**Galician Jewish Publications in the Austrian Period:**

**A Database of Links to Scanned Periodicals**

This database includes about 70 titles of Galician Jewish periodicals that were published over the hundred years spanning the beginning of the Jewish press in Galicia in 1813 through 1918, the end of the First World War and the end of Austrian rule of the region. Complete or partial scanned versions of these titles are accessible on the internet.

The database is part of a project being launched to document all the periodicals of the Jews of Galicia and Bukovina, from the beginning of the Austrian period through the end of the Holocaust. The database includes journal collections, anthologies, and one-time publications. It also includes periodicals and collections that were published outside of Galicia and Bukovina if they addressed these Diaspora populations and/or if a significant number of their editors and writers came from that region.

The scope of the periodicals produced by the Jews of Galicia and Bukovina is highly impressive compared to most of the other Jewish diasporas at that time. Nearly 250 titles appeared in the first hundred years of the Jewish press of Austrian Galicia and Bukovina, an era that represents the beginning of the Jewish press as a broad social phenomenon. Many of these were pioneering and groundbreaking publications. In the relatively short period between the two World Wars (when Galicia was part of Poland and Bukovina was under Romanian rule) approximately 400 titles were published in these regions. The initial periodicals published by these Jewish Diaspora populations were mainly in Hebrew and later in Yiddish. As the populations became increasingly integrated into the surrounding society, the publications diversified into German, Polish, and Romanian.

These periodicals played a dual role. They reported local and general news, about both the Jewish community and the society surrounding it. At the same time, these periodicals were partners in shaping Jewish society as it navigated the modern age in its various dimensions. These publications include newspapers, calendars, bulletins, and newsletters, alongside literary and political periodicals dedicated to topics such as fine literature, *Wissenschaft des Judentums* (the academic study of Judaism), Reform Judaism, Orthodox Judaism, cultural and political integration into the surrounding local society and the Austrian Empire, nationalism, socialism, Zionism, Hebraicism, Yiddishism, educational institutions, political parties, youth movements, social organizations, the economy, and more.

The Jewish press of Galicia and Bukovina is a rich and inexhaustible source of knowledge about the historical, political, social, religious, and cultural processes that the Jewish communities living in these areas underwent during the rapidly changing modern era. It seems that virtually no topic, large or small, was ignored in these publications, which offer a picture of these communities, and contribute to understanding and memorializing their heritage, spirituality, lifestyles, values, and worldviews.

During the World Wars and the Holocaust, most copies of these journals were destroyed, as were their editors, writers, and readers. Some titles did not survive at all; for others, only a few issues remain. Therefore, preparing this database now is of the utmost importance. It will consolidate information about these publications and their content, with an emphasis on materials that have been scanned and are accessible online. Information can be retrieved from the database according to title, language, place of publication, years of appearance, and using general keywords.

The beginning of the Jewish press in Galicia, and Eastern Europe in general, is usually attributed to the Hebrew-language yearbooks, *Luaḥ Ha-Lev/Tzir Ne’eman*, which Yosef Perel (a key figure in the *Haskalah*) published in the city of Tarnopol beginning in 1813. In the early days of the Jewish press in Galicia, most of the publications were in Hebrew. They came out infrequently, once a year or every few months. They usually did not survive very long, and some appeared only once. These were literary periodicals, in the spirit of the two leading intellectual movements in European Jewish society at the time, the *Haskalah* (Enlightenment) and *Wissenschaft des Judentums*. The periodicals from the first half of the 19th century, in which Galician Jews had prominent positions as editors and authors, and which lasted for at least several years, were actually published outside of Galicia. The most prominent of these were the *Bikurei Ha-‘Itim* from Vienna (1820-1831) and *Kerem Ḥemed* from Vienna and Prague (1833-1843).

Beginning in the middle of the 19th century, the Galician Jewish press gradually grew and expanded in terms of languages, frequency of publication, and topics covered, which were primarily news, politics, religion, and society.

Below are some milestones in the development of this press:

1. In 1848, the first Yiddish periodical, *Zeitung*, began publication. This was the first weekly periodical of Eastern European Jewry. 73 issues were published.
2. In 1867, the Jews of the Austrian Empire were granted equal rights, prompting the Jewish press to use European languages. In 1868, the bi-weekly *Der Israelit* began publication in German (first using Hebrew letters and later using the German alphabet). It was published by the Shomer Yisra’el association, which had a liberal German bent. Two years later, in 1870, *Izraelita* began publication as the first Jewish weekly in Galicia in Polish. In 1877, the weekly *Zgoda*, which preached Polish-Jewish coexistence, began to be published in Polish by the Dorshei Shalom association. In 1881, the pro-Polish Agudas Aḥim society began to publish the weekly *Ojczyzna* in Polish, sometimes with a supplement in Hebrew, *Ha-Mazkir Ahavah le-’Eretz Moladeto.*
3. In 1879, an Orthodox association in Galicia, Maḥzikei Ha-Dat, began publishing a newspaper Maḥzikei Ha-Dat, in reaction to trends of cultural integration, reform, and secularization. Maḥzikei Ha-Dat was first published as a bi-weekly, then became a weekly paper, and it continued to appear for about 35 years until World War I.
4. The last decade of the 19th century saw the emergence of two new movements in Galician Jewry: socialism and Zionism. In 1892, the first Jewish socialist newspaper in Galicia began publication, in Yiddish; Arbeiter Stimme was the mouthpiece of the Jewish Workers' Party of Galicia. In 1893, the journal *Przyszlość* began publication, in Polish, as a forum for the Zionist movement in Galicia.

From the mid-19th century through the early 20th century, many other weekly publications emerged, each with dozens or even hundreds of issues, most of them in Hebrew or Yiddish and a few in Polish, including:

1. Ha-Mevaser (1861-1867)
2. ‘Ivri ’Anokhi/Ha-Ivri (1865-1890)
3. Ḳol Ha-ʻEt, affiliated with the Ḥevras Shoḥerei Sefas ‘Ever association (1870-1872)
4. Ha-Zeman/Ruaḥ Ha-Zeman (1890-1891)
5. Ha-Magid (1892-1903), which moved from Germany to Galicia
6. Ha-Dor (1901-1904)
7. Ha-Mitzpeh (1904-1921) in Hebrew
8. Bat Kol (1912-1919) in Hebrew
9. Drohobiṭsher Zeitung (1883-1914)
10. Yiddishe Volḳs Blaṭ (1896-1897)
11. Der Yud (1899-1902)
12. Yudishe Volḳs-Zeitung (1902-1903)
13. Yidishe VolḳsZeitung (1902-1904)
14. Yudishe Arbeiṭer Zeitung (1905-1906)
15. Der Sóisialta Damacrati (1902-1904)
16. Das Wakhenblatt (1908-1918)
17. Yudishe Illustrierte Zeitung (1909-1912)
18. Wschód (1900-1912) in Polish
19. Jedność (1907-1912) in Polish

### In 1904, the first Jewish daily in Galicia, *Lemberger Tagblat*, began publication in Yiddish. It continued, in various incarnations, until the outbreak of World War II. There were several other attempts to publish daily papers before the outbreak of World War I, but most did not last long.

### Most of the Jewish periodicals in Austrian Galicia were produced in the cities of Lemberg (Lviv) and Krakow, where the two largest Jewish communities lived. The main printing houses of Galician Jewry were located in these cities and these communities were the creative forces behind the publications. Some periodicals also came out of the cities of Tarnopol, Zhovkva, Brody, Przemyśl, Kolomiya, Drohobych, Stanislavov, Stanisławów, Tarnów, Nowy Sącz, Rzeszów, Skala, Stryi, and Zluchów.

### In Bukovina, the publication of Jewish periodicals began relatively late, only at the end of the 19th century. They were mainly published in the capital city, Chernivtsi. The first of these was *Ha-Mitzvah*, published in Hebrew, starting in 1881.

### World War I devastated the Jewish communities of Galicia and Bukovina, essentially ending their public life and halting their publications. However, after World War I, the Second Polish Republic was established, which included Galicia, and Bukovina was included in Greater Romania, creating conditions that enabled the revival of Jewish public life in these regions, and allowed them to re-establish and develop their publications. These flourished until, as we know, the outbreak of World War II brought it all to an end.