

## Notes on the Scope of the Iraqi Jewish Archive (IJA)

27 September 2013

### Archival Materials

#### *School Materials, 1920s–1975*

This group contains typed and handwritten archival documents and photographs related to the Jewish schools in Baghdad. The Primary and Intermediate Frank Iny School and Shamash Secondary School records comprise the bulk of this group. Student files include graduation certificates, exam scores, transcripts, and class rosters. Curriculum information is found in exam booklets and book lists as well as directly. Financial records include receipts, invoices, promissory notes, and documents related to property owned by the Jewish community.

#### *Community Records, 1910s–1960s*

These materials include typed and handwritten archival and bound documents from the Baghdadi Jewish community. Correspondence is primarily from the Chief Rabbi, the President of the Jewish Community, the Jewish Lay Council, and the Administrative Committee for Iraqi Jews. Government relations, financial and business records (receipts, invoices, telegrams, ledgers), and property information (leases, legal disputes) comprise the bulk of this group. This group includes birth, engagement, marriage, divorce, and death certificates. There are also some “personal” documents from the President of the Jewish Community in Baghdad, including condolence letters and a wedding invitation. The following are examples of types of archival documents from the Baghdadi Jewish Community:

- *Meir Tawieg Synagogue*, the last active synagogue in Baghdad: contains endowment, land, and general management agreements.
- *Hevrah Kadishah* (Burial Society): contains correspondence between the Burial Society and the Engineering Administration of Baghdad regarding site plans for a vacant lot.
- *Jewish Community Laws*: contains Law of the Jewish Community #77; law regarding the administration of endowments #27; and law of the organization of the Jewish community #36
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#### *Jewish Hospitals, 1920s–1960s*

These materials include typed and handwritten archival documents regarding the Jewish hospitals and pharmacies in Baghdad. Correspondence is primarily from the Jewish Hospitals Committee and the Meir Elias Hospital.

### *Citizenship Issues, 1940s–1960s*

This includes typed and handwritten archival material and printed government laws. Correspondence is primarily from the President of the Jewish Community. Law publications are found in original printed texts and typed duplications. Another includes a report discussing the impacts of laws abrogating Iraqi citizenship for the Jewish community.

### *Kingdom of Iraq under British Administration, 1920s–1930s*

This group includes typed and handwritten correspondence originating primarily from British representatives in Iraq and the newly established Iraqi government during and closely after the British Mandate period (1920–1932). Topics include Iranian, Kurdish, and Assyrian relations.

### *Dissertations and Conference Proceedings, 1980s–2000s*

These materials include printed books and bound archival structures, often with limited publication or distribution information. The predominant topic is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. There is an Arabic copy of Mahmoud Abbas's doctoral dissertation from the Patrice Lumumba University of Moscow, *The Other Side: The Secret Connections between the Nazis and the Leaders of the Zionist Movement*.

### *Newspapers, 1950–1960s; 1990s*

The collection includes several Arabic newspapers and collections of newspaper clippings. The clippings focus on topics related to the Jewish community, especially citizenship laws; and this category overlaps with *Citizenship Issues* above. Modern Arabic newspapers (1995–1997) include coverage of Saddam Hussein, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and Iraq's regional politics.

### *Iraqi Government Material*

This material has no connection to the Jewish Community. Some of the documents contain sensitive information.

## **Books**

Books survive in different levels of completeness. Some are complete, with or without full publication information; others are incomplete, with or without full publication information.

### *Prayer Books*

This includes prayer books for all weekday, Sabbath, and festival services. Books are sometimes specifically for the Baghdadi community (printed in Baghdad or Livorno) or for the Sephardic community. The collection also has some Haggadahs for Passover. These books sometimes include Judeo-Arabic translations.

### *Rabbinic Literature*

This includes many traditional Jewish texts: Talmuds, Mishnahs, Zohars (and other Kabbalistic works), editions of the Shulhan Arukh and a commentary on it, books of sermons and responsa, and commentaries on the Hebrew Bible.

### *Bibles*

Included are entire Hebrew Bibles, the three sections of the Bible—the Torah, the Prophets, the Writings—and individual biblical books. Some texts include the traditional Aramaic translation of the Bible (*Targum Onkelos*) and rabbinic commentaries. A few have Judeo-Arabic, Ladino, or even Yiddish translations. Many books with the Torah text include the Haftarahs for the weekly portions and the text of the Sabbath service.

### *Textbooks*

This category includes Hebrew primers, Israeli primary and high school books printed in Hebrew or Arabic for a variety of subjects, and school-related materials in English.

### *Miscellaneous*

A potpourri of materials: academic journals in Hebrew and Arabic, printed trade about the Middle East, and telephone books.

### **Other**

This type of materials includes Torah and Book of Esther parchment scroll fragments, partial sections of a tiq, book fragments, book covers separated from their texts.