

Gazeta

Newsletter of the American Association for Polish-Jewish Studies
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Fay and Julian Bussgang, Editors

Anna Bikont Honored

Anna Bikont, a well-known Polish journalist, was just named the recipient of a prestigious Polish press award for best reporting. She was selected for the award because of her coverage of "the crimes committed on Jews in Jedwabne and Radziłów." She is currently working on a book discussing what happened in Jedwabne and Radziłów and the impact of these tragic revelations on Poland and the Polish people.

When Bikont visited Boston in December, Board member Genia Shrut gave a reception for her. Among those attending were several other board members, including the Honorary Consul of Poland in Boston, Marek Leśniewski-Laas, and Mrs. Laas. Bikont gave a brief account of how she viewed the current reaction to the revelations, described the interviews she had conducted, and then graciously answered questions.

Born in 1954, Bikont graduated from the University of Warsaw and became an active participant in the Solidarity movement, working on its underground publications. Later she worked with Adam Michnik in founding *Gazeta Wyborcza*, now Poland's largest daily newspaper. The first issue was assembled in her kitchen. Today its average readership is 500,000 and has occasionally reached one million.

Bikont initially wrote on political topics. More recently her topics have been culture and history. She is the author of *I ciągle widzę ich twarze (I Still See Their Faces)*, a companion book for the exhibit of the same title that showed hundreds of pre-war photographs of Polish Jews. She published a book on poet Wiesława Szymborska, co-authored a book on Polish limericks, and was a participant in one of the conversations concerning women active in the opposition, published in *Szminka na sztandarze: Kobiety Solidarności 1980-1989* (Lipstick on the Flag: Women of Solidarity).

Prof. Polonsky to Speak on "Migration Patterns of Jews in Europe," Sunday, 3 March 2002

Many of us have wondered how our ancestors happened to come to Eastern Europe, where they came from, and why they migrated at the time they did. Professor Antony Polonsky will attempt to answer some of these questions in his talk to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston (JGSGB) on Sunday, 3 March, 2002 at 1:30 PM.

The meeting will take place at Temple Reyim, 1860 Washington Street (Rte 16), Newton. The temple is located very close to the Woodland stop on the "T."

There will be an opportunity for questions after the talk. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free for members of JGSGB, \$3 for non-members.

For information about JGSGB and their other programs, please visit the Web site <www.jsgsb.org>.

Lwów Menorah at the White House

President's Remarks at the White House Lighting of the Menorah (White House news release, Dec 10):

THE PRESIDENT: "Tonight, for the first time in American history, the Hanukkah menorah will be lit at the White House residence. It's a symbol that this house may be a temporary home for Laura and me, but it's the people's house, and it belongs to people of all faiths."

"The magnificent menorah before us was crafted over a century ago in the city of Lvov, which was an important center of Jewish life and culture. The Jews of Lvov fell victim to the horror of the Nazi Holocaust, but their great menorah survived. And as God promised Abraham, the people of Israel still live."

**Please Renew Your Membership in American
Association for Polish-Jewish Studies**

Letter from the President:

Dear Members and Friends:

The wonderful news I can report to you is that there is a plan to create the first-of-its-kind Jewish museum in Warsaw that will be designed by the well-known architect Frank Gehry, whose family is originally from Lwów. Gehry has waived all his fees to do this project. The official announcement came a few days ago from Leszek Miller, the Polish prime minister, who was visiting New York. He said that it would be a Museum of the History of Polish Jews and should be completed in five years. He also mentioned that the city of Warsaw had donated the land, which faces the Ghetto monument. So far three million dollars have been raised, with promises from, among others, a German foundations and the Ronald Lauder Foundation.

Mr. Miller also promised "to put in order many issues important to Polish-Jewish relations for many years to come." He did not commit himself on the restitution issue but mentioned it as another problem that has to be dealt with.

On 15 December Genia Shrut and Richard Fenigson gave a party for Anna Bikont, the Polish journalist working for *Gazeta Wyborcza*. She gave a very interesting talk on the problems Jews face in Poland today. The picture she drew was not a happy one.

We are planning, jointly with Prof. Profczuk of the Polish Cultural Foundation, to bring the Polish Consul General Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska from New York, who will speak to us on April 21 at 4:00 PM at Harvard Hillel. Her topic will be Polish-Jewish relations in Poland today. I hope many of you will be able to attend.

Volume 15 is ready to be mailed to all who have paid their 2002 dues. Volume 14 was mailed to those who paid in 2001. It is still available if you wish to receive it.

Hans Guggenheim's project of adding to the high school history curriculum in Poland the history of Polish Jews and the Holocaust is well under way. The project has been initiated in the Lublin schools by Monika Adamczyk-Grabowska.

Once more I would like to say that if any of you have ideas or suggestions to make, please get in touch with me.

Irene E. Pipes

POLIN, Volume 14: Jews in the Polish Border Lands

By Antony Polonsky, Editor

The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was a dual state, created in 1569 by the union of the Kingdom of Poland with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. It was extremely heterogeneous in character. The dominant social stratum, the landed nobility (*szlachta*) was the principal focus of Polishness, although modern concepts of nationality were largely inchoate at this time. The nobility comprised a much larger section of the population than similar groups in Western Europe (perhaps as much as 8%), and although it was predominantly Catholic and became more so with the success of the Counter-Reformation, the principle of religious toleration, enshrined in 1570, meant that it included a significant number of Protestants and a smaller number of adherents of the Orthodox faith.

The peasantry, restricted, for the most part, was Polish-speaking in the central parts of the Commonwealth. In the

National Polish American–Jewish American Council Meets

The NPAJAC met in New York on 24 October, 2001. The keynote speaker was David A. Harris, Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee. Bogusław Winid, the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Poland in Washington, Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska, the Consul General of Poland in New York, and many Polish-American and Jewish-American board members attended. Fay and Julian Bussgang represented AAPJS at this meeting.

The meeting began with a tribute to former Co-Chair of the Council, Professor Stanisław A. Blejwas, who passed away suddenly only a few weeks earlier.

The outgoing Co-Chair, Leonard Grossman, reported on the Council's recent mission to the 60th anniversary of the Jedwabne tragedy. Prof. Robert Cherry of Brooklyn College reported on a survey of Polish-Jewish relations in America that he is undertaking. Dr. Stanisław Krajewski, who spoke from Warsaw via speaker phone, interpreted the recent elections in Poland.

The Council also heard reports about the recent developments in Auschwitz, plans for the next March of the Living (visit of American and Israeli youth to Poland) being organized by the American Jewish Committee, and the current status of the American Jewish Center in Auschwitz (see separate article).

Martin Bressler agreed to succeed Mr. Grosman as co-chair. No successor to Prof. Blejwas has yet been named. The Executive Coordinator of the Council is Mr. Guy Billauer, American Jewish Committee in Washington, DC.

Boston University Conference

From 31 October to 2 November the Center for Judaic Studies at Boston University, directed by Professor Stephen T. Katz, held a conference entitled "The Shtetl: New Evaluations of Its History and Character." The conference was funded by the Marilyn and Max Grossman Foundation. Many international scholars participated, including some from Canada, Israel, and Poland.

The keynote address, "In Recent Times: The Shtetl, A Vanishing World." was delivered by Elie Wiesel, Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities.

eastern areas (referred to in Polish as the *Kresy* or 'eastern borderlands'), they spoke mostly Lithuanian, Ukrainian, or Belarussian, although these were not yet modern developed languages. In the north of this area, the majority of the population was Roman Catholic, and in the south, Greek Catholic and Greek Orthodox. In the west, there were substantial areas of rural German and Protestant settlements. Nearly half of the urban population (perhaps 10% of the total) was Jewish, and in the towns there were also significant numbers of Germans, Italians, Armenians, and Scots.

The partition of Poland at the end of the eighteenth century and the struggle to regain Polish independence in the nineteenth century raised the questions of who was a Pole and what should be the boundaries of the future Polish state. The partitioning powers for their part were determined to integrate

the areas they had annexed. Thus the Prussian state attempted to strengthen the German element in Prussian Poland as means of permanently incorporating the area into Prussia and subsequently Germany. In Austrian Galicia, at least until the granting of autonomy to the province in the 1860s, the Habsburgs encouraged the development of a Ukrainian (first called Ruthenian) consciousness as a counterweight to the dominant Polish nobility. The areas incorporated by Russia were divided into two parts. One, the Kingdom of Poland, enjoyed substantial autonomy, which was almost entirely done away with in the course of the nineteenth century. The remaining areas were treated as integral parts of the Tsarist monarchy and attempts were made to strengthen the Orthodox and Russian elements in the area. From the second half of the nineteenth century, the Lithuanian, Ukrainian, and to a lesser extent Belarussian national movements became significant forces in the area.

When Poland became independent after the First World War more than a third of its population was still made up of Ukrainians, Belarussians, Germans, Jews and Lithuanians. A core of articles in this issue will investigate aspects of the triangular relationship between Poles, Jews, and Germans in western Poland and between the different national groups in what are today Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine. This topic was largely taboo in the Communist period and its re-examination since 1989 is a key element in the reconfiguration of the past of the different nations of the area. This study aims to foster a greater mutual understanding and the dissipation of long-held national stereotypes. It is a long-overdue recognition of the multi-ethnic and multi-religious character of the region and an indication that national strife need not be an inevitable outcome of the collapse of the Communist empire. In addition, the section "New Views" will investigate aspects of Jewish life in pre-partition Poland and in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and there will be a full section of book reviews.

Index to Volumes 1-12 of *POLIN*

A most valuable Index to Volumes 1-12 of *POLIN* (The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2000) is still available and may be ordered from AAPJS by enclosing a check for \$30 for mailing in the U.S. and \$34 for mailing abroad.

Names, places, and topics cited in the first twelve volumes of *POLIN* which were not originally indexed, have now been indexed for this volume. Also provided are tables of contents and a brief chronology of Polish history.

Prime Minister Leszek Miller in New York

On 10 January, the new Polish Prime Minister, Leszek Miller, visited New York City where a reception was held for him at the General Consulate of the Republic of Poland.. While in New York he also made a point of meeting with the leaders of the Conference of Presidents of the major American Jewish organizations. He also stated that the Polish government intends to continue its cooperation with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

As reported in *Rzeczpospolita*, Miller assured the Jewish leaders that his government will continue the policy of his recent predecessors to improve Polish-Jewish relations and resolve issues of the past.

With respect to reprivatization of expropriated properties, he assured them that he did not want to draw distinctions between those who are Jewish and those who are not, or

between those who are and those who are no longer citizens or residents of Poland. This is of significance since the pending legislation has no provisions for any restoration or compensation for Jews living outside Poland.

It is a source of international embarrassment to Poland, and of many bitter feelings, that unlike other Eastern European countries, Poland has refused up to now to develop meaningful legislation dealing with this issue. Some of the sentiment in Poland seems to have been that since Poland suffered, properties of those who left Poland, regardless of the reason, should be turned over to those who stayed.

While his remarks on restitution were promising, contrary to expectations, Miller had no conversation with Jehuda Evron, head of the Holocaust Restitution Committee, who has been campaigning for justice for survivors.

As to the restoration of Jewish communal properties in Poland, the prime minister stated that his government will consider all justifiable claims. He coupled this with the importance of preserving the Jewish heritage in Poland and his support for the development of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews being created in Warsaw. Some interpreted this as meaning that he wanted proceeds from the sale of such properties to go toward the cost of building the museum.

Miller said he will cooperate with the efforts to recognize Jewish sensitivities for protection of Jewish burial places in Poland. One source of concern in this regard has been the recent archeological drilling in the former death camp at Sobibór. Miller also stated that he wished to commemorate better the victims who perished in the death camp in Bełżec, which is in a condition of disrepair.

Miller also expressed a willingness to grant a request by Polish-Jewish leaders for Poland to extend a May deadline to file claims for the return of thousands of Jewish communal properties to an umbrella group representing world Jewry and Polish-Jewish leaders.

Auschwitz Jewish Center Scholarships

The Auschwitz Jewish Center, located in Oświęcim (Auschwitz), Poland, seeks candidates for scholarships that give college seniors and graduates an opportunity to participate in an educational summer project.

The selected "scholars" spend the summer working at the Auschwitz Jewish Center, creating programs, conducting research, guiding visitors, and forming new and lasting friendships. In addition they have an opportunity to conduct independent research. Oświęcim is a town with a rich Jewish history; prior to the war, the town's population was more than 60% Jewish and can be considered to be representative of Jewish life in many pre-war Polish-Jewish communities.

The Auschwitz Jewish Center opened in September 2000 and since then has received nearly 25,000 visitors. Housed in the sole surviving synagogue in the town, the Center was created to educate visitors about the rich and vibrant Jewish life that once existed in Poland. In addition to exhibits, the Center has a Family History Room for genealogical research, a meeting space, and a library for lectures, dialogues, or seminars. The program began last year, and three scholars were selected for the first summer from many applications.

For further information, please contact Nadine R. Greenfield, Director for Poland, Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation, 36 West 44th Street, Suite 310, New York, NY 10036, phone: 212-575-1050, fax: 212-575-1051, Web site: www.ajcf.org.

Tickets (\$12/person) can be purchased from Syrena Travel Agency (tel.: 617-269-9123) or reserved by phone 617-288-8621(evenings).

Synagogue in Lwów

The World Monument Fund has announced that the one surviving synagogue in Lwów, Ukraine, will be among those receiving a grant for preservation and restoration. The synagogue is in use by the local Jewish community, which has proposed a program and promised matching funds.

Dedication in Ożarów

Dr. Norman L. Weinberg reports that on 15 October a group of some twenty-five survivors and descendants of survivors traveled to Ożarów, a three-hour drive south of Warsaw, to attend a ceremony at the town's Jewish cemetery. The group included Rabbi Tanchum Baker, originally from Ożarów, now living in Israel.

Participating in the ceremony were the mayor of the town, Marcin Majcher, the local priest, Father Stanisław Szczerek, Colonel Rabbi David Zales, a U.S. military chaplain, John Armstrong of the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, Mrs. Judy McLennan, wife of the Canadian Ambassador to Poland, and Dr. Lena Bergman of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. Over five hundred local residents of all ages attended. The Jewish participants were warmly welcomed.

The restoration of the cemetery consisted of cleaning it up and putting back one hundred ninety monuments that had been buried or hauled away to another field. The gates to the cemetery have a new metal plaque identifying it in five languages. A monument has been erected to commemorate one hundred twenty Holocaust victims that are buried in a mass grave. A local silversmith, Andrzej Omasta, oversaw the project.

The event was recorded as a documentary film.

Encounter with Jewish Culture

In October a group of German, Jewish, and Polish youth participated in a five-day seminar in Krzyżowa near Wrocław called "Encounter with Jewish Culture." Its objective was to learn about each other's customs, traditions and religions, and form inter-cultural friendships.

The group included workshops on Jewish holidays, Israeli folk dancing, visits to Jewish sites in the area, discussion of Diaspora issues, and the reading of the book of Genesis.

The seminar was organized by the Jewish Community of Wrocław, the German Organization for Christian-Jewish Dialogue, and the Foundation of the Krzyżowa-International Youth Meeting Center.

A similar seminar had been held during the summer in Trzciel, west of Poznań, where the Polish Union of Jewish Students (PUS^o) held a youth camp. PUS^o activities in Poland are supported by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JOINT).

Żeromski Movie in Boston

The Polish Cultural Foundation in Boston has arranged for a one-time presentation of the movie *Przedwiośnie* (Approaching Spring) on Sunday, 3 March 2002 at the Belmont Studio Cinema, 376 Trapelo Rd., Belmont, MA at 2:30 PM. The movie (140 min, Polish film with English subtitles, dir. Filip Bajan) is based on the classic novel by Stefan Żeromski of the same title. Żeromski (1864-1925) is one of the most outstanding Polish writers. He was nominated for the Nobel prize in literature without success. Among his most famous books is *Popioły* (Ashes), made into a movie by the famous director Andrzej Wajda.

Luboml Exhibit

The exhibit "Remembering Luboml—Images of A Jewish Community," opened in Warsaw in November. Created originally in 1994 by the real estate developer Aaron Ziegelman and sponsored by his Foundation, the exhibit has already been shown in many major cities in the U.S. The exhibit consists of almost 2000 photographs, numerous artifacts, and video testimonies of survivors. It is described in the book, *Luboml: The Memorial Book of a Vanished Shtetl*, editor Berl Kagan (Ktav Press, 1997).

Luboml (Libivne in Yiddish) is located eighty miles north of Lwów, between Mińsk and Kovel. Before the war the town was in Poland, but today it is part of Ukraine. To see the photos, go to <www.luboml.org>.

100th Anniversary of Nożyk Synagogue

In December the Jewish community in Warsaw celebrated the 100th anniversary of the only remaining synagogue in Warsaw (out of some 440), known as the Nożyk Synagogue. The synagogue is located in Grzybowski Square near the Yiddish Theater and the offices of the Lauder Foundation in Poland.

In connection with the event, the synagogue is hosting an exhibition "Remembrance: Jewish Monuments in Warsaw," which displays photographs of both current and old Jewish sites of the city.

The exhibit has been funded by the City of Warsaw and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Shocking Exhibit of Graffiti in Wrocław

"The Holocaust – Why Not?" is the provocative title of a photographic exhibit that opened 14 January in Wrocław. A Polish high school girl, offended by the hate graffiti she saw drawn on the walls of city buildings, decided to photograph them. She then selected 72 of them to display. The title of the exhibit comes from one of the graffiti. Other photos show "Jude raus!", "Death to Jews," etc.

Fearing for her personal safety, the remarkable teenager is afraid to disclose her name, since her photographs expose the racist and cruel instincts of some of the citizens of her city. To create this exhibit she secured the support of a shelter for single pregnant women called Betlejem, where the exhibit is shown, the Regional Committee for the Rights of A Child, the Jewish Community of Wrocław, and a few friends. Senior city officials consider her exhibit offensive to its inhabitants and have not attended, but a district police chief, who visited the exhibit, said he was shaken and would carefully watch his area to make sure that any hateful inscriptions on the walls are washed off and removed.

Shevah Weiss, Israeli Ambassador to Poland, also visited the exhibit and said he found it shocking that such graffiti could appear in Poland in 2001. Weiss, a survivor whose family was hidden by righteous gentiles in Borysław, was very moved that a young girl had had the courage to confront the anti-Semitism displayed in this major city. Many people pass such graffiti with indifference, but this young person chose to draw public attention to it. He called her a heroine.

Wrocław is in the process of attempting to attract the International Expo 2010. Some officials are fearful that an

exhibit tarnishing the reputation of the city may undermine their efforts.

Sefer Torah Donated to Warsaw School

Earlier this year the parents, staff, and students of Ezra Academy of Woodbridge, Connecticut, donated a Torah scroll to the Lauder-Morasha School in Warsaw. They undertook the project of repairing and donating this precious gift after a visit by the Academy's parents and alumni to the school in Warsaw.

Students and staff of the Lauder-Morasha School celebrated the arrival of the Torah, which was placed into a previously empty ark at the school.

Latest on Jedwabne

"The Germans did not shoot at the Jews on 10 July 1941," said Radoslaw Ignatiew at a news conference on 19 December 2001. Ignatiew is the Polish official responsible for investigating what happened in Jedwabne in 1941. The latest findings are that the type of German bullet shells found at the site came into use only in 1942.

The findings were confirmed by Professor Leon Kieres, president of the National Remembrance Institute (IPN) entrusted with the investigation of the massacre of the Jews in the town of Jedwabne, where neighbors herded a large group of local Jews into a barn and set it on fire.

The fact that local Polish residents of Jedwabne had been responsible for the deaths of their Jewish neighbors was brought to international attention by Professor Jan T. Gross of New York University in his book *Neighbors*. The initial Polish reaction was that the tragedy was not a fault of the "neighbors," but of the German gendarmes in the town, particularly since German shells had been found near the site.

In his book Gross had quoted from an inscription on one of the stone monuments commemorating the war that 1,600 Jedwabne Jews had been killed (p. 169) and had previously cited 1,600 as the number of Jews killed (p. 7). As part of the IPN investigation, the mass grave was excavated and the count of the exhumed bodies was estimated at a few hundred. Detractors of the book seem to believe that the fact that the 1,600 number may have been an overestimate is somehow proof that the horrible crime either did not happen at all or at least was not carried out by Poles.

The Jedwabne investigation is expected to be completed next year. In the meanwhile Professor Kieres, a former member of the Senate, announced on 16 December 2001 that he may resign. While he has the support of the president and the prime minister, he has been viciously attacked by right wing political elements. In Polish chat rooms, some who don't like his findings have speculated that Kieres is not "Polish" and that "Jews" have taken over the National Remembrance Institute.

E-mail Notification

If you are interested in receiving e-mail notification of upcoming AAPJS events in the Boston area, please forward your e-mail address to <eshrut@aol.com>.

New Head of the Lauder Foundation in Poland

The Ronald S. Lauder Foundation has just appointed Rabbi Josef Kanofski as its new director for Poland. Rabbi Kanofski, who grew up in Tacoma, Washington, where he attended a Reform synagogue, came to Boston to study and became an assistant to Elie Wiesel. After completing his

doctorate he went on for Lubavicher rabbinical studies. His interest is in Jewish education.

Kanofski does not speak Polish and had some reservations about taking on this new position, but he is enthusiastic about bringing more Jewishness to Poland.

Rabbi Kanofski's appointment was greeted with some questions by members of the Jewish community in Poland, who, by and large, are not extremely religious. He has assured the community that he represents the Lauder Foundation, not Chabad, and believes that his dedication to Jewish education will benefit the Polish Jewish community.

Rabbi Kanofski's wife Sharon teaches at the Lauder-Morasha School, and the two oldest of his three sons are students there.

Study of Polish-Jewish Children

The Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum reports that one of its researchers is studying the social life of Polish-Jewish children and their families during the Holocaust (see *Update*, Dec. 2000/Jan. 2002). A major topic is the post-war impact of these experiences on the children who survived.

The researcher, Joanna Michlic, would like to hear from those who remember being interviewed soon after the war. She can be reached either at the Center, or at joanmichlic1@yahoo.com.

Karski-Nireńska Prize

The \$5,000 Jan Karski–Pola Nireńska Prize is awarded annually to an author who writes about contributions to Polish culture and science by Polish Jews or Poles of Jewish origin.

Last year's recipients were Maria and Kazimierz Piechotka, who have documented synagogues in Poland in their books, *Bożnice drewniane* (Wooden Synagogues), Arkady, 1957 and *Bramy nieba: bożnice murowane* (The Gates of Heaven: Masonry Synagogues), Krupski, 2000.

The Piechotkas, who have both studied architecture, fought in the Polish Underground during the war. They are fully dedicated to the study of the Jewish impact on Polish town and city spaces.

The selection committee for the prize consisted of Professors Józef Gierowski and Jerzy Tomaszewski, Nobelist

poet Czesław Miłosz, Director Feliks Tych of °IH, and Marek Web, Chief Archivist of YIVO.

Genealogical Success

The Ronald S. Lauder Foundation reports a success of connecting two cousins, a survivor in Poland with a survivor who resettled in the U.S. The Foundation operates a Genealogy Project at the Jewish Historical Institute (°IH) in Warsaw under the very able leadership of Yale Reisner.

Neither cousin knew the other had survived until Beatrice, who lives in the U.S., came to Poland with her daughter and visited °IH. Through a search on the recently computerized records of the Warsaw Jewish Committee (1945–46), she learned that her cousin Lea had survived. Then, through data on survivors from the U.S. National Holocaust Memorial Museum, she was able to find her cousin's current address and reconnect.

To: American Association for Polish-Jewish Studies

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Consensus Agreement on Holocaust Claims

A year ago, intensive negotiations spearheaded by Deputy Secretary of State Stuart Eizenstat and Count Otto Lambsdorf of Germany concluded in an agreement this spring concerning a financial settlement of property claims, slave and forced labor claims, and banking and insurance claims for Holocaust survivors or heirs of survivors.

As to insurance claims, these are already being handled by the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance claims (ICHEIC) located in London.

ICHEIC has just announced that the deadline for filing insurance claims has been extended to 30 September 2002.

For further information and a list of policy holders, see their Web site: <<http://www.icheic.org>>.

Pre-War Jewish Life Photographs

On 12 March the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York in Battery Park City will open a fascinating exhibition of photographs taken between the 1890s and 1939 by Zalman Kaplan, in the town of Szczuczyn, Poland. Kaplan, the local photographer took numerous photographs that illustrate pre-war Jewish life.

Mike Marvins, a Houston photographer and Kaplan's grandson, reassembled hundreds of his grandfather's images. Sixty of these photographs, are on display at the Museum of Jewish Heritage. A preview of the exhibit can be seen on the Museum website at <<http://www.mjhnyc.org/home.htm#>>

The museum, has just completed an exhibit of the Ringelblum Archive entitled "Scream the Truth at the World," borrowed from °IH in Warsaw.