



# INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH GENEALOGY AND PAUL JACOBI CENTER

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Jewish Genealogy – A legitimate field for academic research?

*An assessment of the status of modern scholarly Jewish genealogy and its potential  
as a sub-branch of Jewish Studies\**

## I. Avant Propos

In this brief presentation, I seek to address two issues:

First, does contemporary Jewish genealogy meet strict academic standards?  
Second, does it share similar, if not the same, goals as other scholarly endeavours in the humanities and social sciences?

My aim is to demonstrate that it does so, on both scores – and then to go on to advance the proposition that serious Jewish genealogy, as practised today, has reached a level of maturity where it merits a recognised and distinct place within the evolving world of Jewish Studies.

## II. Background and Wider Context

It is almost paradoxical that the status of Jewish genealogy within Jewish Studies should be a matter for discussion. For Leopold Zunz, there was no question that the subject was an evident dimension of Jewish history, and an integral part of the “Science of Judaism”. Indeed, in 1822, his second contribution to the *Zeitschrift für die Wissenschaft des Judentums* was a pioneering essay on Rashi - in which, *inter alia*, he investigated the famed commentator’s pedigree in a historical framework and in the context of biblical exegesis.<sup>1</sup> Zunz’s disciples were of the same mind. The Index Volume of the *Monatsschrift für Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judentums* for the period 1851-1938 lists almost 70 entries under “Genealogie”, with studies of leading families and personalities ranging from Maimonides to Isserles, and from Gluckel of Hameln to Dreyfuss.<sup>2</sup> Zunz’s own lineage and his Frankfurt family background, from ca. 1550 onwards, were extensively researched by the editors of the *Monatsschrift* in 1894.<sup>3</sup>

Within the wider scholarly community there was, however, an intellectual parting of the

ways between historians and genealogists in the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Their gradual estrangement is well known. Historians adopted the scientific method and developed standards for research and historiography. Most genealogists were probably unaware of, if not happily oblivious to, these advances. They tended to remain amateurs, often engaged in little more than ancestor hunting or self-aggrandisement. Among them, there were, no doubt, also cranks and crooks, some convinced of the mythical or divine origins of their roots, others bent on asserting claims to family fortunes or worse.

Historians came to look upon them askance and with reserve. At best, genealogists were seen as dilettantes, engaged in an antiquarian or filio-pietistic pursuit, collecting reams of meaningless names, devoid of conceptual framework, disciplinary focus and critical analysis.

Jewish genealogists were probably not regarded much differently by the 19<sup>th</sup> century *maskil*. It may have been unfortunate that a “Family Tree” is called a *k’tav yichusin* in Hebrew. In searching for *yiches*, Jews often sought connections with great rabbinic dynasties, the Jewish “aristocracy” – better still, links to Rashi and, through him, to King David himself! In Germany, Jewish genealogy, both scholarly and hobbyist, later fell prey to Nazi ideology and its theory of eugenics.<sup>4</sup> If genealogy itself was not racist, it could be exploited by racists and virulent anti-Semites. It became a dangerous pursuit, to be eschewed.

The frenzy of interest in “popular genealogy”, sparked off by Alex Haley’s *Roots* (1976), especially among minority groups such as Afro-Americans, Native Americans – and also Jews – probably only heightened the professional historian’s disdain for what essentially was an amateurish and partisan hobby. On the other hand, serious genealogists, who already had a well-established infrastructure of professional societies, peer-reviewed journals and accreditation bodies, felt directly challenged. Some, inspired by Donald Lines Jacobus (whose advocacy of scholarly genealogy predated the Haley era), gradually began to re-evaluate their goals and consider the possibility of gaining a recognised place for the subject in academia.

In so doing, the obvious connection between genealogy and family history was emphasised. The fashionable trend in historical research of focussing on the common man was another direction taken. Elizabeth Shown Mills, at the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research at Samford University, promoted academic genealogy in 2003 as “generational history”, defined as “an *interdisciplinary study* of the development of *individual families across generations* – analyzing the dynamics of ethnicity, intermarriage, status, and migrations *in economic, legal and social contexts*”.<sup>5</sup> As for the goal of genealogical research, Mills wrote five years later in similar vein: “The end-product toward which serious genealogists must strive is a *narrative study* that explores [the] family’s role in society and *places its members in* historical, socio-economic, and political *contexts*”.<sup>6</sup>

In parallel, academically trained genealogists introduced greater rigour and professionalism into their work. Led by the National Genealogical Society (in America), their methodology became more scientific. An accepted terminology was evolved. The need to work with primary sources was stressed. Stricter standards for the citation of evidence were put in place. Critical evaluation of data and their proper interpretation were demanded. Pertinent research questions were to be asked and working hypotheses to be tested.<sup>7</sup> In effect, the genealogist brought his work and methods into line with that of the qualified historian and social scientist.

With a growing appreciation of the fact that the goal was to contribute to the humanities

and social sciences in general, the academic genealogist came to understand that he was working at the macro-, and not solely the micro-, level. Thus horizons widened and broader topics could be envisaged – from the impact of conflict and migration on kinship groups to the societal forces leading to the rise (and fall) over time of families of note, by way of simple illustration. In the process, the academic genealogist came to recognise that his was not a “stand-alone” field and that, more often than not, it needed to be done on an inter-disciplinary basis. In an article on the “Post-secondary Study of Genealogy”, Prof. Thomas Jones, the editor of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* (a peer-reviewed journal) lists 45 academic areas to which genealogy is related.<sup>8</sup>

Where he retained a narrow focus, the genealogist attempted to demonstrate that a single illustrative family, or defined kinship group, was representative of a significant segment of society, not merely in a single generation but over time and place. The object was not to produce a litany of names but a well-worked narrative, squarely situating the family or kinship group in a wider context, whether historical, social, economic, demographic, religious or whatever.

In sum, *the goal became – and remains – to better understand the past*, and not merely to gather random facts about it – and this, with a view to *providing significant insights into that heritage from an original and very human perspective*. This scholarly endeavour is on a par with other relatively new branches of history, such as gender studies and minority studies. Therein lies its importance – seeking, as it does, to compliment and supplement work done by other scholars, by using different analytical frames of reference and techniques, and thus grow and enhance the common body of human knowledge and understanding.

### III. Contemporary Jewish Genealogy

Present-day Jewish Genealogy has made parallel advances and indeed gone through the same fundamental transformation.

In the 1980's, the quest for “roots” fired the imagination of thousands of American Jews who, for the most part, had laboured for up to a century to discard their East European origins. Whatever the reasons for this phenomenon, it was assisted by highly successful “how-to” books by Dan Rottenberg,<sup>9</sup> Arthur Kurzweil<sup>10</sup> and others. Later in the decade, the pursuit drew further impetus, however unconscious and inarticulate, from the growing pre-occupation among Jews with the subject of “continuity” and the future of the Jewish people. In the 1990's, new-found access to archives in Eastern Europe after the eclipse of the Soviet Union, coupled with the advent of the personal computer, only increased the numbers of Jews researching their roots.

Largely amateur and lacking in professional training, these cohorts of enthusiasts rendered - and continue to render - sterling service to the scholarly Jewish genealogist and the academic world at large. In parallel with the invaluable work done by others, they have generated large websites for research in the field of Jewish genealogy, databasing countless records from previously inaccessible archives. The ambitious “Jewish Records Indexing (JRI) – Poland” project, with millions of entries, is a prime example. Source books and resource guides have made their appearance.<sup>11 +12+ 13</sup> Within this category, the impressive series on “Jewish Roots” in Ukraine and Moldova, Poland, Lithuania and Belarus by Miriam Weiner, should be cited.<sup>14</sup> Reference works, gazetteers<sup>15</sup> and bibliographies,<sup>16</sup> are increasingly available.

Beyond that, important aids to research have appeared, especially in the area of onomastics. Here mention must be made of Alexander Beider's major works on Jewish surnames in the Russian Empire, the Kingdom of Poland, and Galicia, which embody a high level of scholarship and provide comprehensive historical, etymological and linguistic background to the subject matter.<sup>17 + 18</sup>

And finally, these grass-roots hobbyists have uncovered a plethora of sources of real potential for the serious Jewish genealogist and others. Hardly an issue of the leading Jewish genealogical review, *AVOTAYNU*, goes by without a discussion of a new archival collection that is generally well off the professional historian's beaten path.<sup>19</sup>

Indeed, it is fair to say that it was genealogists - many of them Jewish - rather than historians, who spurred archives in Eastern Europe and elsewhere into becoming more accessible and user-friendly, and into developing online catalogues and finding aids, often with English interfaces. In the process, they opened the door to sources with wide implications for various types of historical research.<sup>20</sup> Perhaps more significant in the present context, they furnished scholarly Jewish genealogy with some important underpinnings and the makings of a technical apparatus in a remarkably short period of time.

Moreover, the activities of these amateur family historians have impacted positively on the *quality* of serious research work being produced, as can be seen in both published articles and full-length studies.

Recent issues of *AVOTAYNU* contain some impressive offerings, with articles discussing, for instance:

- The reconstruction of a town-wide genealogies, as for instance in Mattersdorf, Hungary over a period of 240 years;<sup>21</sup>
- Prussian transit migration, resulting from migratory decisions made by *Litvak* Jews in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century;<sup>22</sup>
- or, at the other end of the scale, a meticulously documented piece of research, showing what can be done with archival material to fill out significant gaps in earlier family monographs.<sup>23</sup>

As for book-length studies, one could cite several recent works, illustrating not only the growing breadth of current Jewish genealogical research, but also the openness on the part of major houses such as Princeton<sup>24</sup> and Indiana,<sup>25</sup> to publish it and related topics.

As examples of studies that interweave family history and academic historical research in a highly effective manner, one can point to:

- A "generational history" of the Jewish Community of Schneidemühl over 300 years;<sup>26</sup>
- Two works situating Jewish lives and lineages in comparable contexts within rural German;<sup>27 + 28</sup>
- An innovative work on five Sephardi elite families, making exquisite use of New Jersey local history.<sup>29</sup>

### III. The International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and Paul Jacobi Center

In the light of these trends, it is perhaps not surprising that by the second half of the 1990's voices were raised in various quarters suggesting the formation of an academic centre for Jewish genealogy and that some tentatives were made in that direction.<sup>30</sup> It took several years, however, for this vision to materialize and for the International

Institute for Jewish Genealogy to open its doors in January 2006, within the Jewish National and University Library on the Hebrew University's Givat Ram Campus in Jerusalem.

#### A. Research

In striving to advance the status of Jewish genealogy in the scholarly world and in seeking a recognised place for the subject within the realm of Jewish Studies, the Institute has sought to win its spurs primarily by engaging in scientific research. Committed to standards of academic excellence, it has established a number of criteria for the selection of projects:

- Projects of broad interest to not only Jewish genealogists but also a range of other scholars.
- Projects based on primary sources, whose scope goes well beyond information gathering and retrieval, and require critical evaluation and analysis of data.
- Studies whose resultant narratives are firmly positioned in a pertinent Jewish Studies context, whether historical, social, economic, cultural, religious or other.
- Projects that expand the scope of Jewish genealogical inquiry - taking it, for example, into realm of the exact sciences, particularly computer science.<sup>31</sup>
- Proposals that are interdisciplinary and envisage mutually beneficial synergisms between Jewish genealogy and other academic disciplines.

In its first three and a half years, the Institute has launched eleven projects, which today have reached differing levels of maturity.

a. In the category of "pure genealogy", the Institute has in hand:

- historical and socio-economic genealogical studies that range in *time* from the medieval to the modern periods and in *place* from Cervera in Spain, through Ancona and Modena in Italy, to Lithuania and Ottoman Palestine.<sup>32</sup>

- In terms of *focus*, they examine issues such as:

- \*\*\* kinship as the central building-block in the *shtetl* determining a Jew's residence, his occupation and his social and economic networks; \*\*\* behaviour patterns and life-styles of different strata of Jewish families and their inter-action with the wider environment;
- \*\*\* the formation of alternative commercial and economic networks parallel with those in non-Jewish societies;
- \*\*\* and the challenges to those networks and their stability posed by processes such as urbanization, migration and modernization.

B. In the category of “applied genealogy”, are:

- i. A study on *Sephardic DNA and Migration* that has yielded unexpected results regarding the peregrinations throughout the Mediterranean basin of a sampling of Jews who held that their lineages dated back to pre-Inquisition Spain.<sup>33</sup> These findings are now being incorporated into a much larger study of Sephardic DNA being conducted by researchers at the Universities of Arizona and Haifa.
- ii. An attempt at *A Genealogical Reconstruction of Destroyed Communities* that seeks to recreate kinship groups in countless Jewish communities wiped out during the Shoah.<sup>34</sup>

While still in its early phases, this project has generated a unique soundex system, called “Beider-Morse Phonetic Matching”, in the first instance for the identification of Ashkenazic surnames. This system has already been applied to the Ellis Island Database and other large databases.<sup>35</sup>

c. Under the wide rubric of “tools and technologies”, the Institute has produced:

- i. An innovative standard for recording “Names, Dates and Places in a Genealogical Database” (not specific to Jewish genealogy).<sup>36</sup>
- ii. An annotated inventory of the late Dr. Paul Jacobi’s extensive genealogical studies into some 400 leading Ashkenazi families.<sup>37</sup>
- iii. Algorithms that enable the merging of diverse genealogical datasets.
- iv. & v. In addition, the Institute is currently working on *Ethical Standards for Jewish Genealogy*, and a *Glossary of Genealogical Terms* in Hebrew.

Taken together, these projects show the range of advanced genealogical work being done by the Institute in conjunction with scholars elsewhere. They also are contributing to the growing corpus of genealogical knowledge currently emerging about Jews over the centuries. Hopefully, the Institute’s lead in this enterprise will be both a model for others and a spur to new collaborative projects in a range of disciplines of relevance to Jewish Studies.

## B. Teaching

Before concluding, I have to add that the next area for the Institute to address is the teaching of Jewish Genealogy at the university level. A major university in the United States has already expressed interest in offering a 1-year BA course in the subject and, at present, the Institute is elaborating “academic guidelines” for that purpose. The plan is to give the course in academic 2010-11. If successful, it may attract the attention and interest of other universities and colleges, so that over time courses in Jewish Genealogy will find a natural place in Jewish Studies programmes worldwide.

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But enough of my describing the advances of contemporary Jewish genealogy and advocating its place in the realm of Jewish Studies. Let me rest my case at this point and defer to the other panellists to produce the supporting evidence, as it were.

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\* I am indebted to Prof. Eric Goldstein of Emory University in Atlanta GA, who rigorously

challenged my thinking on this topic over the last two years.

<sup>1</sup> Zunz, Dr.[sic], "Salomon ben Isaac, gennant Raschi", in *Zeitschrift für die Wissenschaft des Judentums*, 2<sup>nd</sup> part (Berlin, 1822), 277-384.

<sup>2</sup> Gesamtregister zur *Monatsschrift für Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judentums, 1851-1939* (Breslau, 1938 [New York, 1966]), p. 136.

<sup>3</sup> Kaufmann, David, "Die Familie Zunz", *Monatsschrift für Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judentums*, 38 (1894), 481-493; & Brann, M., "Dr. Leopold Zunz und seine Frankfurter Ahnen", *ibid.*, 493-500 (Zunz family tree, *loc. cit.*, opposite p. 528).

<sup>4</sup> For one of many references, see, for example, Steinweis, Alan E, *Studying the Jew: Scholarly Anti-Semitism in Nazi Germany* (Harvard, 2006), p. 107, re. Friedrich Wilhelm Euler and Jewish biography and genealogy.

<sup>5</sup> Mills, Elizabeth Shown, "Genealogy in the 'Information Age': History's New Frontier?", National Genealogical Society's Centennial Address, May 2003, later published in *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, 91 (December 2003), p. 260, fn.1. [Italics added in quote – NL.]

<sup>6</sup> From Mills, Elizabeth Shown, in a paper entitled "History and the New Discipline of Genealogy", given on March 26, 2009 at the Annual Meeting of OAH (Organization of American Historians) in Seattle, WA. [Italics again added in quote – NL.]

<sup>7</sup> Cf. "Genealogy and Social Structure: A New Course", in *AVOTAYNU*, XIX, 4 (Winter 2003), 11-12, where J. Jona Schellekens, a professor of anthropology, described the major objective of his course at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as "to review and test theories about the functions of genealogies in different kinds of societies".

<sup>8</sup> Jones, Thomas W. "Post Secondary Study of Genealogy: Curriculum and Its Contexts" at the IJG Symposium (Jerusalem, 2006) – posted on the IJG Website ([www.ijg.org](http://www.ijg.org)) and then published, slightly modified, in *AVOTAYNU*, xxiii, 3 (Fall 2007), 17-23.

<sup>9</sup> Rottenberg, Dan, *Finding Our Fathers: A Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy* (New York, 1977)

<sup>10</sup> Kurzweil, Arthur, *From Generation to Generation: How to Trace your Jewish Genealogy and Personal History* (New York, 1980).

<sup>11</sup> E.g. Ellman-Krüger, Angelika and Luft, Edward David, *Library Resources for German-Jewish Genealogy* (Bergenfield, NJ); Rosemary Wenzel (ed.), *Jewish Ancestors? A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in the United Kingdom* (London, 2006); & Estelle M. Guzik (ed.), *Genealogical Resources in New York* (New York, 2003 [revised edition]).

<sup>12</sup> Malka, Jeffery S., *Sephardic Genealogy: Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and Their World* (Bergenfield, NJ, 2001).

<sup>13</sup> E.g. Tagger, Mathilde and Kerem, Yitzchak, *Guidebook for the Sephardic and Oriental Genealogical Sources in Israel* (Bergenfield, NJ, 2006).

<sup>14</sup> Weiner, Miriam, *Jewish Roots in Poland: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories* (New York & New Jersey, 1998); & *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories* (New York & New Jersey, 1999). The chapters on archives in Lithuania and Belarus are to be found on the website of the "Routes to Roots Foundation Inc." at <http://www.rtrfoundation.org>. Also in this category, cf. Rhode, Harold and Sack, Sallyann Amdur, *Jewish Vital Records, Revision Lists and other Jewish Holdings in the Lithuanian Archives* (Bergenfield, NJ).

<sup>15</sup> E.g. Auslander, Jordan, *Genealogical Gazetteer of the Kingdom of Hungary* (Bergenfield, NJ, 2005).

<sup>16</sup> E.g. Ellman-Krüger, Angelika and Ellman, Dietrich, *Bibliographie zur deutsche-jüdische Familienforschung und zur neueren Regional- und Localgeschichte der Juden* (Berlin, 2006)

<sup>17</sup> Beider, Alexander, *Jewish Surnames in Prague: 15th-18th Centuries* (Bergenfield, NJ, 1994); *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland* (Bergenfield, NJ, 1996); *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames From Galicia* (Bergenfield, NJ, 2004); & *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire* (Bergenfield, NJ, 2008, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Beider has also worked on Ashkenazi given names - *A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names: Their Origins, Structure, Pronunciations, and Migrations* (Bergenfield, NJ, 2001). Also in this category, cf. Menk, Lars, *A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames* (Bergenfield, NJ).

<sup>18</sup> Cf. for Sephardic names, Faiguenboim, Guilherme; Valdores, Paulo; and Campagnano *Dicionário Sefardi de Sobrenomes* (Bergenfield, NJ) & Pinto, Baruh, *Sephardi Onomasticon* (Istanbul 2005)

<sup>19</sup> E.g. see Baston, Judy, "Morgenthau Mission to Poland To Investigate the 1919 Pogroms: A Genealogical Resource", in *AVOTAYNU*, xxii, 2 (Summer 2006), 14-18; Dunai, Alexander,

"Tabula Registers: An Untapped Genealogical Resource in the L'viv Archives", *loc. cit.*, 34-37; and Sack, Sallyann Amdur and Mokotoff, Gary "Jewish Labor Committee's Holocaust-Era Archives", in *AVOTAYNU*, xxiv, 3 (Fall 2008), 28-29.

<sup>20</sup> E.g. the recent opening up of the ICRC's ITS archive at Arolsen, as a result of pressure exerted by Jewish genealogists.

<sup>21</sup> Carole Garbuny Vogel and Yitzchok N. Stroh "Constructing a Town-Wide Genealogy: Jewish Mattersdorf, Hungary, 1698-1938" in *AVOTAYNU*, xxiii, 1 (Spring 2007), 30-39.

<sup>22</sup> Leiserowitz, Ruth, "Litvak Migratory Decisions in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and their Consequence: Prussian Transit Migration" in *AVOTAYNU*, xxiv, 2 (Summer 2008), 29-34.

<sup>23</sup> Tillman, Teri D., "Identifying Benjamin W. Cohen of New York and New Orleans" in *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, 95 (December 2007), 245-64; reprinted in *AVOTAYNU*, xxiv, 4 (Winter 2008), 23 sqq. This article treats *in extenso* an unexplored line in Malcolm Stern's classic *First American Families, 600 Genealogies: 1654-1988* (Baltimore, 1991 [3<sup>rd</sup> edition]).

<sup>24</sup> Bartov, Omer, *Erased: Vanishing Traces of Jewish Galicia in Present-day Ukraine* (Princeton University Press, 2007).

<sup>25</sup> Redlich, Shimon, *Together and Apart in Brzezany: Poles, Jews, and Ukrainians, 1919-1945* (Indiana University Press, 2002).

<sup>26</sup> Cullman, Peter Simonstein, *History of the Jewish Community of Schneidemühl -1641 to the Holocaust* (Bergenfield, NJ, 2007).

<sup>27</sup> Rose, Emily C., *Portraits of Our Past: Jews of the German Countryside* (Philadelphia, 2001).

<sup>28</sup> Stein, Mathilda Wertheim, *The Way It Was: The Jewish World of Rural Hesse* (Atlanta GA, 2000).

<sup>29</sup> Rosenstein, Neil, *The Grandees of New Jersey: Naar, Baiz, Peixotto, Pretto & Seixas Families* (Elizabeth NJ, 2006).

<sup>30</sup> See, for example, Lawrence Tapper, "Call to Arms", *AVOTAYNU*, xi, 1 (Spring, 1995), 3-5; Boris Feldblyum. "Jewish Treasures in the Former Soviet Union", *AVOTAYNU*, xi, 2 (Summer, 1995), 7-8; and Sallyann Amdur Sack, "Jewish Genealogy on the Eve of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", *AVOTAYNU*, xiii, 3 (Fall, 1997), 3-7. Private proposals are known to have been circulated separately in the late 1990's by Chanan Rapaport and Meir Wunder, both of Jerusalem. Others may also have been floated elsewhere.

<sup>31</sup> Cf. Wagner, Daniel Hanoach & Klauzinska, Kamila, "Contemporary Jewish Genealogy: a Multi-faceted Academic Activity", *Studia Judaica*, 2,18 (2006), pp. 349-365.

<sup>32</sup> (i) *The Notarial Archive of Cervera (Catalonia, Spain), a source for the study of Jewish Genealogy, Migrations and Life in the Middle Ages*, being carried out by Maria Jose Surribas of Barcelona; (ii) *Crossing the Boundaries: Jewish Networks in Early-Modern Italy between the Mediterranean and the New World (16th – 18 Centuries)* being conducted by Dr. Federica Francesconi of the University Bologna; (iii) *The Ties that Bind: Jewish Kinship Networks and Modernization in Darbénai and its Diaspora*, carried out by Prof. Eric Goldstein of Emory University; (iv) *A Genealogically Centred Approach to the Historical Geography of Eretz Yisrael during the late Ottoman and British Mandatory Periods* undertaken by Prof. Ruth Kark of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Dr. Joseph Glass of Toronto.

<sup>33</sup> *Sephardic DNA and Migration*, headed by Alain Farhi of New York. Preliminary results of this study were published by Farhi, in *AVOTAYNU*, xxiii, 2 (Summer 2007), 9-12, "Preliminary Results of Sephardic DNA Testing".

<sup>34</sup> *A Genealogical Reconstruction of Destroyed Communities*, led by Dr. Sallyann Sack of Washington DC. For description, see Sack, Sallyann Amdur, "Reconstituting the Destroyed Communities of Europe", in *AVOTAYNU*, xxii, 2 (Summer 2006), 7-9.

<sup>35</sup> For description, see Beider, Alexander and Morse, Stephen P., "Beider-Morse Phonetic Matching: and Alternative to Soundex with Fewer False Hits", in *AVOTAYNU*, xxiv, 2 (Fall 2008), 12-18.

<sup>36</sup> Mokotoff, Gary, "A Proposed Standard for Names, Dates and Places in a Genealogical Database" in *AVOTAYNU*, xxiv, 3 (Fall 2008), 3-6.

<sup>37</sup> The inventory of the Jacobi material, compiled by Shalom Bronstein, is available on the Institute's Website at [www.IJG.org](http://www.IJG.org)