

Fifth International Conference

JEWS IN A CHANGING WORLD

Latvian and Baltic Jewry in European History and Culture

Riga, Latvia

September 16-17, 2003

University of Latvia, Main Building, 19 Rainis Boulevard

Financial support from:

University of Latvia

Jewish Agency for Israel in Baltic States

Office of the Special Minister for Social Integration in Latvia

Honorary President of the Conference:

Rabbi Natan Barkan

Co-Chairmen of the Organizing Committee:

Prof. H. Branover (Israel), Prof. R. Ferber (Latvia)

Organizers:

- Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Latvia (Riga, Latvia)
- Jewish Community Center "Alef" (Riga, Latvia)
- M. Dubin Foundation of the SHAMIR Association (Riga, Latvia)
- Riga Jewish Religious Community (Riga, Latvia)
- Center for Academic and Educational Relations with the CIS and Baltic States, The Chais Center for Jewish Studies in Russian, The International Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Jerusalem, Israel)
- Latvian Academy of Sciences (Riga, Latvia)
- Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Beersheba, Israel)

All non-plenary presentations are fifteen minutes.

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Session I. Jews in the Baltic States before 1918

12:00 – 14:00

1. **Alexander Feigmanis** (Riga, Latvia)
Early Sources on the Jews in Latvia (before 1825)
2. **Denis Hanov** (Riga, Latvia)
The Educational Policy of the Baltic Jewish Communities in the Nineteenth Century
3. **Semen Goldin** (Jerusalem, Israel)
Expulsion of Jews from the Baltic States during World War I.
4. **Dr. Galina Eliasberg** (Moscow, Russia)
Azik-Meir Dik as a Maskil and a Popular Writer
5. **Dr. Elina Vasilyeva** (Daugavpils, Latvia)
“Jewish Text” in the Literary Heritage of Rudolf Blaumanis
6. **Galina Baranova** (Vilnius, Lithuania)
S. Dubnov and Vilna
7. **Alexander Goltsman** (Tartu, Estonia)
Decorative Motifs on Jewish Gravestones in Eastern Europe Cemeteries (Menorah and Lights Symbols)

Lunch 14:00 – 14:45

Session II. Jews in the Baltic States between the Wars (1918-1940): Policy, Education and Culture

14:45 – 16:00

1. **Dr. Tatiana Shor** (Tartu, Estonia)
Estonian Jewish Cultural Autonomy: Preparation and Piloting (1925-1927)
2. **Prof. Aivars Stranga** (Riga, Latvia)
Anti-Semitism in Latvia during the World Economic Crisis (1930-1934)
3. **Dr. Irena Saliniece** (Daugavpils, Latvia)
The Emotional Setting in Pre-War World II Latvian Short Stories about Jews
4. **Prof. Oleg Budnitskii** (Moscow, Russia)
A. A. Goldenweiser: Riga Newspaper Correspondent

Break 16:00 – 16:15

Session III. The Holocaust in the Nazi-Occupied Baltic States

16:15 – 17:30

1. **Dr. Dzintars Erglis** (Riga, Latvia)
Seizure of Jewish Property during the Holocaust in Provincial Latvian Towns: The Krustpils Case
2. **Iosif Rochko** (Daugavpils, Latvia)
The Holocaust in Latgale
3. **Dmitrii Olehnovich** (Daugavpils, Latvia)
The ‘Terrible Year’: Anti-Semitic Propaganda in Eastern Latvian Periodicals in 1941
4. **Mejer Meller** (Riga, Latvia)
Jewish Cemeteries and Mass Burial Places in Latvia

OFFICIAL OPENING

18:00 – 20:00

Greetings:

President of Latvia Vaira Vike-Freiberga

Rector of University of Latvia Ivars Lacis

Minister for Special Assignments for Society Integration Affairs Nils Muiznieks

Honorary President of the Conference Rabbi Natan Barkan

Ambassador of Israel in Latvia Gary Koren

Chairman of Council of Latvian Jewish communities Arkady Suharenko.

Chairman of Council of Riga Jewish religious community David Kagan

President of Latvian Academy of Sciences Janis Stradinsh

Director of Jewish Agency for Israel in Baltic States Shlomo Kim

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Session IV. Jewish Thought and Mysticism

9:00 – 10:30

1. **Prof. Gintautas Mazeikis** (Siaulai, Lithuania)
Moral Imperative and Hasidic Prayer: The Ethical Dimension of the Conflict between Lithuanian Hasidim and the Gaon of Vilna
2. **Prof. Leonid Stolovich** (Tartu, Estonia)
The Contemporary 'Euro-Asian' Approach and the Jewish Problem
3. **Prof. Vladimir Kincans** (Riga, Latvia)
Peculiarities of Jewish Holydays' Etiquette
Etiquette Peculiarities of the Jewish Holy Days
4. **Israel Aizensharf** (Haifa, Israel)
The Jewish State in the Talmudic Tradition
5. **Natalia Milopolskaya** (Jerusalem, Israel)
Judaic Thought and Talmudic Sources of Psychoanalysis

Break 10:30 – 10:45

Session V. Culture and Humanities

10:45 – 13:30

1. **Prof. Abram Kletskin** (Riga, Latvia)
Latvian and Baltic Jews in European Culture
2. **Dr. Zeev Vagner** (Jerusalem, Israel)
Baltic Jews in Russia
3. **Dr. Irena Shneidere** (Riga, Latvia)
Methods of Falsification of Criminal Cases by MGB in USSR: examples of arrested Jews from Latvia
4. **Dmitry Shmorgun** (Tartu, Estonia)
Yiddish Elements in American Slang and its Treatment by Slang Dictionaries
5. **Marina Mihailetz** (Riga, Latvia)
Latvian Musicians of Jewish Origin in World Musical Culture
6. **Dr. Svetlana Kovalchuk** (Riga, Latvia)
The Religious and Philosophical Strivings of Prof. N. Pereferkovich
7. **Karmella Skorik** (Riga, Latvia)
Six Generations of the Etin-Rosenberg-Budo Jewish Family in Latvia
8. **German Levin** (Riga, Latvia)
The Strategy of Compromise: The Integrated Educational Pilot Programme for Teaching National Courses in the Riga Jewish High School
9. **Margers Vestermanis** (Riga, Latvia)
Self-Identification and Integration: the Materials of Jewish Museum in Riga

Lunch 13:30 – 14:15

Session VI. Baltic Jews and Israel (Plenary Session)

14:15 – 16:00

1. **Prof. Israel Bartal** (Jerusalem, Israel)
Lithuania and Palestine (plenary lecture)
2. **Dr. Boris Volkovich** (Daugavpils, Latvia)
“Histadrut Ha’Zionit” – the General Zionist Party in Latvia (1919-1934)
3. **Ella Slivkin, Dr. Leonid Yuniverg** (Jerusalem, Israel)
Anna Wildikan and her participation in the unique project of Albert Schweitzer
4. **Shoshana Heltzer** (Haifa, Israel)
Two Hundred Years Together by A. Solzhenitsin: Reflections on the book in Russia and Israel
5. **Dr. Batia Valdman** (Beersheba, Israel)
Latvian Jews on the Way to Eretz Yisrael (1930-1940).

Close of Conference 16:00

Words of greetings by the Speaker of the Knesset of the State of Israel

Mr. Reuven Rivlin