IIJG Founding Director receives prestigious Jewish genealogical award

Ambassador Neville Lamdan was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 33rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Boston tonight (August 8, 2013).

AIJGS (International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies) conferred its premier award on Lamdan for promoting the vision of an academic research center for Jewish genealogy more than a decade ago, founding the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy at the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem in 2006, and acting as its Director until 2012. The Institute aims to advance the status of Jewish Genealogy within the realm of Jewish Studies, principally through research and teaching at the university level. In parallel, it seeks to inspire and enrich the work of Jewish genealogists and family historians. Since its inception, it has sponsored 15 scholarly studies in Jewish genealogy, elaborated “Academic Guidelines” for BA and MA courses on the subject and developed various tools and technologies for family historians working in the field - see <www.iiijg.org>.

Lamdan, who was born in Scotland, has a doctorate in modern history from Oxford. He ended his long diplomatic career as Israel’s Ambassador to the Vatican (2000-2003). His personal quest into his roots began in the 1970’s and he became a leading proponent of academic Jewish genealogy in the 1990’s. He is now the Chair of the Genealogical Institute’s Executive Committee and, among other things, is overseeing two “mega” research projects, one a Genealogical Profile of Scottish Jewry and the other on the Lives and Lineages of Village Jews in the 19th century Minsk Gubernya.

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