

Janice Rosen

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

Scholars interested in the Jewish experience in Canada are probably familiar with the riches of Archives in Canada. Few of the articles appearing in *Canadian Jewish Studies/Etudes juives canadiennes* could have been written without a visit to at least one institution housing archival records.

Material about Jews in Canada can be found in archives across this country. "Jewish Archival Holdings" will be an ongoing section of *CJS/EJC*, providing descriptions of archival resources of interest to readers of this journal. In this first instalment, I survey the seven largest collections of Canadian Jewish archives in the country. In the future, I will profile other collections, as well as provide information on recent acquisitions. If you would like to see a particular collection discussed in an upcoming issue, please contact Janice Rosen, at the Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives, 1590 ave Dr. Penfield, Montreal, Que. H3G 1C5, (514)931-7531.

Les lecteurs de ce journal, les chercheurs intéressés aux études sur l'histoire juive-canadienne, ne sont très probablement pas étrangers au domaine des archives du Canada. Rares sont les articles apparaissant dans ce journal, qui ont été rédigés sans avoir été précédés d'une visite auprès d'une institution abritant des dossiers archiviques.

Il est possible de retrouver de la documentation concernant les Juifs

du Canada, dans les archives à travers le pays. "Les possessions archivistiques juives au Canada" constitue le premier d'une série d'articles concernant la location de ressources archivistiques, lesquels paraîtront au bénéfice des lecteurs du *CJS/EJC*. Ce premier article fait état des sept plus grosses collections d'archives juives-canadiennes au pays. Lors de notre prochaine parution, nous tracerons le profil de d'autres collections et ferons état de récentes acquisitions. Si vous désirez qu'une collection particulière soit discutée dans nos prochaines parutions, n'hésitez pas à contacter Janice Rosen aux Archives nationales du Congrès juif canadien, 1590 Dr. Penfield, Montréal, Qué. H3G 1C5, (514)931-7531.

Des informations en français concernant des collections répertoriées, sont également disponibles en appelant au numéro ci-haut mentionné.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA

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SUMMARY OF HOLDINGS: The National Archives acquires, preserves and makes available to researchers, public and private records of national significance. Within the National Archives, the Manuscript Division preserves historical papers of prominent individuals and corporate bodies of Canada's Jewish community. Researchers are advised to consult our publication *Archival Sources for the Study of Canadian Jewry*, 1987 for a comprehensive discussion of our programme and holdings. The guide is available free of charge by writing to the National Archives.

NUMBER OF JEWISH COLLECTIONS: 160.

SIZE OF COLLECTION: 400 linear metres.

MAJOR COLLECTIONS:

1) **B'nai Brith Canada** 1925-1984 - 19 metres. MG 28, V133.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: B'nai Brith Canada, Canadian Jewry's senior organization with a membership of 20,000 families, works for many sectors of Canadian society. The League for Human Rights (LHR) of B'nai Brith combats racism and bigotry through education and maintains a high profile in the area of multicultural dialogue. The LHR publishes the *Annual Review of Anti-Semitism in Canada*. B'nai Brith sponsors the B'nai Brith Youth Organization, University Hillel Foundations and co-sponsors the Canada-Israel Committee. It also maintains the Soviet Jewry and Foreign Affairs Committees.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Minute books of the Canadian Conference, Independent Order of B'nai Brith, 1925-1960; national office files of B'nai Brith Canada and the LHR, 1964-1983; records of several lodges in Winnipeg, Hamilton, Montreal and Toronto, 1938-1984. There is a finding aid. Access is restricted.

2) **Hadassah Wizo of Canada** 1912-1975 - 11.30 metres. MG 28, V74.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Established in 1917, it is this country's leading organization of Jewish women. Its 16,000 members are organized in 304 chapters in 52 cities and towns. The organization has as its aims and aspirations: to support needy individuals in Hadassah-WIZO institutions in Israel; to strengthen and foster Jewish ideals and to encourage Jewish and Hebrew culture in Canada; to extend material and moral support of the Jewish women of Canada to the people of Israel requiring such assistance; to cooperate with other organizations in the promotion of Canadian ideals of democracy.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Conventions, 1924-1970, 2 m; minutes 1925-1970, 85 cm; national officers administrative records, 1924-1972, 3 m; organizations, 1922-1972, 95 cm; projects and activities in Canada, 1912-1972, 1.35 m; projects and activities in Israel, 1939-1973, 2.05 m; publications and scrapbooks, 60 cm; Hadassah-WIZO, Vancouver records, 1925-1969, 10 cm; additional records, 20 cm. There is a finding aid. Access is restricted.

3) **Jewish National Fund of Canada** 1941-1981 - 5.55 centimetres. MG 28, V57.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The JNF, whose objective is land redemption and reclamation in the State of Israel, was established in 1906 and began its Canadian activities in the same year. The JNF received its budget from annual campaigns organized by the Zionist Organization of Canada (ZOC). It also derived a great deal of income from box collections. In 1962 the JNF separated from the ZOC and regional offices were established in major Canadian cities, with headquarters in Montreal, Quebec. Major projects undertaken by the JNF are the creation of Canada Forest at Ein Kerem near Jerusalem, Canada Park situated between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and funding for the town of Ilot in the Negev.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Minute books, 1941-1961, 15 cm; directors' records, 1959-1973, 35 cm; shlichim (emissaries) records, 1962-1972, 49 cm; subject files, 1954-1975, 3.42 m; printed matter, 1963-1976, 31 cm; souvenir programs of Negev Dinners which contain biographies of honourees, 1949-1975, originals, 1956-1984, 77 cm; JNF Golden Book of Inscriptions, 1923-1948, 5 cm, originals, 1941-1981, 55.55 cm; microfilm, 1949-1975, 6 reels. There is a finding aid. Access is restricted.

4) **Canadian Zionist Federation** 1950, 1964-1980 - 11.4 metres. MG 28, V 64.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Established in 1967, the aim of the CZF is to promote the Zionist ideal in Canada and to assist in the strengthening of the State of Israel. The CZF seeks to enrich Canadian Jewish life through Jewish education, Israel and Zionist information, promotion of Aliyah, and activities among Canadian Jewish youth. The CZF is a mixed territorial body composed of sixteen constituent organizations operating in six regions and encompasses a membership of 71,500 Zionists in Canada. The CZF is the official representative of the World Zionist Organization in Canada.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Records of national and regional conventions; files of the national executive director and executive vice-president, 1967-1980; subject files; financial records; records of the Youth and Hechalutz Department; Public Relations Department;

1976 membership campaign files; Israel Philharmonic Concert September 1978 files and other national office files. There is a finding aid. Access is restricted.

5) **Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut** 1939-1986 - 43.85 metres. MG 31, F 6.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut was born in Munster, Germany in 1912. He received his LL.B. in 1933 and a Doctorate in International Law in 1934, but was prevented from practising law by Nazi racial laws. In 1935 he received a scholarship from the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati and was ordained a Rabbi in 1939. He served as Rabbi in Chicago, 1939-1948, as Chaplain, 104th Infantry Division, United States Army in Europe during W.W. II and as Rabbi in St. Paul, Minnesota, 1948-1961. In that year he was called to Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto. He retired as Senior Rabbi in 1977 and became Senior Scholar in 1978. In 1975 he was the Toronto Negev Dinner honouree and was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1978. Rabbi Plaut served as national president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, 1977-1980 and occupied leadership positions in the World Federalists of Canada, The Canada-Israel Committee, the Ontario Human Rights Commission and others. He writes a column in the *Canadian Jewish News* and the *Globe and Mail*. He has written 12 books including *The Torah: A Modern Commentary*, 1981.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Pre-War papers, 1939-1940, 40 cm; U.S. Army chaplaincy records, Washington Blvd., Temple, Chicago 1939-1948, 35 cm; Mount Zion Temple, Saint Paul, Minnesota papers, 1948-1961, 80 cm; Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto, papers including personal papers, 20 cm.; Central Conference of American Rabbis records, 1954-1983, 1.4 m; Canadian Jewish Congress papers including his papers as President, 1962-1982, 4.6 m; additional records including his papers as special advisor to the government on determination in Canada and as president of the CCAR, 1980-1986, 6.7 m. (abridged from *Archival Sources for the Study of Canadian Jewry*). There is a finding aid 1019. Access is restricted.

**CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS NATIONAL
ARCHIVES**

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Friday in winter).

SUMMARY OF HOLDINGS: The general mandate of the Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives is to collect and preserve documentation of the Jewish presence in Quebec and Canada. All aspects of the concerns of the Jewish community are reflected in the collection: immigration, integration into Canadian society, community organization, discrimination, Zionism, oppressed Jewry in other countries, education, literature, etc. The majority of the collection is catalogued on an automated system. The National Archives of the Canadian Jewish Congress was accorded the status of "Service agréé d'archives privées" by the Archives nationales du Québec on January 1, 1992.

The document collections fall into three main categories: Canadian Jewish Congress records; other Canadian Jewish institutions and organizations, including philanthropic, social service, Zionist, religious, and cultural organizations; and the collections of individual members of the community, including Jewish community leaders, politicians, Holocaust survivors, artists and writers, and family papers. Collections in non-paper media include approximately 15,000 photographs, over 1700 cassette, videotape and reel-to-reel recordings, a small number of films and disk recordings pertaining to Jews in Canada, and ceremonial and secular Jewish objects, prints, posters, and paintings. The Archives also maintains a small non-circulating library of reference works and books, research papers and published articles relating to Jews in Canada. An extensive bibliography of

Jewish Canadiana compiled by David Rome is available for consultation on microfiche. A general guide to the collection is available (\$7.00).

SIZE OF COLLECTION: Approximately 1012 linear metres.

MAJOR COLLECTIONS:

1) **Canadian Jewish Congress** organizational records 195 metres to date, also photos, cassettes, videos, 1919-current.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: A national organization, the Canadian Jewish Congress was established in Montreal in 1919. Its aims as articulated at its founding included the rescue of oppressed Jews in other countries, the providing of sanctuary for Jewish immigrants from these countries, support for the eventual establishment of a Jewish state in Israel, the advancement of research into Canadian Jewish historical and contemporary problems, and the promotion of goodwill between Jews and other ethnic groups in Canada. It was particularly active during the Second World War and immediate post-war years, under the leadership of Samuel Bronfman (President) and Saul Hayes (Executive Director). Major concerns of the organization at that time included war efforts, refugee rescue and settlement, overseas relief and public relations to combat anti-Jewish propaganda. Its present functions include the safeguarding of the status and rights of the Canadian Jewish community, promotion of inter-group relations, the monitoring and combatting of anti-Semitism and minority rights infringements, law and social action advocacy on behalf of the Jewish community, outreach to isolated Jewish communities, and the maintenance of the historical records of Canadian Jewry.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Both the National headquarters and the Quebec Region offices of the Canadian Jewish Congress have always been located in Montreal, and the National Archives is the repository of records created and received in these offices. The collection includes: administrative records, 1919-current, 2 m; minutes, 1919-current, with omissions, 3.3 m; CJC national office incoming and outgoing correspondence, 1939-1975, 41.6 m; staff and departmental files, 1919-1992, 74 m; CJC publications and near-prints, submissions to government, 3 m; photographs, 1890-1992, approximately 6500; sound recordings and videotapes, approximately 1400.

A finding aid (computerized) describes the records which have been processed to date, and is updated as additional records are integrated into the collection. Certain portions of the collection are restricted for internal use only.

2) Jewish Colonization Association 1906-1978, 26 metres.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The Jewish Colonization Association (JCA, in Yiddish ICA) was created in 1891 by the Baron Maurice de Hirsch to facilitate the mass emigration of Jews from Russia and other Eastern European countries by settling them in agricultural colonies on lands purchased by the committee, particularly in North and South America. A Canadian Committee of the JCA was established in November 1906 to assist in the settlement of the thousands of Jewish refugees fleeing Russia and to oversee the development of all the JCA settlements in the country.

The first Jewish farming colonies in Canada included: Hirsch (1892), Qu'Appelle or Lipton (1901), Cupar (1901), Edenbridge (1906), and Sonnenfeld (1906) in Saskatchewan; Bender Hamlet or Narcisse (1903) in Manitoba; La Macaza (1904) and Ste-Sophie (1904) in Quebec; and Trochu (1906) and Rumsey (1906) in Alberta. Between 1907 and 1911, under the aegis of the Canadian committee, the JCA founded Eyre, Montefiore, and Rosetown in Saskatchewan, as well as Bird's Hill, Camper or New Hirsch, and Pine Ridge in Manitoba. Economic factors, notably the Great Depression, led to the dissolving of all the Western colonies by the end of W.W.II. Thereafter, concentrating its work in the east, the Canadian JCA purchased farms or made loans to farmers in: the Niagara Peninsula (Ontario), the regions of Brantville-Woodstock, Spencerville-Kemptville, Beamsville (Ontario), Saint-Hyacinthe, Saint-Damase, Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Frelighsburg, and Clarenceville (Quebec). The JCA Canadian Committee made no more loans after 1970 and ceased all legal existence in 1978.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Correspondence with ICA head office, 1907-1978, 2.5 m, old immigrant records, 63 cm, 1904-1959; old colonist records, 1904-1963, 3.93 m; old numbered subject files, 1901-1959, 85 cm; new colonist numbered personal files, 1949-1978, 2.1 m; numbered real estate files, 1912-1978, 1.47 m; loan cassa files, 1957-1978, 26 cm; financial records, 1903-1978, 3.77 m;

administrative and control records, 1901-1978, 3.49 m; alphabetical subject files, 1884-1978, 2.15 m; public relations records, 1917-1966, 9 cm; litigation records, 1915-1953, 43 cm; documentation and photographs, 1901-1960, 38 cm; legal documents, 1891-1978, 40 cm.

3) The Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) 1920-1975, 275 metres, approximately 3,250 photos.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Since 1919 Jewish immigrants to Canada have depended on this organization during their period of adjustment to this country. The JIAS intervenes with government on behalf of current and prospective immigrants, helps to locate housing and jobs, and organizes language and citizenship classes. JIAS assists new immigrants in following the proper application procedures, provides counselling, and offers a directional service to community resources. JIAS also makes submissions to the authorities on all matters affecting Jewish immigration to Canada, jointly with the Canadian Jewish Congress.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Administrative and case files concerning immigration, social assistance, job search, experiences in countries of origin. Also photographs of activities of the organization from 1945-1975 (approx. 2000). (Note: Case files are restricted and can only be consulted with permission of JIAS.) A finding aid is available.

4) The United Jewish Relief Agencies (UJRA) 1938-1978, 31 metres.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies of Canada was established with the assistance of Samuel Bronfman in 1938. Later known as the United Jewish Relief Agencies, or UJRA, it at first helped escapees, evacuees, and interned refugees from England, providing food, shelter, and diplomatic and moral support. After the war, UJRA sent supplies and helped trace families for DPs, brought skilled immigrants to Canada, and also sent aid to the new State of Israel. Working with other organizations, it sent Passover supplies to needy Jews in Israel, Europe and Canada and with the Canadian Jewish Congress formed the United Restitution Organization for war reparations. Though its duties have lessened over the decades, the UJRA still exists today.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: administrative files, 93 cm 1938-1969; interned refugees, 6.5 m; war orphans immigration project, c.1947-1953, 5.3 m; skilled labourers immigration projects for displaced persons, 2.5 m; Canadian Jewish Congress special immigration cases, 31 cm; UJRA refugee case files, 1939-1947, 62 cm; JDC refugee and relief program, 6.5 m; overseas relief shipments, 1.24 m; records of the transmission of funds, 1.86 m; financial records, 4.96 m.

5) United Restitution Organization (URO) 1945-1985, 71 metres.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The United Restitution Organization (URO), established in 1953, is a world-wide legal aid organization which assists victims of Nazi persecution in submitting claims against the German and Austrian governments according to provisions of Germany's Federal Indemnification Law (BEG). The URO headquarters is in Frankfurt, Germany. In Canada, the URO was set up under the aegis of the Canadian Jewish Congress, with its head office in Montreal, and offices in Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver. The URO offices in Vancouver and Winnipeg were closed in the 70s, while the Toronto office and the Montreal Head Office continue to operate. In 1989 the URO Montreal office deposited the non-current records in the National Archives of Canadian Jewish Congress. The information in this collection constitutes a valuable resource for studies of the Holocaust period.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Administrative and case files pertaining to recompensation negotiations for Holocaust survivors resident in Canada. Almost each case file includes a testimonial of individuals' war experience. Much of the collection is in German.

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Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday 9:00am-4:45pm, Friday 9:00am-2:00pm (by appointment only). Closed Jewish holidays.

SUMMARY OF HOLDINGS: Material documenting the history of the Jews in Ontario. The Archives holds both organizational records and private papers, as well as newspapers, photographs, sound recordings, selected artifacts and ephemera.

NUMBER OF JEWISH COLLECTIONS: Several hundred.

MAJOR COLLECTIONS:

1) **Joint Community Relations Committee** 1938-1985 - 115 cubic feet.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The JCRC has been a major force in combatting religious and racial discrimination in Canada. It has played a key role in the achieving of fair employment/ accommodation and other human rights legislation.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: The collection comprises minutes, correspondence and some case files. There is a finding aid. 1938-1978 unrestricted. Later material may be used with permission of JCRC.

2) **Hamilton Jewish Community** 1931-1980 - 38.75 cubic feet.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Provides an overview of central communal organizations in a mid-sized Ontario community, including social services, education, and community centre.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Minutes, case and student files, financial records, correspondence. There is a finding aid with no restriction.

3) **Edward E. Gelber Papers** 1941-1954 - 11.25 cubic feet.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Gelber was active in various Jewish organizations, including the Zionist Organization of Canada, Canadian Jewish Congress, Israel Bonds, United Jewish Welfare Fund (Toronto), and United Synagogue of America.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: The collection comprises primarily correspondence related to his communal involvement. There is a finding aid with no restriction.

4) **Jewish Immigrant Aid Service** Toronto office 1920s-1970s - 17 cubic feet.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The records of a regional office of the central immigrant assistance organization.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Some minutes and reports. Primarily case files, 1930s-1950s. There is a finding aid in preparation with the material restricted to the names of clients.

5) **Toronto Hebrew Benevolent Society** 1899-1974 - 15 cubic feet.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: One of the earliest Jewish mutual benefit societies in Toronto, and the first not associated with a synagogue.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Minutes, financial records, membership correspondence and applications. There is a finding aid with no restriction.

6) **Beth Isaiah Congregation** Guelph, Ontario 1947-1970 - 5 cubic feet.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: A representative collection of the Jewish community in a small city.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Minutes, correspondence, educational, marriage and financial records of the congregation, as well as correspondence of the Guelph B'nai Brith lodge. There is a finding aid with no restriction.

7) **Philip G. Givens Papers** 1949-1980 - 8 cubic feet.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Judge Givens is a former

mayor of Toronto, former chair of the Police Commission and former chair of the CZF.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: The collection emphasizes his political career and contains correspondence, scrapbooks, minutes, caricatures and memorabilia. It does not contain his mayoralty papers. There is a finding aid with no restriction.

8) Rabbi David Kirshenbaum Papers 1926-1977 - 8.75 cubic feet.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Rabbi Kirshenbaum served in London, Ontario for forty years.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Much of material is from 1940s onward. Minutes, correspondence, sermons, eulogies, articles and awards. There is a finding aid with no restriction.

9) Toronto Hadassah-WIZO Organization 1936-1975 - 7.5 cubic feet.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: A major women's philanthropic and Zionist organization.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Minutes, newsletters, some correspondence. There is not a finding aid. Material may be used with permission from Toronto Hadassah-WIZO.

10) Cantor Bernard Wladowsky 1915-1950s - 1.25 cubic feet.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Wladowsky was a principal mohel in Toronto and environs, as well as a prolific composer.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Circumcision records, musical compositions. There is a finding aid. The material is not restricted.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS: *Der Kampf/Der Vochenblatt* (newspapers) 1926-1972; Louis M. Singer papers; I.L. Peretz Branch, Farband Labour Zionist Order; Toronto Zionist Council; Maurice Solway papers.

JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY ARCHIVES, MONTREAL

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Montreal, Que.
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Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00pm-5:00pm.

SUMMARY OF HOLDINGS: The archives of the Jewish Public Library consist of institutional archives, private papers, photographs, and audiovisual archives. The largest of the institutional archives are the records of Jewish Public Library. The other collections include schools, organizations and associations. The private papers include those personalities who have contributed to the cultural, literary, social, educational, and communal life of the Jewish community in Montreal, Quebec and Canada. The photographs (over 3,000) depict the cultural and social life of Montreal from the turn of the century until the present. The audiovisual collections consist of videos, as well as 300 reel-to-reel tapes of a Yiddish radio program. An inventory file describing the contents of each of the collections is available to the public. The photographs are indexed separately by subject and name. A guide to the archives provides a supplementary finding aid.

NUMBER OF COLLECTIONS: 75.

QUANTITY: 66.13 linear metres.

MAJOR COLLECTIONS:

1) **Reuben Brainin** 1862-1939.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The Hebrew writer, biographer, critic, and Zionist leader Reuben ben Mordecai Brainin was born in Lyady, Byelorussia, in 1862. In Moscow, where he resided from 1880 to 1888, he made his literary debut with articles published in the Hebrew journal *Hamelitz*. In 1892 Brainin settled in Vienna, where he studied at university and served as editor of the Hebrew periodical *Mimizrach Umima'arav* (1894-1899), and as co-editor of *Zion*.

While in Vienna and Berlin (1895-1909) he published numerous essays, including important critiques of the Hebrew authors Judah Leib Gordon, Peretz Smolenskin, Abraham Mapu, and Saul Tschernichowsky. The central theme of Brainin's critical opus was Hebrew literature in the context of world literature. Brainin was also active in the Zionist movement during these years.

In 1909 Brainin came to the United States, and three years later settled in Montreal, where he edited the Yiddish newspapers *Der Keneder Adler (The Jewish Eagle)* (1912-15) and *Der Veg* (1915-1916). He was one of the founders (1914) and leaders of the Jewish Public Library and People's University. Brainin returned to New York in 1916, where he resided until his death in 1939. He edited the Hebrew journal *Hatoren* (1919-1925) and contributed to numerous Hebrew and Yiddish periodicals, including the *Jewish Daily News* (1916-1920) and *The Day* (1921-1939).

Brainin published several books in Hebrew and Yiddish during his lifetime. His diary was published posthumously, in Yiddish (New York, 1946).

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Originals, copies, printed materials and photographs, ca. 1893-1940, English, Yiddish, Hebrew, German, Russian, Romanian, Spanish, 7.02 m. The Reuben Brainin Archives represents the largest single private archival collection held by the library, with correspondence occupying almost half of the entire collection.

A majority of the letters date from after 1909. The correspondence includes letters from the famous and the obscure in all parts of the Jewish diaspora, plus Palestine. A majority are written in Hebrew. Many of the letters are accompanied by manuscripts submitted to Brainin as editor of various Hebrew publications.

Other documents include: Brainin's manuscripts (Yiddish, Hebrew, German, English, Russian, ca. 1893-ca. 1927), files of newspaper clippings of his Yiddish articles and editorials, written primarily in North America (1909 to 1939). Brainin's efforts on behalf of Zionism as well as Jewish agricultural colonization in the Soviet Union are documented in clippings, printed materials, correspondence, manuscripts, and records (1909-1938). There is also documentation on the founding of the Canadian Jewish Alliance, forerunner of the Canadian Jewish Congress (Yiddish, English,

1915-1916).

Sub-collections of the Brainin papers include: Theodor Herzl (consisting of the Zionist leader's correspondence copy book for 1903); Prof. David Neumark of Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati; the non-Jewish Russian, Hebrew writer Elisheva; Ben Zion Ben Yehuda (son of the Hebrew lexicographer Eliezer Ben Yehuda); the "grandfather" of Hebrew and Yiddish literature Mendele Mokher Seforim (Shalom Jacob Abramowitz); the Hebrew poet Peretz Smolenskin; and the Russian-Jewish author Vassily Behrman.

Photographs, ca. 50, include portraits, family groups, and views of Brainin's literary and political life.

2) David Jay Bercuson 1945-present.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Born in Montreal in 1945, Dr. Bercuson is presently Dean of Graduate Studies at The University of Calgary. Historian, author, scholar, professor and journalist, he is the recipient of many awards and fellowships for his research in Canadian history. He is also well known for his talks on radio and television. He has published numerous articles on Canadian labour relations, economics, foreign policy, and Israel. One of his major works is *The Secret Army* (Toronto: Lester and Orpen Dennys, 1983). Another major work, co-authored with Dr. Douglas Wertheimer, historian and scholar, is *A Trust Betrayed: The Keegstra Affair* (Toronto: Doubleday, 1985).

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Originals, copies, printed materials, cassette tapes, ca. 1966-1990, English, ca. 2.5 m. The first part of Bercuson's papers contains the manuscripts, draft-manuscripts, related taped interviews and transcripts of taped interviews, published articles, speeches, CBC radio and television scripts, and research papers from university. A series of personal and professional correspondence includes exchanges of letters with historian G. Ramsay Cook (1970-1990).

The second part of the collection (approx. 2.5 linear metres, ca. 1982-1985) was donated by both Dr. David Jay Bercuson and Dr. Douglas Wertheimer. Included are personal papers, articles written by Bercuson, correspondence, speeches, book reviews, and documents relating to Bercuson's activities at the University of Calgary. The correspondence relates to his professional activities, especially to the

Keegstra Affair. About two-thirds of the material relates to the book that was published by Dr. David J. Bercuson and Dr. Douglas Wertheimer: *A Trust Betrayed: the Keegstra Affair*, including 22 cassette tapes of recorded interviews with teachers, principal, students, and parents of the school in which Keegstra taught in Eckville, Alberta. Parts of the collection are restricted.

3) **Ida Maze** 1893-1962.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Yiddish writer of poems, essays, short stories and books which appeared in many journals and newspapers all over the world. Born in Olgi, near Minsk, Russia, Maze came to Canada in 1902. Many of her poems were written for children. She was called “the mother of Jewish writers”.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: 1.8 linear metres, 1918-1960. Maze’s literary career is documented in published and unpublished manuscripts (1927-1955); published articles (1927-1955); newspaper clippings; samples of illustrations from her books; and biographical notes, all arranged by title of the series. The bulk of Maze’s papers consists of incoming correspondence (1.62 m, 1918-1960), arranged alphabetically by author of the letter. It includes letters from well-known writers, poets and essayists.

4) **Yaacov Yitschak Segal** 1898-1954.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Canadian Yiddish poet. Born in Russia, Segal came to Canada in 1907. His creative output includes 12 volumes of Yiddish poetry, hundreds of articles, essays and short stories which appeared in the *Keneder Adler* and other periodicals. In 1949 he won the International Lamed Prize.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: 2.4 linear metres, ca. 1920-1954. Original manuscripts, press clippings, criticisms of his work, correspondence.

5) **The Workmen’s Circle, Montreal** 1930-1985 - 4.0 linear metres.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The Workmen’s Circle in Montreal is a fraternal order, which is a part of Workmen’s Circle activities throughout the American continent. Founded in 1907 and incorporated in 1932, the Workmen’s Circle rendered valuable

services to its members and it played an important role in the life of the Jewish community. Mutual benefits for members include sick benefits, funeral services expenses, and burial grounds. The Workmen's Circle initiates social and cultural activities, promotes Jewish tradition and the Yiddish language, and provides Yiddish classes. After W.W. II, approximately 2,000 Holocaust survivors settled in Montreal. A large part of this group joined the ranks of the Workmen's Circle. The mandate of the Workmen's Circle is to work for the preservation of Jewish identity and Jewish culture.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: The archives consist of records of committees, all the branches, conferences, financial statements, minute books, programs, cultural activities, correspondence, the A. Reisen School, history, and publications. The material is in Yiddish.

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN CANADA

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tel.: (204)942-4822

Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm, Friday 9:00am-3:00pm (appointment preferred).

SUMMARY OF HOLDINGS: Founded in May 1968, the Society functions as the standing committee on history, research and archives of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Manitoba Region. Its objectives are to gather, record, preserve and present the history and the religious and cultural heritage of the Jewish people of Western Canada. To this end, the Society conducts a continuous program of acquiring documents, photographs, memorabilia and artifacts, and engages in an extensive oral history program.

SIZE OF COLLECTION: 276 linear feet.

MAJOR COLLECTIONS:

1) **Peretz Folk School** 1916-1985 - 7 linear feet.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Founded in 1914 as a Yiddish speaking socialist school, the Jewish Radical school was renamed the I.L. Peretz School in 1915. The school changed locations 4 times over the next 70 years. Because of declining enrolment the school merged with the Talmud Torah in the early 1980s.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Records, very good photograph documentation of all the years, artifacts, anniversary books. There is a detailed finding aid. The material is not restricted.

2) **Winnipeg Jewish Community Council** 1969-1986 - 25 linear feet.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The WJCC was established in 1973 as a merger of the CJC, Western Region, the Winnipeg Congress Council and the Jewish Welfare Fund of Winnipeg. The WJCC is the umbrella organization encompassing the administration of the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council, the Board of Jewish Education and the YMHA Jewish Community Centre.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Records, reports, correspondence, photos, finding aid. The material is restricted (permission of executive Director of WJCC required).

3) **Joseph Arthur Cherniak** 1929-1972 - 3 linear feet.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: J.A. Cherniak (1885-1972), barrister and Jewish community leader, came to Manitoba in 1905. He received his LL.B. in 1918 and was appointed a Q.C. in 1970. He was a founder and past president of I.L. Peretz School, a founder of the Jewish Welfare Fund of Winnipeg. He was active in a number of local and international cultural and refugee aid organizations.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: The collection consists of his correspondence with a number of associations and committees, and personal items relating to trips, anniversaries, birthdays, etc.

There is a finding aid. The material is not restricted.

4) **Holocaust audio-visual interviews** 1987-1990 - 140 interviews.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: This is a collection of interviews

done with survivors of the Holocaust who are residents in Manitoba. The project was carried out by the Second Generation Committee.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: 140 master 3/4 inch tapes which we store in an environmentally controlled space and copies of the tapes that are available to researchers at our offices. There is the necessary equipment for viewing.

There is not a finding aid, but funds are being obtained for cataloguing and making written summaries of the tapes.

Some material is restricted but most is not.

5) Local synagogues and landsmanshaften 1892-1980s - vast collection.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: There are records of these local institutions, many of which have been disbanded. These documents provide a history of the local community.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Correspondence, minute books, financial records, etc.

There is a finding aid. The material is not restricted.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS: 140 audio-visual interviews with Holocaust survivors produced by the Second Generation Committee; additional Peretz School documents, photos and artifacts; files of the final year of The Israelite Press (local Yiddish newspaper).

THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Miriam Warren, Office Manager
950 West 41st Ave.
Vancouver, B.C.
V5Z 2N7
tel.: (604)266-3529
fax: (604)266-7115

Opening hours: Monday to Wednesday 1:00pm-5:00pm
(appointment preferred).

SUMMARY OF HOLDINGS: Holdings serve to preserve community records and record the settlement of Jewish people and communities in B.C. and the Yukon. The Archives is recognized as the official repository of archival documents pertaining to Jewish communities and organizations in B.C.

NUMBER OF JEWISH COLLECTIONS: 2.

SIZE OF COLLECTION: 250 linear metres.

MAJOR COLLECTIONS:

1) **The JHS Community Archive Collection** 1858-present - 248 linear feet.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Collections consist of archival documents relating to Jewish history in B.C. and the Yukon.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Includes records of community organizations and individual collections (personal estates); 230 oral history tapes. There is a finding aid. Part of the material is restricted.

2) **The Leonard Frank-Otto Landauer Photographic Collection** 1880-1983 - 39,000 images and 2 metres textual material.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The collection documents the industrial development of B.C., and is acknowledged as the world's best in the field of logging.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Includes prints, celluloid and glass negatives, lantern slides and translights; also documents Native Indian Life at the turn of the century. There is a detailed finding aid. The material is not restricted.

THE SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Marcia Koven, Curator
29 Wellington Row
Saint John, N.B.
E2L 3H4
tel.: (506)633-1833

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10:00am-4:00pm May to September, and after by appointment.

SUMMARY OF HOLDINGS: The museum and archives collect all data from every organization directly related to the Saint John, New Brunswick Jewish Community, as well as personal collections from Saint John present and former residents.

NUMBER OF JEWISH COLLECTIONS HOUSED: 7.

SIZE OF COLLECTION: 9.8 metres.

MAJOR COLLECTIONS:

1) Sha'arei Zedek Synagogue and related organizations

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The Shaarei Zedek synagogue history is central to the history of the Saint John Jewish community. The first synagogue in Saint John was the Ahavath Achim, founded 1899. A second synagogue, the Hazen Street synagogue, was founded in 1907. In 1919 the two merged to form the present Sha'arei Zedek, with the Agudath Achim serving as the religious school (cheder) until 1950. In 1936 a fire destroyed all synagogue records kept to that date.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Minutes, correspondence, ketubahs, cemetery records, photos and ephemera.

2) Jewish Community of Saint John

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The first Jewish settlers in Saint John arrived in 1858. At its height, the community was home to 300 Jewish families. The present population includes only 50 Jewish families. Faced with a diminishing Jewish community, the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum and its archives were founded to preserve the history and records of the community.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: The collection consists of documents

dating from 1858 to the present time, originating from a variety of sources. Included in these papers are: community history, military history, organizational minutes, business records, the Shomer Club (for seniors), and material pertaining to the 1984 "Koom Ahaim" community reunion.

3) Genealogy records

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The records trace families connected to Saint John.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Family trees, information compiled by the Jewish Historical Museum staff pertaining to individuals and families in the community.

4) Jewish Museum collection

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum was founded in 1986 to preserve the history of this now-diminishing Jewish community. Originally housed in a room of the Jewish Community Centre building, the Museum has grown to occupy three floors, and includes an art gallery, library, and archives, in addition to display areas. Permanent display rooms include the original Jewish school room, mikveh, and chapel, while other displays change on an annual basis. The library collection includes a special section relating to the Holocaust.

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Contains materials on the Saint John Jewish Historical Society, and the Historical Museum, including visitor information, publications, albums.

5) Audio and Video Tape collection

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Consists of taped interviews 1982-1991 re: community events, radio and television interviews, pre-recorded interviews, Jewish music. Also slide shows.

6) Photograph collection

KINDS OF DOCUMENTS: Includes synagogue and community photos, also personal collections. Major personal collections: Rebecca Jacobson collection, Sylvia Easdown collection.

There are detailed finding aids to these collections. The material is not restricted.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS: Hadassah-Wizo chapter of Saint John, minutes; Jewish War Veterans, correspondence; Dr. M. I. Polowin, personal memorabilia; Erminie Cohen, photograph collection; Josh Beutel, tape collection; Frances Meltzer Geltman, photocopies of sketches by the artist.

ENDNOTE

*This survey column was compiled by Janice Rosen with the assistance of the chief archivists of all the repositories discussed here. The author wishes to thank all these contributors for their assistance, and to apologize if some of their submissions were condensed.