



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH GENEALOGY AND PAUL JACOBI CENTER

AT THE JEWISH NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, JERUSALEM

November 1, 2011

Dear Jewish Genner,

Allow me to write to you personally in order to update you about the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy in Jerusalem and hopefully involve you in its activities.

The Institute's primary goal is to advance Jewish genealogy through teaching and research at the academic level, in a way that is enriching and helpful to the Jewish genealogical community at large. On the teaching front, it has recently posted "Academic Guidelines" for BA and MA courses in Jewish genealogy on its website. As for research, over the last six years it has sponsored a dozen scholarly projects on a wide range of topics, demonstrating the diversity of the field and its "inter-disciplinarity". These include two brand new projects, announced in October – the first, a genealogical study of the transfer of culture by Jewish families in the tobacco trade in the Hapsburg monarchy, by Dr. Louise Hecht at Palacky University in the Czech Republic; and the second, an inquiry by Prof. Roger Martinez at the University of Colorado into "familial transformations" among Spanish Jews, Marranos and Conversos in the 14th – 16th centuries.

With a view to raising Jewish genealogy to a new plane, the Institute has embarked on a meta-project called "200 Years of Scottish Jewry – a Demographic and Genealogical Profile". This ground-breaking endeavour will be the first-ever indepth study of a free-standing national Jewry. Beyond the insights it will offer Jewish genealogists, and indeed historians and social scientists generally, into the dynamics of migration, resettlement and acculturation, alongside conscious efforts to preserve kinship, heritage and identity, this 3-4 year case-study will likely become a model for further genealogical investigations into other national Jewries of similar size and age.

In addition, the Institute is seeking to expand the reach of Jewish genealogy through collaborative initiatives. For example, it is now planning a joint symposium with the prestigious Russian Institute of Genealogy, on "Sources and Resources for Jewish Genealogy in Russia", to be held in St. Petersburg next year. The papers delivered at the Conference will be published for everyone's use.

We would very much like you to participate in these activities and benefit from them. You can do so by following the Institute's website (www.iiig.org) and adding your name to the Mailing List (under "About Us").

You can also greatly help the Institute in its work by making a contribution, as follows:

➤ U.S. tax-payers may make tax-deductible contributions through the "Friends of the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy":

- by PayPal - at <http://iiig.org/Donate/Contributions.aspx>;
- by check, payable to "Friends of International Institute for Jewish Genealogy" and sent to: Avotaynu Foundation, at 155 N. Washington Ave, Bergenfield, NJ 07621, USA.

- Others should send checks, payable to the “International Institute for Jewish Genealogy”, at 8/1 Ha-Zamir Street, POB 84226, Mevasseret Zion, Israel 90805.

Thanking you for your consideration and generosity.

Dr. Neville Lamdan,
Director,
International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and Paul Jacobi Center,
National Library of Israel, Jerusalem.