioned authors, but rather a theme that appeared sporadically and episodically. One of the two main points of the research is whether Zionism became a more popular and viable idea as the Romanian legislation toughened up or did it remain the same taking into consideration the late foundation of the State of Israel in 1948 and the British Mandate of Palestine policy which was against the immigration, not to mention that the land itself was a hostile environment. The other main point of the research is to analyze the arguments of the named authors regarding the creation of a State of Israel, the possible emigration to this newly founded state and if they themselves were supporters of this emigration. Secondary, the research focuses on the Jewish society in Romania as it was seen by the selected authors, taking into consideration that the literature can be a mirror of this society and of the society's views on the issue; the research is not limited to the Jewish society in Romania, but also the Romanian society as a whole, also as it is seen by the selected authors.

„Dans le même bateau”. Périples mouvementés

Dana IONESCU

Keywords: Jewish emigration, Jewish immigration, anti-Semitism, Second World War, Canada, Montreal.

Abstract

The topic of Jewish emigration from Romania in the before the Second World War and also during said war has not been discussed exhaustively so far. The Jewish emigration from Romania and the immigration into Canada between 1947-1965 has been under discussion to an even lesser extent. The few Canadian studies that approached the Jewish immigration to Canada in the post-war years completely failed to mention the Romanian groups. This study aims to outline in general terms the anti-Semitic context for the exodus of Jewish people in the 1937-1944 period, as well as the Canadian context (implicitly, the one in Montreal) in which, after a short stay in Palestine, the Jewish emigrants of Romanian origin chose to live.

INSTITUȚII EVREIEȘTI ÎN SFERA PUBLICĂ

From “Kehillah” to Jewish Civil Society

Liviu ROTMAN

Keywords: community, civil society, *Gabela*, nation-state.

Abstract

This work is detailing the last period of the traditional Jewish community in the Romanian space. It was during the 19th century, more precisely since the middle 30s, that this fundamental structure of Jewish life was subjected to a slow, but definite process of erosion. The causes of this process rest both in the Jewish world (the effects of the change incurred to the Jewish outlook, as they now supported “an exit from the ghetto”), under the influence of the Jewish Enlightenment (the *Haskallah*), as well as of external factors, such as the development of the national state which did not support intermediate collective structures. Given this situation, the Jewish society adopted modern social structures, with different types of organizations. There was an “organizational explosion” that later shaped the Jewish civil society.

Școala Ciocanul.

Prima școală evreiască de meserii din București

Anca TUDORANCEA (CIUCIU)

Keywords: Școala „Ciocanul”, Adolf Salomon, JCA (Jews Collonization Association), Joint (American Joint Distribution Committee), Hilfsverein der Deutschen Juden, AIU (Alianța Israelită Universală).

Abstract

This study is aimed at providing new pieces of information regarding the activity of the school, from the archive of the Center for the Study of Jewish History in Romania or from the Jewish press of the time, as well as at highlighting the role of the school, due to the modern teaching methods applied there and their impact upon students (whose professional integration can be traced in various reports, where their names and the names of the employers, from within the country or from abroad, are mentioned).

Revista *Sfetnicul mamelor* – micromonografie

Andreea TOMA

Keywords: Jewish publication, education, Mina Cusiner, feminism.

Abstract

This study briefly presents an entirely unknown publication, initiated and coordinated in the interwar period by one of the leading figures of Jewish education, Mina Cusiner. She was the principal of the Instrucțiunea Goldfarb School for Girls in Bucharest. *Sfetnicul Mamelor*, a publication that was never referred to in any study on the Jewish press or on the press published in Romania, was an outstanding endeavor, as this magazine wanted to be a “school for mothers”. Educators were called to provide the necessary information for the development of a new generation of responsible parents, involved in their children’s lives. The topics approached by the magazine are varied, as the authors tried to write about education from several perspectives. This allows us to discover some of the issues most debated about in the covered period.

Cahal Grande și slujitorii ei

Cristina TOMA

Keywords: Sephardi, Bucharest, Cahal Grande, Rabbi Sabetay Djaen, Cantor Alberto della Pergola.

Abstract

After a general introduction about the Sephardi Jews of Bucharest, the study presents the Cahal Grande synagogue. Before having been destroyed by the Romanian far-right Legionary Movement, it was famous for its beauty. This study also focuses on the destiny of two of its faithful servants: Rabbi Sabetay Djaen and Cantor Alberto della Pergola. Neither of them was born in Bucharest, but they had grown strong roots there, as they were noted for their communal work and for their intellectual activity in Romania.

Apologetics and the Search for Roots: The Jewish Past in Romania as Presented in *Revista Cultului Mozaic*, 1956-1976

Lucian-Zeev HERSCOVICI

Keywords: *Revista Cultului Mozaic*; Apologetics; Jewish roots; Jewish education; Rabbinate; Communism; Judaism; Holocaust presentation.

Abstract

The aim of our paper is to examine how the Jewish past in Romania was presented during two decades of the Communist period, 1956-1976, in *Revista Cultului Mozaic*, the official publication of the Jewish Communities Federation and of the Chief Rabbinate of the country. What was the level of the presentation of the Jewish past? In what forms were the articles written? Was this presentation a way to help the Jews of Romania search for their roots, or was it a form of apologetics? Who were the persons and institutions interested in that presentation of the Jewish past in Romania, and why? Who were the authors of the articles? Did that presentation influence Jewish life in Romania? To answer these questions, we reviewed the collection of *Revista Cultului Mozaic* of 1956-1976.

Cronologia relațiilor bilaterale România - Israel (1969)

Florin STAN

Keywords: embassy, diplomacy, emigration, Middle East.

Abstract

The Chronology of Bilateral Relations Romania-Israel (1969) displays the most important Romanian-Israeli contacts in terms of diplomacy, culture and economy, in 1969. It is noteworthy to mention that, two years after the Romanian authorities refused to cut diplomatic ties with the State of Israel – at a time when other member states of the Warsaw Pact did break their ties with Tel-Aviv, following the “Six Day War” – Romania and Israel decided to raise the diplomatic representation of the Jewish State to the rank of Embassy, on 17 August 1969. Perhaps it is not a coincidence that, in 1969, the Tel-Aviv University had the initiative of introducing a class of Romanian history, the first of its kind in Israel.

SPECTRELE ANTISEMITISMULUI

Chestiunea evreiască în cheie academică: emancipare și drept de proprietate

Liviu NEAGOE

Keywords: anti-Semitism, Jewish studies, intellectual history, naturalization, citizenship.

Abstract

This paper investigates the relationship between the emancipation of Jews and the right of property from the perspective of some important studies and licence thesis dedicated to the juridical consequences of the modification of the article 7 from the Constitution from 1866. The importance of those studies and licence thesis is underlined by the academic level of which exceed the political antisemitic discourse of the period. Writing about the status of the foreigners or the right of rural property the authors of the studies and licence thesis link the acquisition of the citizenship by the right of rural property. This specific right was considered by the Romanian legislators as a political right and a part of nationality as well. According to the modification of the article 7 from the Constitution Jews could achieve Romanian citizenship only in a individual manner. In this respect, Jews were developed an ambivalent attitude related to emancipation: part of them were willing to assimilate with Romanian nation and other part were devoted to the sionist ideals. Finally, a question remains: how could Jews proceed to assimilation and preserve in the same time their own identity?

Preludii ale Holocaustului. Congresele studențești antisemite din anii '20

Lucian NASTASĂ- KOVÁCS

Keywords: anti-Semitism, pogrom, student congresses, petty politics, anti-Communism.

Abstract

The study refers to political forms of gathering of young nationalists in 1920's Romania, reviewing a number of student organizations and congresses that best describe the atmosphere of the first decade after the Great War. Emphasis is placed upon the activity of radical nationalist groups that preached anti-Semitism,

xenophobia, anti-communism and forceful actions. It was from these groups that the Legion of the Archangel Michael, led by Corneliu Codreanu, spun off, in 1927. Nationalist groups grew in the postwar atmosphere – a crisis of identity, a political, social, economic crisis, etc. – in which a radical reconfiguration of the political commitment and a change of generations seemed to be a must. The discourse in favor of national regeneration, of the “new generation”, imagined a series of enemies, among whom Jews occupied a central position. The study focuses on the pogrom in Oradea, in 1927, when thousands of young people came to this town with the support of the authorities in order to take part in a large nationalist rally. They devastated Jewish neighborhoods, vandalizing synagogues, private homes and shops. This act of violence was also the result of the ambivalent attitude of the central and local authorities: they apparently sought to discourage the crimes of the youngsters through the efforts of the police, but, in fact, they tolerated and actually encouraged the violence against the Jews.

Considerații privind politica antisemită a guvernului Goga-Cuza

Gheorghe ONIȘORU

Keywords: anti-Semitism, dictatorship, freedom of press, Goga-Cuza, citizenship.

Abstract

The period of dictatorial regimes from the 20th century in Romania was prefaced by Goga-Cuza Government. Although he has been at the forefront of the country no more than two months, lacking popularity and brought to power only as a result of the actions of King Charles II, that Government was illustrated by a virulent antisemitic policy. From the first days were taking measures against newspapers considered “Jewish”, like *Adevărul*, *Dimineața* and *Lupta*, which were banned, but also against journalists. The culmination of this policy was the attempt to revise the law of citizenship for Jews who were Romanian citizens after 1918. Under pressure from international circles, King Carol II dismissed the Government and replaced it in accordance with its plans with a personal regime. Goga-Cuza Government can be considered as a preface to the tragic periode of Holocaust that followed in the years of World War II.

Reaction of Converted Jews and Their Families to Anti-Semitic Laws: Romania, 1940-1942

Ion POPA

Keywords: Converted Jews, Christian relatives, the Holocaust, anti-Semitic Laws, Catholic Church, Romanian Orthodox Patriarchate, Jewish community.

Abstract

This article, which is based on files found at the Centre for the Study of the History of Romanian Jews (*Centrul pentru Studiul Istoriei Evreilor din România – CSIER*), explores reactions of Jews converted to Christianity and their families to anti-Semitic laws issued after 8 August 1940. The 1942 census revealed that 4,631 out of 272,573 Romanian Jews living in Romania after the changing of borders, killings of 1941, and deportations to Transnistria were converts. This represented 1.7% of the Jewish population. Faced with increasing persecution and threat of deportations, many of these people appealed to various Romanian institutions and authorities such as Marshal Ion Antonescu, the Ministry of Justice, or the Romanian Orthodox Patriarchate. The large majority of these appeals were civilised, and maintained a balanced tone. Others, fewer in numbers, used this occasion to talk badly about their former community and religion, hoping that such gestures would gain the favor of the earthly and temporary leaders of the country. The main scope of this article is to bring forward this unexplored primary source comprising of letters, appeals, and pleadings. In order to widen and understand the context, it offers also brief details about the attitude of the Romanian Orthodox Church, the Catholic Church and the Jewish community towards converted Jews.

HOLOCAUSTUL ȘI URMĂRILE SALE

Marcel Iancu – mărturie despre Pogromul din București

Vlad SOLOMON

Keywords: Marcel Iancu, the Pogrom in Bucharest, Palestine, the Legionary movement.

Abstract

The study is based on Marcel Iancu's manuscript containing his testimony after the pogrom in Bucharest. The artist wrote about the horrors he witnessed during the tragic event. Excerpts of the manuscript were inserted in the catalogue of the *On the Edge* exhibition, in 1990, developed by the Janco-Dada Museum in Ein Hod. Nevertheless, the document was never displayed in its entirety. The text is circulated in the context of a growing trend for the rehabilitation of the far-right Iron Guard movement, in the Romanian press.

Wapniarka – o republică totalitară în miniatură (1941-1944)

Adalbert ROSINGER

Keywords: Holocaust, anti-Semitism, anti-Fascism, communism, Târgu Jiu, Wapniarka.

Abstract

This text includes Adalbert Rosinger's testimony. He was an anti-fascist militant who was interned in the camps of Targu Jiu and Wapniarka during World War II. In this detailed and analytic autobiographical note, Rosinger provides valuable information about living conditions in the two camps where many anti-fascist activists and communist illegals were detained. The main idea of Rosinger's analysis is that the way in which the "Collective" operated – the informal leadership body established in the two camps by an "elite" of activists, an oligarchy that enjoyed various privileges that made the difference between life and death when in detention – foreshadowed the dictatorial deviation and corruption of the communist regime. Rosinger evokes a series of important characters of the early communist movement

and draws portraits that help better understand those times. The foreword of the testimony is written by Veronica Rozenberg, Adalbert Rosinger's daughter, who explains the circumstances in which it was written and provides details about her father's destiny during the Communist era, when he was sentenced in one of the show trials staged by the regime against officials who worked in foreign trade.

Eva Heyman – destinul unui copil în timpul Holocaustului

Marius POPESCU

Keywords: Eva Heyman, Holocaust, ghetto, Oradea, Auschwitz.

Abstract

This study evokes a dark chapter of recent history. Eva Heyman's diary provides an insight into the tragedy of the Jewish population of Northern Transylvania during the Holocaust, step by step, from exclusion, to persecution, humiliation and murder. Her diary offers a personal view, well as a lucid account of events. The emotions and feelings of a 13 year-old child mirrored anti-Semitic measures, such as the ghettoization and deportation that the Jews of Northern Transylvania were subjected to. Eva Heyman's tragic destiny, whose life was cut short at Auschwitz, should be known beyond the narrow circle of specialists, as her diary is a vivid chronicle of the horrors of the Holocaust.

Erasing Memory. The Destruction of Old Jewish Cemeteries in Bucharest and Iași during Ion Antonescu's Regime

Adrian CIOFLÂNCĂ

Keywords: Holocaust, Jewish cemetery, memory, Ion Antonescu's regime.

Abstract

This study explores one of the facets of the Holocaust in Romania which was meant as a follow-up to the physical extermination of the Jews: the destruction of the Jewish communal heritage. In 1942-1944, the regime of Ion Antonescu planned the obliteration of two of the oldest Jewish cemeteries in Romania, the Sevastopol Street cemetery of Bucharest and the Ciurchi cemetery of Iași. In both cases, there is documentary evidence that the order for decommissioning the cemeteries was issued

by the head of state. The regime made it look as if this brutal measure had the appearance of legality, forcing Jewish communities in Bucharest and in Iași to give their formal consent. The decommissioning of the cemeteries entailed the destruction of gravestones that testified to the old age of Jewish communities in the Romanian territory. These were an important source for studying the early history of the Jews in Romania. Community leaders organized themselves in order to limit the scale of the disaster and to comply with religious tenets during the transport and reburial of the human remains.

Evreii din Tîrgu Neamț în timpul dictaturii Antonescu, septembrie 1940-august 1944

Emanuel BĂLAN

Keywords: anti-Semitism, labor battalion, deportations, Transnistria, refugees in Buhuși.

Abstract

The first measures being taken against the Jews were those from November 1940, when terror broke out across the entire district, numerous Jews were ill-treated by Legionaries, and numerous goods were confiscated. For a short period, from the autumn of 1941 until the spring of 1942, the Jews wore the yellow star. During WWII, many Jews from Tîrgu Neamț worked in labour detachments and some were deported in Transnistria. The majority of synagogues were seized by the army or by the Jews from Cernăuți and Dorohoi who were working in the labour detachments. In April 1944, the entire community was evacuated and moved to Buhuși, where it continued the work in the labour detachments and returned only in October 1944.

Holocaust Survivors and Soviet Policies in Postwar Chernivtsi, 1944-1946

Natalya LAZAR

Keywords: Holocaust, survivors, Transnistria, Jewish returnees, postwar Chernivtsi.

Abstract

This article examines experiences of Jewish survivors in a Soviet borderland city. After liberation by the Red Army, the city of Chernivtsi (also known as Czernowitz and Cernăuți) became the return destination for many Jewish survivors deported to Transnistrian camps and ghettos. Furthermore, due to the efforts of local

mayor Traian Popovici, thousands of Czernowitz Jews were exempted from deportations. This study scrutinizes experiences of survivors after liberation, their encounter with the Soviet policies, and attempts to revive Jewish life in the rapidly Sovietized city.

PREZENȚA ORGANIZAȚIEI JOINT ÎN ROMÂNIA

Joint Distribution Committee's Early Stages in Romania: 1916-1921

Natalia LAZĂR

Keywords: JDC (Joint Distribution Committee), Romania, emergency relief, funds, reconstruction.

Abstract

This study, based on new documents, will present and clarify some less known aspects of the support offered by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Romania during their first years, concentrated around their two main directions – emergency relief and constructive work. The history of the JDC has been divided into several phases, which are reflected by the JDC New York Archives – it comprises of several collections of documents for the respective periods, organized chronologically. While this article also refers to documents in the *Collection: 1914-1918* (World War I aid) regarding the JDC activity in Romania, the main emphasis is on the *Collection: 1919-1921* (Post-War Emergency). This was the period of the establishment of JDC's overseas organization, when several units of relief workers were sent abroad. The study goes up to 1921, when JDC decides to end the aid relief in Europe sets the date for the liquidation of emergency programs on 1 July 1921. Afterwards JDC's focus shifted on activities and programs of rehabilitation and reconstruction. The operational system was reorganized around five functional departments which targeted different areas of need: medico-sanitary improvements, childcare, economic reconstruction, refugee care, and cultural and religious institutions.

Jewish Life in Eastern Europe Before the Holocaust Through the Eyes of the JDC Photographer Herbert J. Seligmann

Mikhail MITSEL

Keywords: JDC, photography, Romania, Jews, poverty.

Abstract

This article deals with photographic legacy of Herbert Seligmann (1891-1984). Between 1936-1938 the photographer worked as the Publicity Director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and he had an opportunity to observe

Jewish life in the countries of Eastern Europe where JDC functioned at that time. Following his papers dispersed in JDC Archives and in the Manuscript Division of the New York Public Library we were able to reconstruct his journey through Eastern Europe. JDC Archives is proud to present today, after 80 years from the date of the first publication, Seligmann's images taken in Romania, mostly unknown for general public.

Joint Distribution Committee's Activities in Romania: Before and After the Revolution

Zvi FEINE

Keywords: JDC, welfare, Jewish education, leadership, Romania.

Abstract

Zvi Feine served as JDC Country Director for Romania, between 1988-2006, continuing the historic partnership between JDC and FEDROM during the era of Communism and transition. JDC worked closely with the leadership of the Romanian Jewish community to successfully transition the Communist period, and helped instill a sense of security for the Romanian Jewish community through targeted activities.

Major transitions took place with the social welfare and medical programs – modernizing them, introducing new programs, and meeting new needs, not only for the elderly but also for children requiring help.

JDC partnered with FEDROM in developing significant informal Jewish education programs, primarily for youth and middle-generation members of the Jewish community, by introducing volunteers from abroad and specialist consultants, helping develop Jewish content for programs, establishing youth clubs, JCCs and innovative programs. Other programs targeted community building and leadership development, which provided the Jewish community with better training for current and new leadership for all programs of the Romanian Jewish community. Other programs focused on developing strategic planning and fundraising efforts, by and for the Jewish community. All these programs positioned the Romanian Jewish community to successfully face the changing realities of a democratic Romania.