

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
Finding Aid
RG-31.067M
Ukraine
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Title: Records of the HeHalutz (Youth Zionist Organization for Education and Preparation of Jews for Immigration to the Land of Israel) Organization, Lwow Regional Branch, Poland, Fond 457, Opis 1, 1925 – 1939

Extent: 1 microfilm reel.

Provenance: Records from the State Central Historical Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, Fond 457, Opis 1. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives received the filmed collection via the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum International Archives Project in Oct. 2008.

Restrictions on Access: No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on Use: Duplication for a third party requires formal approval of the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine in Lviv. Mandatory citation of the original source (archives, RG etc) is required for the publication of the archival records.

Language: Polish, Hebrew

Preferred citation: Standard citation for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Curatorial Affairs Division, Archives

Historical Note: HeHalutz (Pioneer) was an association of Jewish youth whose aim was to train its members to settle in the Land of Israel; this became an umbrella organization of pioneering Zionist youth movements. Maccabi, World Jewish Sport organization open its regional office in the E. Galicia (Malopolska) in 1931. The main aim of the organization was promotion of the physical education and sport activities among Jewish Youth.

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of bylaws and correspondence of the local Zionist organizations with Polish authorities regarding funding, agricultural training, membership fees and financial records. This collection also contains card

catalogue of the members of the local organization (1934) who went through the agricultural training before making aliah to the land of Israel.

Inventory:

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FOREWORD

Society for education and development of Jewish youth for emigration to Palestine “ha-Halutz – Pioneer” in Lviv was founded in 1920, in accordance with decisions of district authorities in Lviv, based on statute No. L XIII.a. 124820/20 of 8.XI.1920, but we received only statute of 1927, amended at General society elections of 9.IV.1927 and confirmed by district authorities as No. L. BP. 4976/27 of 20.IV.1927. Main amendments: Added: “Society has the right to create sections in districts of Lviv, Krakow, Stanislav, Ternopol and Silezky; In place of: 1/ General elections, 2/Administration, 3/Inspection committee, - were: 1/ Delegates conference, 2/Central Committee, 3/Chief inspection committee.

Society’s objective was to prepare Jewish youth for settlement in Palestine by means of education in agriculture, specifically, work in the field, care for poultry, milking, bee-keeping, fishing, forestry and market-gardening; and also education in trade/craft/ skills of all types, besides this – education of youth on improvement and morality, education of Hebrew language and Jewish culture, so that the youth can conduct work in Palestine for national-Jewish idea.

In resolution of report on activities of the society for 1936 – 1939 were mentioned upcoming activities: 1/building and improvement of centers/ preparation in work camps, 2/intensification of struggle and work in area of alya/emigration/ to Eretz; 3/increase in number of members in Departments.

Main points:

- 1/setting up and keeping of agricultural farms, through purchase or rent in government agricultural organizations under management of professional unions;
- 2/gratis mediation between owners or renters of agricultural land and members of society with aim of securing them with work in agriculture professions;
- 3/organization and realization of various practical courses;
- 4/gratis mediation between craftsmen and members of society with aim of securing them employment in crafts/trade/machinery;

5/organization of theoretical courses in Polish and Hebrew languages in practical trades for agricultural workers and craft workers;

6/setting up of courses in Hebrew language and lectures on Jewish history and literature, and on aesthetics for youth that might emigrate to Palestine;

7/upkeep of libraries – permanent and departing;

8/publication of newspapers and publications on Palestine and popular professional letters;

9/organization of authority and collection of contributions – after obtaining special permit from authorities; organization of entertainment, shows, and so on as needed by society;

Society in Lviv was part of universal Zionist organization “ha-Halutz”/Pioneer/ whose aim was to prepare ground for Jewish people to rebuild Palestine through agricultural education of Jews and preparing them in diaspora settlement of Jews beyond “fatherland”/to work in Palestine. This was an autonomous organization on apolitical/theoretical/ grounds.

In Gdansk in September 1924 a world conference took place, at which sole management of the organization was elected. Another world conference took place in September 1925 in Vidno, when in Poland there were 16,700 members, moreover 30 % young women. It had 252 groups collective/public/labor/kibutz/and 8 private farms.

Despite official claims of various parties of outside-party character of “ha-Halutz,” each party strived to pull it into its sphere of political influence. “Ha-Halutz” felt the pull to parties on the left, which had on it the greatest influence.

Lviv society in 1924 already had its agricultural farm in Signivets near Lviv, and on St. Terez street/near Jewish student home/was building a trade school/for II.X.1924.

Later on the society launched vigorous activities, began to build not only in Poland, but in other countries – Austria, Hungary, where students had to work and study, in order that in 2-3 years move to Palestine and there continue to work in chosen profession.

The chief organ of the society was the Central Committee, which was composed of 10 members: head, his deputy, secretary, his deputy, treasurer, librarian, director/“house manager”/ and 3 members.

Meetings of the Central Committee took place not less than once a month.

The Head Review Committee – made up of 3 members, was elected once a year.

In regions Departments of the society were created, which had no less than 5 members. Large departments elected management: of 5-9 persons; 2-4 deputies and review committee for one year term. Later on management, within itself, elected head, secretary and treasurer.

Chronological frame of organizer of the fund: 1920-1939.

Fund documents were saved in very small number and only partially depict activities of the society; they are mainly in Hebrew and Polish languages; their chronological brackets are 1925-1939.

In the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in Lviv in 1954 the fund was scattered. In that year it was compiled in abbreviated series, resulting in four cases. In 1955 a card index of society members was added to the fund as No. 5.

In 1984, in connection with poor maintenance/absence of systematization and numbering, incorrect identifying of contents of documents in headings, incorrect formulation of separate files and absence of research apparatus, which hindered utilization of documents/description of the fund was reworked, four files were added to fund No. 340, as a result of which the number of files was increased to ten.

Files in inventory are arranged thematically: standard-directive documents, correspondence with government organs, correspondence with town committees and accounting-financial documents.

Grounds: LODA, f.1, op.52, file 109,

I.229;op.53,

File1817, II.1-10,28;f.271,op.1,file

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II.1-5; URSR in Lviv, f.457

Foreword prepared by head archivist T. M. Shankova

File 1

Regulations. 1935. 4 pages.

File 2

Report on activities from May 5, 1936 to January 29, 1939. 1939. 1 page.

File 3

Letters to district authorities in Lviv on election of members of ruling organs and call for meeting of delegates. 1934. 2 pages.

File 4

Letter to ministry of labor and social security in Warsaw on issue of giving financial assistance to organization of work camps, "House of Halutz" in Belsk and others. 1937. 26 pages.

File 5

Memorial of management of "House of Halutz" in Belsk on issue of completion of building of house. 1937. 3 pages.

File 6

Correspondence with town committees and members and Zionist organizations on agricultural work, collection of membership dues, etc. 1925-1939. 17 pages.

File 7

Drafts from current account of department of Lodzinsky savings bank in Lviv. 1936. 11pages.

File 8

Lists of members of society with indication/period of completion of agricultural practical work. 1934. 2 pages.

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File 9

Card index of members of Zionist organizations, who completed agricultural practical work prior to exit to Palestine . Not dated. 566 pages.

File 10

Inventory description of fund . 1954. 2.