

---

**Field School 2012 to Pokuttya (Kolomyia, Yablumiv, Kosiv)**



This time the destination was the region of Pokuttya, between the Prut and Cheremosh rivers in southern Galicia. This area was, for hundreds of years, an important intersection between Poland and Romanic and Moldovic lands, and developed a diverse and unique local culture. At the beginning of century a Jewish community developed and grew in Kolomiya, Pokuttya's capital, and its<sup>th</sup>the 16 surroundings. Additional Jewish communities later developed in other towns in the region and existed there until the Holocaust.

The purpose of the Association's delegation was the documentation of traces of Pokuttya's Jewish communities, which developed a distinct and unique culture which was later integrated into the general social, cultural and economic life of the entire region.

The delegation was composed of university and yeshiva students from Israel and Russia, including students from the “Siach Yitzchak” Hesder yeshiva, Hebrew University students, Bar Ilan University students, as well as students of Jewish Studies from the St. Petersburg and Moscow state universities. It was guided by Drs. Boris Khaimovich and Ilia Lurie of the Hebrew University, Mrs.

Marina Brook of St. Petersburg University and Mrs. Alla Sokolova, a researcher from the St. Petersburg Museum for the History of Religion. An additional member of the delegation leadership was the Israeli documentary cinematographer Mr. Bernard Dichek.

The work of the delegation was carried out in two groups. One group undertook work in the Jewish cemeteries of Yabluniv and Kosiv, and the second worked in Kolomiya. Kolomiya (Kołomyja). the most developed city in Pokuttya at the time, boasted a large Jewish community – on the eve of the Second World War its numbers reached 18,930 (out of a general population of 42,676). This community was culturally vibrant and complex, and its influence on the Jewish culture of Galicia was significant. Before the Holocaust there were approximately 50 operational synagogues in Kolomia, each with its significant role. One of the Shuleh's Yeruslaimskyh finger, dsher of S. Hopsid, Rabbi kloizes Hillel



Lichtenstein, presided as the Rabbi of the city for 23 years (1815-1895). Rabbi Lichtenstein was particularly active in the battle waged between the progressive and orthodox factions over the shaping of modern Judaism during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Jewish political and cultural organizations which developed toward the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century enriched communal life, and the city was home to a variety of educational institutions, reflecting a wide array of ideological stances. Between the two World Wars a public library, named after Itzhok Leibush Peretz, operated in the city.



Kolomiya's

Jews had an important role in the economic development of the region. There were many Jewish businesses in the city: flour mills, beer breweries, banks, tanneries, weaving and prayer shawls factories and brick-making factories, oil refineries and more. Jewish printers published books and

other materials, not only for Jews but also for their Christian neighbors – Polish or Ukranian.

Beginning in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Jews took an active part in the communal and political life of the city. Kolomiyans were chosen as representatives for the Galician Sejm and the Vienna Parliament. Jews had respectable representation in municipal government and Jewish representatives were even appointed to mayoral and vice-mayoral positions.

During the Holocaust all of the Jews of Kolomyia and its environs were concentrated in a ghetto comprised of three separate sections. During 1942 these sections were burned and the entire population of the ghetto was destroyed

Jews.

To see more photographs of Kolomyia click [here](#)

**:files Attached**

[http://www.jgaliciabukovina.net/sites/default/files/article\\_file/Signs%20of%20Life%20-%20Bernard%20Dichek%20%28The%20Jerusalem%20Report%29.pdf](http://www.jgaliciabukovina.net/sites/default/files/article_file/Signs%20of%20Life%20-%20Bernard%20Dichek%20%28The%20Jerusalem%20Report%29.pdf)

+++++