



EAP1100: Survey of archival material in small Jewish communities in rural areas in Argentina: south Buenos Aires province and La Pampa province

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This project surveyed archival material belonging to Jewish communities and organisations in the southern areas of Buenos Aires and La Pampa provinces.

Brief history references about the surveyed communities:

The first wave of Jewish organised immigration to Argentina started in the last decade of the 19th century and was directed to agricultural settlement. In the second wave, during the first decades of the 20th century, this trend to rural areas continued, but most of the immigrants went to urban areas in large cities such as Buenos Aires, and in smaller cities and towns.

In the territory in which this survey was conducted, the southwestern region of the Buenos Aires Province, Jews began settling in agricultural colonies during the first two decades of the 20th century. The experience of agricultural labour in the first years, in areas

which suffer from a shortage of water and rain, in addition to the difficulty to become acclimated in a new environment and in a new kind of work to which they were not used, led to some of the settlers leaving the rural settlements and moving to villages and towns in the vicinity. In some cases, they were the first Jews to come to these places and in others; they joined newcomers who chose from the very beginning to establish themselves in urban areas – whether in small or large cities.

The characteristics of the Jewish communities visited during this survey reflect all the above-mentioned types.

Médanos was established when a group of settlers from the colony Villa Domínguez, in the Province of Entre Ríos, one of the colonies of the Jewish Colonization Association (JCA) founded by Baron Maurice de Hirsch, decided in 1900-1901 to leave this colony, but to continue their way of life as farmers. They bought a piece of land close (70 km) to Bahía Blanca, and divided the parcels to the members of the group. A larger group of immigrants arrived in 1906, which is considered the determining year for the foundation of the colony. Later, other groups of settlers, from Moises Ville (Santa Fe), arrived in Médanos. At that, time the colony already had a Jewish cemetery (since 1905) and a *mikve* (ritual bath). Since then, they began establishing communal institutions such as a synagogue and a society of mutual assistance (1913), a social centre with a library and a Jewish school (1925). In 1932, they managed to open a new building for their social, cultural, and religious activities. Until the 1980s, they maintained an active community life.

Rivera was first named **Colonia Baron Hirsch**. It was established by a group of close to 300 Jewish families from Ukraine that decided in 1904 to settle in the western region of Buenos Aires Province on land provided by JCA, but not dependent upon the JCA administration. They established around 10 colonies (100,000 hectares) at the centre of which was Colonia Baron Hirsch with a train station named Rivera and a Jewish cemetery. A school (Spanish and Yiddish) was established in each colony, together with a synagogue in the same building. Colonia Baron Hirsch / Rivera developed as a cultural, social, religious, and economic centre. Since the second decade of its existence central organizations for education, youth activities, and health services were founded there, as well as agricultural cooperatives for mutual help and common marketing their production, etc.

Tres Arroyos and **Coronel Suárez** developed as small towns. They were established as urban centres in a very rich area of agricultural production and provided diverse services for the area. Jews started to move there in the first decade of the 20th century. They made their livelihood as merchants of goods for the local population and marketed local products to Buenos Aires and other large cities. In the next decades, they established communal institutions and when their economic situation improved, they constructed their own buildings. The community in Tres Arroyos acquired its own cemetery in 1930. In the next decade, the population increased to a hundred families.

The Jewish communities established in cities – **Bahía Blanca**, **Mar del Plata**, and **Tandil** – were much more similar to the Jewish organizations in the larger cities in the country. The immigrants took their first steps in the cities as small, usually itinerant, merchants, who sold goods to workers on credit, and as artisans. Once their income became more stable, they established small

shops and factories, which in some cases evolved into larger business. Many members of the new generation continued their primary and secondary education in universities in these cities and in larger universities in La Plata and Buenos Aires. Jewish life in community frameworks developed with the establishment of classic institutions such as cemeteries (except for the community in Tandil, which buried its dead in other centres such as Mar del Plata or Buenos Aires), social, cultural, and educational institutions, synagogues, and organizations for mutual help in health or economic matters. The influence of processes of modernization and urbanization motivated the emigration of the new generation that sought higher education and larger urban areas. Almost all of the former Jewish inhabitants of Médanos left for Bahía Blanca, Buenos Aires, La Plata, or emigrated to other countries. Today there are about a hundred Jews in Rivera, about ten in Suárez, and only three in Tres Arroyos. This process affected the city areas as well. The Jewish population in Tandil was reduced considerably and most of those remaining are elderly. In Mar del Plata and Bahía Blanca, although their communities suffer some reduction in the number of their members, they still have enough people to maintain a vivid Jewish life with the participation of children and youngsters. It can be said that this evolution is also evident in immigrant communities not of Jewish origin. In all the reviewed places, there are organizations of European immigrants that evolved in similar ways, especially non-Catholic communities. The relations between these communities and the Jewish organizations are very cordial and every year they organize common festivals that play a central role in the life of all the communities. The core of surveyed material includes minutes books (Actas) of general convocations of the members or the executive committees of the various associations that reflect the discussions, debates, decisions, and activities relating to establishing the new institutions. Some of them are in Yiddish, the Jewish language of the Ashkenazi immigrants. A while later they started using Spanish, since the minutes books become official documents mandated by the authorities when the institutions received official recognition. Cemetery registers, correspondence, economic reports, and newsletters are also important sources that reflect the history of the communities, as well as photos and other visual documents. All this material comprises about 28,000 pages in bound books, 15,500 loose pages, and 6,000 photos.

Material found:

Institution	Serial number	Content	Period	Number of pages	Comment
1. Tandil					
1/1 Centro Social Israelita	1/1/1/1	Actas	June 1933 - Sept 1935	32	Yiddish
Av. España 544	1/1/1/2	Actas	1962-1980	300	Photocopy
	1/1/2/1	Listas de socios y aportes	1.10.1938 - Sept 1939	36	Spanish
		Idem	1939	40	Yiddish
	1/1/3/1	Actas - Asamblea general y Comisión Dir.	18.10.1992 - 18.3.2009	100	
	1/1/4/1	Libro Caja	Julio 1945 - Juniiio 1949	19	
-	1/1/5/1	Socios - Registro de cobranza	1.5.1946 - 1950	50	
-	1/1/6/1	Registro de alumnos de escuela	1967 - 1972	6	students and parents
-	1/1/7/1	Correspondencia recibida	1989 - 1992	300	envelope - loose sheets
-	1/1/7/2	Correspondencia enviada	1989 - 1992	50	Id.
	1/1/7/3	Correspondencia	2000 - 2007	500	Id.
	1/1/7/4	Correspondencia enviada	2001	20	Binder
	1/1/8/1	Memoria y balance	1.5.1995 -	15	Printed material

			30.4.1996		
	1/1/8/2	Memoria y balance	1.5.1996 - 30.4.1997	15	Printed material
	1/1/9/1	Fotos	1997	10	
				subtotal	
				books 345	
				leaves 1,170	
				Photos 10	
2. Mar del Plata					
2/1 Sociedad Israelita de Beneficencia Mutua	2/1/1/1	Actas	3.7.1932 - 19.8.1934	60	
Marplatense					
2/2 Sociedad Unión Israelita Marplatense - SUIM	2/2/1/1	Actas Comisión Directiva 1	14.4.1943 - 22.5.1957	487	
España 1853	2/2/1/2	Actas 2	29.5.1957 - 12.8.1965	500	
	2/2/1/3	Actas 3	19.8.1965 - 8.11.1971	400	
-	2/2/1/4	Actas 4 - missing	1971 - 1983		
	2/2/1/5	Actas 5	27.6.1983 - 5.8.1996	600	
	2/2/1/6	Actas 6	12.8.1996 - 4.4.2006	297	
-	2/2/1/7	Actas 7	25.7.2006 - 6.8.2018	398	

	2/2/2/1	Caja	1943 - 1971	99	
	2/2/3/1	Diario	1.4.1946 - Feb. 1980	400	manuscripts 354, typed (glued) 54
	2/2/4/1	Asistencia reuniones CD	11.11.1965 - 15.11.1971	200	typed without pasting
	2/2/4/2	Asistencia reuniones CD y Asambleas	23.11.1971 - 19.12.1985	400	
	2/2/4/3	Asistencia reuniones CD	12.7.2005 - 10.7.2017	106	
	2/2/5/1	Copiador de cartas	14.6.1957 - 10.9.1969	119	
	2/2/6/1	"Pinkas" - lista fallecidos	Agosto 1955	12	
	2/2/7/1	"Recuerdos de SUIM" - carpeta doc. varios	1933 - 2004	50	
	2/2/8/1	Proyecto cementerio comunitario	otoño 1966	50	
	2/2/9/1	"Escrib.Neiman: contratos, estatutos, terrenos	1938, 1956, 1962, 1965	150	Yiddish
	2/2/10/1	Plano habilitación edificio comunitario			loose leaves
	2/2/11/1	Nota renuncia Sr. Fainberg - pro-tesorero	1.3.1999	6	
	2/2/12/1	Fotografías comunitarias y dedicatorias visitas	22.8.1969 - 17.11.2002	200	Binder anillos
2/3 WIZO - Necochea	2/3/1/1	Actas	22.5.1943 - 22.11.1963	199	
				subtotal	loose leaves
				books 4,527	
				leaves 256	

3. Tres Arroyos					
3/1 Sociedad Unión Israelita de Tres Arroyos					
	3/1/1/1	Actas (Jevra Agudat Ajim)	15.9.1915 - 9.4.1916	31	
	3/1/1/2	Id.	23.4.1916 - 5.9.1918 y 13.10.1916 - 21.5.1923	188	
	3/1/2/1	Actas – Asamblea general, cast.	11.4.1926 - 30.11.1966	170	
	3/1/2/2	Id.	30.11.1967 - 19.10.2018	182	
	3/1/3/1	Firmas participantes Asambleas generales	22.3.1931 - 30.11.1974	186	
	3/1/4/1	Actas C.D.	7.7.1968 - 19.5.2005	255	
	3/1/4/2	Actas C.D.	21.5.1970 - 8.4.1976	37	
	3/1/5/1	Registro Cementerio	14.7.1930 - 17.5.2017	6	
	3/1/6/1	Inventario (bienes raíces, muebles, etc.)	19.8.1941 - 31.10.1979	189	
3/2 Sociedad de Damas Israelitas de Beneficencia - WIZO					
	3/2/1/1	Sociedad Damas Israelitas Beneficencia WIZO	13.9.1941 - 7.5.1970	200	
				subtotal	3978
				books	1.445

4. Bahía Blanca					
4/1 Asociación Israelita de Bahía Blanca					
	4/1/1/1	[Soc. Chevrah Keducha] - Actas As. Gral y C. D.	11.9.1910 - 27.11.1921	181	
	4/1/1/2	Actas Asamblea General	1.10.1914 - 20.11.1918	89	
	4/1/1/3	Idem	24.11.1918 - 20.4.1939	584	
	4/1/1/4	Idem	19.4.1931 - 26.5.2010	377	
	4/1/1/5	Idem	7.4.2011 - 5.7.2018	89	
	4/1/1/6	Asambleas - Libro de Asistencia	22.4.1986 - 5.7.2018	104	
	4/1/2/1	Soc. "Chevra Keducha" - Libro socios	1926 - 1927	200	
	4/1/3/1	Soc. "Chevra Keducha" - Registro inhumaciones	21.10.1915 - 29.10.1943	32	
	4/1/4/1	Soc. "Chev. Ked." - Estat., donac., inhumaciones	1943, 1952	200	
	4/1/5/1	Soc. "Chev. Ked." - fichas de socios	1927 - 1939	500	
	4/1/5/2	Id.	3.1.1948 - 1956	500	
	4/1/5/3	<i>Pinkas niftarim</i> - libro aniversarios fallecimientos	5716 - 1956	410	loose leaves - package
	4/1/6/1	Actas Comisión Directiva	3.5.1939 - 14.1.1962	400	Idem
	4/1/6/2	Idem	1.2.1962 - 12.1.1983	500	

	4/1/6/3	Idem	25.1.1983 - 12.3.1986	100	Yiddish
	4/1/6/4	Idem - missing			
	4/1/6/5	Idem	19.2.1991 - 22.5.2000	200	
	4/1/6/6	Idem	29.5.2000 - 27.8.2007	300	
	4/1/6/7	Idem	3.9.2007 - 8.6.2009	200	
	4/1/6/8	Idem	22.6.2009 - 27.9.2010	200	
	4/1/6/9	Idem	4.10.2010 - 15.10.2012	200	
	4/1/6/10	Idem	24.10.2012 - 4.6.2018	304	
	4/1/6/11	Idem	15.6.2018 - 29.10.2018	20	
	4/1/7	Inventario general	31.12.1918 - 31.8.1976	183	
	4/1/8	Pago cuotas y asistencia	1910 - 1941	163	
	4/1/9	Libro de Caja	1919 - 1934	95	
	4/1/10/1	Correspondencia - Copiador de cartas	1912 - 1915	500	
	4/1/10/2	Idem	nov. 1918 - 7.12.1927	500	
	4/1/10/3	Idem	1918 - 1927	500	
	4/1/10/4	Correspondencia - en papel	Años '70, '80 y '90	~3.000	
	4/1/11	Reunión ejecutiva - resoluciones	10.3.2014 - 29.5.2017	200	
	4/1/12	Boletín "Hamilá"		~2.000	
	4/1/13	Fotos comunitarias y escuela		~ 5.000	loose leaves

	4/1/14	Videos - programas TV, actos	Años '80, '90, '2000 y '2010		
					loose leaves
4/2 Banco Mutual del Sud	4/2/1/1	Asambleas generales - Actas	16.8.1925 - 30.9.1939	120	Idem
	4/2/1/2	Idem	1.9.1940 - 28.9.1950	102	
	4/2/1/3	Idem	25.9.1951 - 9.4.1981	200	
4/3 Círculo Cultural Sionista	4/3/1/1	Círculo Cultural Sionista, Asamblea general y CD	1.5.1938 - 12.11.1941	391	
	4/3/1/2	Idem	24.4.1932; 1947 (Estatutos), 6.3.1947 - 14.5.1953	288	
	4/3/1/3	Idem	17.4.1972 - 28.8.1974	46	
	4/3/2	Subcomisión deportes	10.5.1937 - 15.12.1938	88	
4/4 Unión Sionista	4/4/1	Caja	1.12.1935 - 31.7.1939	50	
4/5 Escuela Hebrea Dr. Herzl	4/5/1	Comité organiz. escolar judía en Bahía Blanca - actas	18.2.1943 - 6.6.1945	71	
	4/5/2	Cooperadora - actas	19.4.1983 - 13.5.1987 y 5.7.1989	51	
	4/5/3	Asociación Hebrea Dr. Herzl	28.4.1970 - 23.1.1984	265	

	4/5/4	Material legal + caja	1957 y 1975	100	
4/6 Sociedad de Damas (WIZO)	4/6/1	Cobranzas periferia	1951 - 1952	100	
	4/6/2	Lista nominal socias y lugar de procedencia		27	
4/7 Asociación Civil Voluntariado Doña Clara	4/7/1	Actas	1.7.2004 - 28.9.2005	15	loose leaves
4/8 Vaad Hakehilot (Federación Argentina Comunidades)	4/8/1	Actas	14.6.1971 - 23.11.1972	13	
4/9 Asoc. Amigos Universidad Hebrea de Jerusalem	4/9/1	Actas	19.9.1948 - 23.4.1951	16	
4/10 Confederación Juvenil Sionista Argentina	4/10/1	Reunión territorial en Tres Arroyos - actas	11.6.1944	13	
				subtotal	
				books: 9,370	
				leaves ~8,000	
				Photos: ~5,000	

					loose leaves
5. Médanos					
5/1 Asociación Israelita de Protección Mutua y	5/1/1/1	Actas	1.5.1913 - 14.10.2017	348	
Beneficencia de Médanos	5.1/1/2	idem	11.7.1954 - 17.5.1970	151	
San Martín 488	5/1/1/3	idem	21.2.1997 - 19.9.2007	38	
	5/1/2	Caja	1920 - 1943	383	
-	5/1/3	Asamblea general - actas	7.11.1948 - 28.10.1956	16	
	5/1/4	Registro de socios	1969 - 2003	119	
-	5/1/5	Asistencia reuniones	28.9.1965 - 26.4.1981	200	
-	5/1/6	Inventario	29.5.1949 - 31.12.1998	99	
	5/1/7				
5/2 Sociedad Central de Cultura Juventud Unida Israelita	5/2/1	Actas	7.1.1927 + hojas sueltas	16 + 50	
-	5/2/2	Asistencia	1950 - 1982	194	
				subtotal	
				books 1570	
				leaves 50	

6. Coronel Suárez					
6/1 Sociedad Israelita de Socorros Mutuos	6/1/1/1	Jevra Kadisha - Registro de defunciones	28.4.1906 - 12.3.2018	272	
Garibaldi 163	6/1/1/2	Libro de recordación Jevra Kadisha 5670 (1910)	5670 (1910) - ...	200	
	6/1/1/3	Registro defunciones	1931 - 1940	13	
	6/1/1/4	Registro mortalidad - fichas nominales	25.4.1965 - 16.11.1977	34	
	6/1/1/5	Registro defunciones - índice alfabético	...	30	
	6/1/2/1	Registro de socios	...	30	
	6/1/2/2	Registro de asociados	...	39 double pages	
	6/1/3/1	Actas #1	7.10.1906 - 25.9.1953	474	
	6/1/3/2	Idem. #2	5.10.1953 - 24.8.1975	300	
	6/1/3/3	Idem. #3	25.8.1975 - 25.2.2000	300	
	6/1/4/1	Inventario - Soc. Isr. Socorros Mutuos	21.10.1930 - 6.9.1946	288	
	6/1/4/2	Idem	1.7.1937 - 30.6.1955	37	
	6/1/4/3	Idem	Idem	196	leaves
	6/1/4/4	Idem	1.7.1955 - junio 1980	150	
	6/1/4/5	Idem	marzo 1982 - mayo 1990	60	

	6/1/5/1	Caja	7.8.1938 - 8.5.1943	199	
	6/1/5/2	Idem	31.8.1947 - febrero 1965	199	
	6/1/6	Diario	junio 1955 - mayo 1987	300	
	6/1/7	Recibos de empréstito	agosto 1942	100	
	6/1/8/1	Correspondencia - Copiador de cartas	29.4.1925 - 16.1.1933	503	
	6/1/8/2	Idem	6.6.1929 - 24.5.1937	77	leaves
	6/1/8/3	Idem	23.5.1934 - 2.10.1946	234	
	6/1/8/4	Idem	13.9.1937 - 14.8.1962	220	
	6/1/8/5	Correspondencia - copias en papel	años '70 al '90	20	
	6/1/8/6	Idem	diversos años	600	
	6/1/9/1	Invitaciones y volantes	1931 - 1932	40	
	6/1/9/2	Programas de actos a beneficio	...	30	
	6/1/10	Direcciones de la Asociación		30	
	6/1/11	Recortes de festejos aniversario	1996	30	
	6/1/12	Nupcialidad (lista casamientos)	julio 1967 - 3.11.1976	3	leaves
	6/1/13	Firmas de presencia en sesiones CD	27.7.1960 - 29.8.1976	200	
	6/1/14	Memoria y Balance (impresos)	2006, 2011, 2013 - 2018	100	

	6/1/15	Reseña histórica de la Comunidad Judía Cnel. Suárez	...	19	
	6/1/16	Cuaderno negro	septiembre 1910	12	
				192	
6/2 Centro Juventud Israelita	6/2/1/1	Actas #1	8.9.1916 - 28.9.1921	284	
	6/2/1//2	Idem #2	21.4.1921 - 25.2.1934	255	
	6/2/1/3	Idem #3	11.3.1934 - 30.9.1946	116	
	6/2/1/4	Idem #4	28.5.1946 - 26.9.1954	...	
	6/2/2	Estatutos	1938	...	
6/3 La Mutua Israelita - Cooperativa de Créditos	6/3/1/1	Registro nominal de préstamos	15.5.1926 - 23.12.1928	...	
	6/3/1/2	Idem	1929 - 1934	266	
	6/3/1/3	Idem	12.8.1934 - 1939	191	
	6/3/1/4	Idem	3.5.1940 - 20.6.1942	112	
	6/3/2	Correpondencia	1929 - 1957	100	
	6/3/3/1	Accionistas	21.4.1925 - 3.7.1943	33	
	6/3/3/2	Acciones - Lista - Serie A	27.4.1924 - 17.2.1929	85	
	6/3/4/1	Balance	1.5.1925 - 20.10.1930	382	
	6/3/4/2	Balance	1.7.1937 - 30.5.1959	99	loose leaves
	6/3/5/1	Borrador de préstamos	nov 1936 -	197	

			26.8.1938		
	6/3/5/2	Idem	nov 1938 - abril 1940	197	
	6/3/6	Solicitudes de préstamos	24.4.1943 - 20.4.1944	50	
	6/3/7	Diario (Balance)	1947 - 1988	40	
	6/3/8	Mayor	1929 - 1947		
6/4 WIZO	6/4	Actas	14.9.1942 - 28.6.1975	155	leaves
				subtotal	
				books 7.400	
				leaves 800	
7. Rivera					
7/1 Jevrá Kadisha de Rivera (Colonia Montefiore	7/1/1/1	Registros de la Sociedad de Entierros	1906 - 1989	480	Yiddish and Hebrew
Saavedra 25, Rivera	7/1/1/2	Actas asambleas y protocolos de reuniones	1915 - 1951	8	Yiddish and Hebrew

7/2 Asociación Israelita de Cultura, Religión y Beneficencia	7/2/1/1	Actas #1- missing - 1957		
Barón Hirsch	7/2/1/2	Actas #2	24.3.1957 - 23.6.1988	196	
	7/2/1/3	Actas #?	12.7.1973 - 12.2.1980	198	
	7/2/1/4	Actas #6	27.10.1986 - 27.3.1996	200	
	7/2/1/5	Actas #7	29.5.1996 - 15.12.2003	200	
	7/2/1/6	Actas #8	29.12.2003 - 18.11.2010	199	
	7/2/2/1	Libro de asistencia - asambleas y sesiones CD	1.4.1966 - 30.8.1988	86	
	7/2/2/2	Idem	12.10.1981 - 1.9.2004	302	
	7/2/3/1	Libro de Contabilidad	1979 - 1994	double pages 95	
	7/2/4/1	Testimonio de Asamblea - modificación Estatuto	14.9.1936	13	loose leaves
	7/2/4/2	Idem	29.9.1942	6	loose leaves
	7/2/5/1	Cementerio - listado fallecidos por orden a be ce	14.11.1998	100	loose leaves

	7/2/5/2	Cementerio - lista fallecidos y ubicación tumbas	25.7.2005 - 24.12.2016	2	loose leaves
	7/2/6/1	Memoria y Balance (impreso 15 pp. x 34)	1965 - 1997	510	
	7/2/7/1	Material legal	2016 - 2018	20	loose leaves
	7/2/8/1	Planos de las colonias en la zona			
	7/2/8/2	Plano del cementerio			
7/3 Organizaciones de mujeres	7/3/1/1	WIZO - Correspondencia Colonias de la zona	1952 - 1991	5000	loose leaves
	7/3/2/1	Organización de mujeres - Actas	25.8.1961 - 7.3.1965	157	
	7/3/2/2	Idem	20.3.1966 - 23.7.1975	200	
	7/3/3/1	Org. Henrieta Szold - Actas	20.3.1966 - 20.8.1981	200	
	7/3/4/1	Centro Sofía Nisensohn	22.9.1981 - 26.3.1988	53	
	7/3/5/1	Centros Szold y Nisensohn	7.4.1980 - 9.8.1984	101	
7/4 Colonias Veneziani, Narcisse Leven y Clara	7/4	Fotos		20	
				subtotal	

				books 3,272	
				leaves 5,200	
				Photos 20	
				books 28,000	
				leaves 15,500	
				Photos ~ 6,000	