**Who Has Written About Jewish Warsaw?**

1. Despite the importance of the Jewish community in Warsaw in the interwar period, little research in Hebrew has been done on that community. In 1953, Yitzhak Gruenbaum published a volume focusing on Warsaw Jewry in the context of *The Encyclopedia of the Diaspora*. Another significant research study, *A History of the Jews of Warsaw*, appeared the same year, authored by Avraham Levinson. Alexander Guterman published his research on Warsaw’s Great Synagogue in 1993, and in 1997, his research on the Jewish community in Warsaw in the interwar period appeared. Benny Mer’s book, *Smocza: Biography of a Jewish Street in Warsaw*, was published in Israel in 2018.

A larger number of studies dedicated to the practical aspects of the Jews of Warsaw have appeared in Poland. The story of the construction and historical role of important buildings in Jewish Warsaw was published in 1988 in a book by Kasprzychi, *Zydzi Warszawy.* In 1991, Wynot published an article on the characteristics of the Jews of Warsaw based on statistics, election results for the municipality and the Jewish community, as well as other sources. In 1992 a comprehensive article on the Jews of Warsaw, written by Fuks was published, followed by two more articles that focused on Jewish neighborhoods in Warsawwhich appeared the following year by Morawski (Kartki Z Dziejow Zydow Warszawskich) and by B. Singer-Regnis (Moje Nalewki).

An additional comprehensive study of details about how Warsaw Jewry lived appeared in Poland in 1996, authored byZalewska, who offered an in-depth analysis of the population censuses that were carried out in Poland in 1921 and 1931. Natowska’s research on the *numerus clausus* limitations imposed on Jewish students at the University of Warsaw was published in 1999, and Z. Pakalski’s book on the history of Nalewki Street appeared in 2003 and in 2007 E. Bergman’s study devoted entirely to synagogues in Warsaw was published. An autobiographical book by J. Hen that appeared in 2011 offers a rich description of the Jewish neighborhood. In 2014 Zielinski and Majewski published a *Guide to Jewish Warsaw*, and J. Leociak’s *Biography of Jewish Streets in Warsaw* appeared in 2017.

In 2015, Gershon Bacon published an article in English entitled “Warsaw. The Jewish Metropolis,” whose focus was the Warsaw rabbinate in the interwar period, which appeared in a *festschrift* edited by Glenn Dynner and François Guesnet in honor of Antony Polonsky’s 75th birthday. This collection of essays also included an article by Kenneth B. Moss entitled “Negotiating Jewish Nationalism in Interwar Warsaw.”

We also find chapters devoted to the Jews of Warsaw and the Jewish neighborhoods in the city in more general publications, both those dealing with the whole of Polish Jewry and those dealing with the general population of Warsaw. For example, the geographical guide by Orlowicz (1922) that describes the city includes a chapter on the Jewish neighborhoods. Other examples include: Dobrowolski-Berman’s *Bruki Warszawy* published in 1964, Poznanska’s 1972 book on the Warsaw bourgeoisie,Drozdowski’s books on interwar Warsaw (1973, 1976, 1968, 1990), M. Barbasiewicz’s *Warszawa. Perła Północy* published in 2014, among others.

The scholarly literature written by Jewish academics has addressed the internal politics of the Jewish street, the crystallization of Jewish nationalism, community institutions, the Jewish press and literature, the ultra-Orthodox currents operating in Warsaw, assimilation and acculturation, concentrating almost exclusively on the Jewish aspect of these issues. Other works, almost all of them by Polish scholars, have dealt with, among other issues, the Jews of Warsaw,while examining the entire city. Ezra Mendelsohn and Antony Polonsky have noted that the historiography of Jewish Warsaw written by Jewish scholars has been largely ethnocentric and has ignored the Polish, non-Jewish context.

One of the aims of this book is to clarify the issues concerning how Jews actually lived in Warsaw within the context of a comprehensive examination of the city and the daily life of all its inhabitants. This includes administrative, cultural and economic activity, and the nature of urban construction infrastructure, transportation and trade. In addition, the purpose of this work is to illuminate an element that has received almost no attention in the historiography of the Jews of Warsaw – the daily life of the Jews of the city. At the same time, this work seeks to restore the physical and human image of the Jewish neighborhood that was wiped off the face of the earth, including its inhabitants, houses and streets.

2. Who is the intended audience of this book?

This book is intended for both historians and the general public. Therefore, it will probably be purchased by academic libraries around the world together with the scholarly community researching the subject. In addition, it should be of interest to descendants of people with Polish backgrounds and anyone interested in Holocaust studies or the lives of national minorities within the majority population.

It is particularly important to note the significance of the book in the context of the study of the life of Jews in Poland prior to the Holocaust, including their complexity and wealth. For the sake of historical memory, it is important to study and understand not only how the Jews of Europe were murdered but also how they actually lived their lives prior to that catastrophe.

There is a great deal of interest in the history of Polish Jews in Poland today, as they have become perceived as an integral part of Polish history.

3. After completing my undergraduate studies in Economics and Sociology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, I worked in public entities as an economist, specializing over time in urban economics and urban planning. Later on, I decided to begin my Masters’ studies in the field of the history of the people of Israel. Under the guidance of Prof. Israel Gutman, I completed my Masters’ degree with the submission of a thesis entitled, “Polish Righteous Among the Nations, Statistical Aspects.” I continued my studies in this field, completing my doctorate under the guidance of Prof. Hagit Lavsky and Prof. Jacob Metzer. My doctoral dissertation, entitled, *The Aliya Of Polish Jews In The 1930s*, was accepted by the Senate of Hebrew University in 2010. Since then, I have published a book based on my Hebrew doctorate (*B’Or Shineihem*) and in English (*At the Last Moment*), as well as a number of articles, as detailed in my resume. At the same time, I conducted an additional study on "Jewish Warsaw before the Holocaust" which is now being prepared for publication. I should note that in conjunction with my academic work, I have continued to work as an economist in the urban field.

The inspiration for my research topics stem from personal interest, as an immigrant who came to Israel from Poland with my family when I was 10-years-old. There are at least two reasons for my specific interest in Jewish Warsaw. First, my family’s roots are in the resort town of Otwock near Warsaw. I spent long days there and in Warsaw as a child. Jewish Warsaw also connects to my field of expertise in urban planning, allowing me to combine my two main fields of interest.

4. The first part of the book deals with the Jewish neighborhood: the consolidation of the neighborhood, defining its boundaries, an examination of the physical and social characteristics of the Jewish neighborhood in comparison to residential areas of non-Jews in the city. This chapter also examines issues such as the residential density in the Jewish section in comparison to residential density throughout the city, the characteristics of the sub-neighborhoods in the Jewish neighborhood, the places of residence of elite members of Jewish society and a study of those Jews who chose to live outside the Jewish neighborhood. The conclusions that appear in this chapter are based on a statistical-geographical analysis based on the findings of the two detailed censuses conducted in Poland in 1921 and 1931.

The second part of the book discusses the issue of geographical proximity between Jews and Poles in contrast with the mental distance that existed between the two populations, the processes of assimilation and acculturation of Warsaw Jews, and a statistical examination of population distribution across the city of the two populations: Jews and Poles and a comparison between them.

The third part is devoted to describing the daily life of the Jews of Warsaw. This includes such topics as: the diversity of Jewish society, life in the various social strata, social mobility, family life, public activities, recreation, and leisure.

The following chapters in the book are dedicated to an examination of the religious life of the Jews of Warsaw as well as to the participation of the Jews of the city in the underworld which flourished in Warsaw in those years.