



Cercle de Généalogie Juive

The French Jewish Genealogical Society

A NEW WAY TO APPROACH GENEALOGY

ואלה תולדת יצוזק בן אברהם אברהם הוליד
את יצוזק ויהי יצוזק בן ארבעים שנה בקוזתו
את רבקה בת בתואל הארמי מפדן ארם אזזת
לבן הארמי לו לאשה

Paracha Toledot (Les engendremnts)
Berechit 25.19 & 25.20



CGJ - 16, rue de l'Échiquier - 75010 Paris (France) - Tél : + 33 (01) 40 23 04 90
secretariat@genealoj.org - www.genealoj.org - www.facebook.com/genealoj

2017/2018



Etching by Hugo Elkan : The wedding

Foreword



Dear Friends,

Those of you who are interested in your ancestry - do you know about the Circle of Jewish Genealogy?

Jews are dispersed in all continents, and their families have sometimes had to follow tortuous routes through a great number of countries. In each of these they have had a distinct history; however, the life of their communities has often been unrecorded in the historical annals of these nations. Consequently, genealogists have encountered many problems in researching their origins, particularly whilst investigating when their ancestors were first granted citizenship.

Since its foundation in 1984, the CGJ (www.genealog.org) has worked with total commitment to provide an outstanding and dedicated resource. There are now nearly 600 members, who make up the first genealogical research association serving the Jewish population in France.

All of those involved, from beginners to the highly experienced, are motivated by a passionate concern to preserve the memory of our forbears. Members contribute creatively in exploring the origins of family history, and their exciting and often unanticipated discoveries have helped build the reputation of the CGJ. Our organization is dedicated to helping with your research into roots and ancestry, whatever your Jewish origins.

From North Africa to Galicia, from the Ottoman Empire to Alsace-Lorraine, Comtat Venaissin to Rumania, from Poland to Tunisia... you will find mutual aid and advice – together with the documents needed to conduct your research effectively.

We have published fifty new genealogical works and republished older ones, manuals and handbooks – besides notes completed by our own members. We distribute *Généalo-J*, the quarterly review whose in depth accuracy and range of discoveries are sure to impress you. We draw from our extensive range of documentation and have access to a multiplicity of resources. Online databases, containing more than 600,000 names, are available to our members.

You are cordially invited to come and join us at our monthly conferences, in our regional interest groups or at meetings at our branches in the provinces. You can always make contact with us during working hours at our head office, and when we travel to different exhibitions or meetings.

The following pages will enable you to discover more details of our work and activities. You will realize that the CGJ is the best way for you to discover your ancestors and come to know them better... and without doubt you will be convinced that it would be a good idea to join us!

Genealogically yours.

Founder members



Rosine Alexandre (ר"ס), Marc Brandeis (ר"מ), Pierre-Marie Dioudonnat, Jacques Hauser (ר"ח), Etienne Kahn (ר"ח), Antoine Lévy, Michel-Louis Lévy, Michel Mayer-Crémieux (ר"ח), Pierre-André Meyer, Max Polonovski, Jean-Jacques Spingarn, Robert Veil (ר"ב), Jules Wertheimer (ר"ח).

Through mutual assistance and the exchange of knowledge, our Association is committed to helping people become involved in genealogical research. This is linked to a wide range of activities that aim to enhance this process, strengthening Jewish heritage by safeguarding public or private archives and sensitive sites such as cemeteries...

The Association is independent of all political organizations and always works collaboratively with the many communities that we partner in the course of our research.

The Cercle de Généalogie Juive is a member of the *International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies* (IAJGS) and the *Fédération Française de Généalogie* (FFG).





**Help with genealogy at the Museum
of Art and History of Judaism**

**Cultural Activities and
outside contacts**

Regional and International branches

Communication

Monthly Conferences

Documentation Resources

Genealogical Interest Groups

Quarterly Letter

Facebook Page

Hebrew Paleography

Publications

Review

Internet Site

Colette CLEMENT-ZIMMERMANN
Françoise DARMON, Anne-Marie
FRIBOURG, Eliane ROOS SCHUHL,
Catherine YELNIK

Frédérique BOAZIZ

Lorraine-Luxembourg : **Laurent**

MOYSE, Bernard MICHEL

Provence (Marseille) : **Danièle FAREAU**

Israël (Netanya) : **Pierrette OUAZANA**

Venezuela (Caracas) : **Jacob BENAZON**

Alain NEDJAR

Held by a commission

Françoise DARMON et Anne-Marie
FRIBOURG

North Africa, Italy : **Thierry SAMAMA**

Eastern Europe : **Colette CLEMENT-**
ZIMMERMANN

Alsace and Lorraine : **Françoise**

DARMON et Anne-Marie FRIBOURG

Balkans, Ottoman Empire : **Frédérique**
BOAZIZ

Georges GRANER

Sylvie GSELL

Eliane ROOS SCHUHL

Pierre-André MEYER

Joëlle ALLOUCHE-BENAYOUN

Responsable : **François VAN DETH**

Webmestre : **Catherine LEVY**

Modératrice du Forum : **Anne-Marie**
FRIBOURG

President : Max **Polonovski**

Successive Presidents : Roby **Veil** (1985-1986), Michel **Mayer** (1986-1991), Michel Louis **Lévy** (1991-1995), Micheline **Gutmann** (1995-1996), Philip **Abensur** (1996-1998), Claudie **Blamont** (1998-2005), Joëlle **Allouche-Benayoun** (2005-2011), Bruno **Bloch** (2011-2017)



A non profit-making association, the Circle brings together amateur genealogists who may be experienced or beginners and has a range of objectives. It favours the pooling of knowledge and proposes :

- To help you to research your Jewish ancestors. To establish, enrich and present your personal Jewish genealogy – whatever your knowledge, your geographic origins, and your mother tongue.
- To exchange your informations with other members
- To help you participate in collective activities.
- To set up a network of specialists, expert in different branches of genealogy such as onomastic, paleography, history of societies and to inform from their discoveries through the Revue *Généalo-J* and the Web Site (www.genealoj.org)

The most experienced members play a leading part in research, which is for the use of all members. They have worked to set up an impressive database, which gives access to the sources and documents that are indispensable when exploring family roots. Thanks to powerful data processing and the centralization of tens of thousands of certificates, documents and photographs, you can access :

- Collection of detailed information from cemeteries
- Collections and indexing of state data
- Scrutiny of solicitors' registers, military files and other key documents
- Internet resources

So, come and join us!



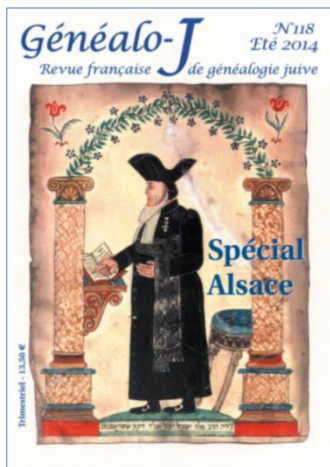


The group "Alsace and Lorraine", led by A.M. Fribourg and Françoise Darmon, facilitates fruitful exchanges amongst its members and favours efficient mutual support. They meet four times per year, when detailed reports are prepared and presented.



Circumcison kit of Mohel Seligmann-Blum. Alsace 19th Century
Photo-credit: Av. Malthête

N°118 Special Alsace



The group Alsace and Lorraine



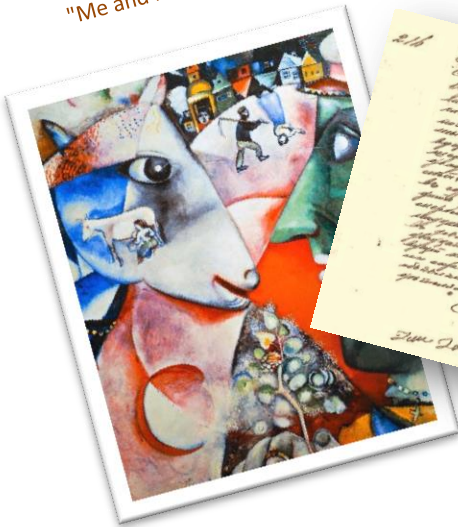
The Eastern European Group is led by Colette Clément-Zimmermann.

It is developing research methods and making online files on the following subjects :

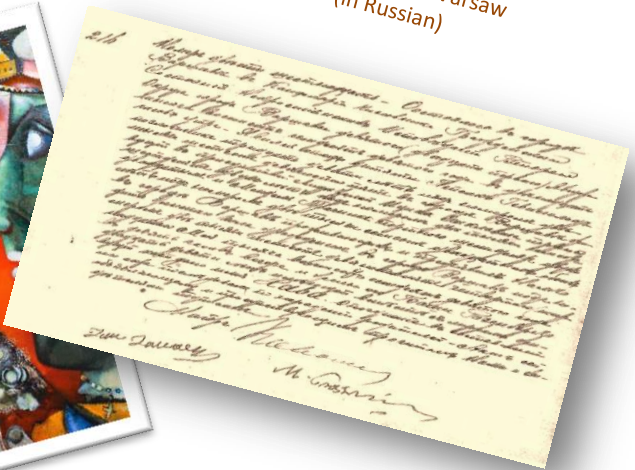
- Organising one's investigations
- Researching naturalization files in the National Archives
- Obtaining Civil State documents in Eastern Europe
- Identifying and locating additional sources
- Understanding the History of Poland
- Organizing a journey to the country of one's ancestors ...

The leader advocates mutual genealogical help, above all, by convening meetings with all members.

Marc Chagall
"Me and my village"



Birth date document :
9 August 1879 - Varsaw
(in Russian)





Are you researching your Jewish ancestors who originate from North Africa ? You can of course make use of the headings dedicated to North Africa (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Italy) which contain numerous bibliographies, genealogies, and databases. Mutual help amongst researchers has shown itself to be indispensable : So do now join us ...

The North African Group, led by Thierry Samama, meets in Paris four times a year – when some established members present their work. There are moments of encounter, exchanges and conviviality. The reviews of the meetings are published on our site, under the heading “North Africa”.



Françoise Darmon



Thierry Samama

National Archives of Israel - Gilles Boulu,
Alain Nedjar, Thierry Samama,
Dominique Bessis-Levy, Liliane Nedjar

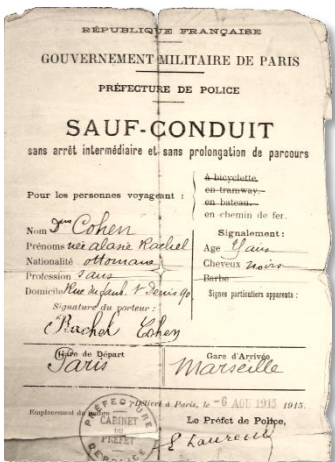


In this region, we find the descendants of Jews who were expelled from Spain in 1492. We also explore the history of those who once lived in the present day Middle East and of others, originally from Eastern Europe who came to join them.

If the research of your ancestors leads you towards Salonica, Constantinople, Jerusalem or Baghdad, come and meet this group which was formed in 2015.



Working group at the *Centre des Archives diplomatiques de la Courneuve*



You will have access to the first results of research : 17 000 documents from the period 1914-1922 relating to “The Israelites of the Levant”, as the French administration called them at that period. And of course, you will be helped by all the members of this group, led by Frederique Boaziz, who, in a convivial atmosphere will share experiences with you. Naturally, the researches are ongoing and progressively enrich our databases.



Lorraine (Metz), Provence (Marseilles), Israel (Genealogical French Speaking Space of Netanya), Venezuela (Caracas).



Etching of the ancient synagogue of Metz (by Migette)



Netanya Branch
Pierrette Ouazana,
Thierry Samama,
Victor Hayoun



**Antenne de
Caracas**
Jacob Benzazon



" Genealogically Yours "
Every Wednesday live at 10.30
On www.radiojm.fr
(Marseilles)



**Marseilles
Branch**
Danièle Fareau



CGJ offers its members the following services :

Quarterly review



Généalo-J

Chief Editor: Joëlle Allouche-Benayoun

Editorial Staff: Jean-Paul Durand, Michèle Feldman, Bernard Lyon-Caen, Pierre-André Meyer, Max Polonovski

Généalo-J, French review of Jewish genealogy “ is a Quarterly review created in 1984.

It publishes original articles concerning Jewish genealogy : genealogy of families, biographies, the history of Jewish communities, revelations of new sources, and the analysis of documents in Hebrew. Moreover it lists publications which are relevant to Jewish genealogy and gives a catalogue of the genealogy of Judaism in France and in other countries. Finally, it highlights new works and documents that have been put on the database.

About 50 – 60 pages long, it also presents a picture of the life of CGJ, its reunions, its local meetings and its general meetings.

In the Review, you will find the email addresses of the Board of Directors and of those in charge of activities.

And please don't hesitate to submit to us any articles of your latest genealogical discoveries !

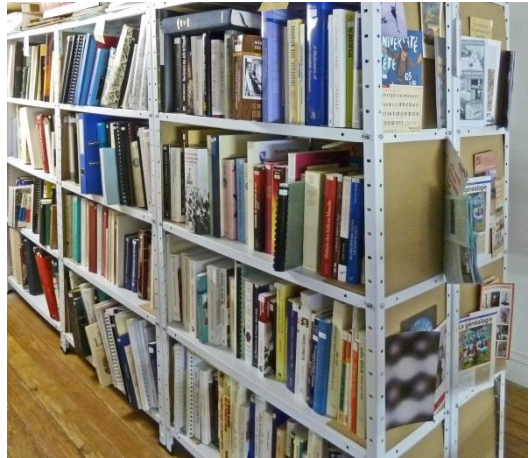
Besides its paper format, the review also exists digitally, transmitted for a reduced price. For a precise investigation, you can consult the review articles published since its creation, classified into themes and places.

You can order back issues of the Review either in paper form or through pdf.

The numbers from the years 1985 – 2006 are also available on www.Geneanet.org. Members can look up free online Reviews 1-109.

Database (library)

The books, documents and reviews placed at the Database of the Circle can be consulted at 16, rue de l'Échiquier on application. The evidence from the Database is taken from the Catalogue which you can look at online. We hope that our members continue to develop this data and use its rich resources to progress rapidly with their research.



Librarian: documentaliste@genealoj.org - Secrétariat : secretariat@genealoj.org

Publications



The Circle of Jewish Genealogy (CGJ) generates publications and circulates documents which will be of interest anyone who has Jewish ancestors. This will facilitate research opening access to a range of sites and legislative material.

Catalogue of publications



In the form of a booklet, this includes all our publications ; it reflects precisely the information which you can see on our site. We invite you to visit this regularly (www.genealogj.org/fr/catalog/publications)

Forum

An inter-active forum is open to all, allowing questions to be asked relating to genealogical research.

Workshops

Regional groups consisting of volunteers, work on scheduled research assignments with the intention of publishing. They explore diplomatic archives, records of burial and other sources.

The monthly meetings of CGJ



Every first Thursday of the month, the **CGJ** invites you to a meeting at the **Mémorial de la Shoah** (17, rue Geoffroy-l'Asnier, Paris 4^e).

We meet with a specialist so that we can better understand the questions that we encounter research concerning the history of our families. So our meetings, illustrated with slides and films, tackle historical questions, which may be precisely connected to Jewish people at a particular period or a specific area or region. We will also present some special examples that have been encountered by our researchers.

Thus, we go easily from "great and general" to "small and particular" history, guided only by curiosity and the desire to provide invaluable service to our members' research.

Genealogical meetings



One Thursday each month from 3 pm to 5 pm, we meet at the **Médiathèque du Musée d'Art et d'Histoire du Judaïsme** (71, rue du Temple, Paris 3^e arr.) : The workshop is led by members of CGJ, Françoise Darmon, Anne-Marie Fribourg, Eliane Roos Schuhl, Catherine Yelnik et Colette Clément-Zimmermann, who will help you to establish or enrich your personal Jewish genealogy.

When you ask yourself what are the origins of my family ? – of my name ?, you have started to research your Jewish ancestors. Perhaps they came from Cracow or Algeria, Alexandria or Bayonne... but, delving into the past, you are confronted by insurmountable brick wall.



This is when you should come and meet some members of the **CGJ** in the beautiful Mediacentre of the Museum where these meetings are held. Thanks to their experience, fellow members will be able to direct you to the most appropriate sources. Our volunteers will help you, whatever your knowledge, your geographic origins, or your mother tongue.

In addition you will have the satisfaction of exchanging your investigations with those of other visitors in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

mahJ

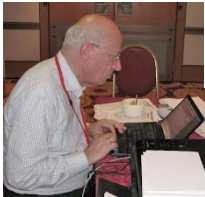


Reservation by mail at ipleskoff@mahj.org or by telephone at 01 53 01 86 36 – Rate : 6 €



July 2012 : International Congress of Jewish Genealogy, Paris

The CGJ organised, with the support of the IAJGS, in July 2012, the annual International congress of Jewish Genealogy who gathered together more than 800 participants from 26 countries. More than 200 conferences, workshops and specialized discussion groups were held on multiple and varied themes. They have been documented from the meetings of the Congress, and published in four thematic volumes, both in French and English.



François
Van Deth



Bernard Lyon-Caen, Eliane Roos Schuhl,
Pierre-André Meyer

Joëlle Allouche-Benayoun,
Jean-Paul Durand



Some 160 texts were put together into 4 volumes totalling 1 400 pages accompanied with illustrations and bibliographies :

Volume I : The Eastern World

Volume II : Central and Eastern Europe (including Germany and Austria)

Volume III : Sephardic Worlds, Near East and African

Volume IV : Thematic meetings without specific geographic basis ; general information on the Holocaust, genetics, ethics and it also includes : methodological conferences (genealogical travels, use of photographs, publishing, deciphering from Hebrew, software)...



2011 : International Congress of Jewish Genealogy of the IAJGS, Washington



The **CGJ** stand
Georges Graner
Rosanne Leeson
Sylvie Gsell

2015 : International Congress of Jewish Genealogy IAJGS, Jerusalem

Several presentations were given by our members:

- Anne Lifshitz-Krams : *From the banks of the Dniepr to the banks of the Seine*
- Gilles Boulu, Alain Nedjar : *The Jewish, Portugese Community of Tunis, described as Livournaise or Granas - wedding registers of the 19th Century*
- Thierry Samama : The database BECANE : *Registers of civil status – consulate and indigenous in Tunisia (1809 – 1912) (1809-1912)*
- Thierry Samama : *the Genealogy of Tunisian Jews – Pushing back the boundaries.*



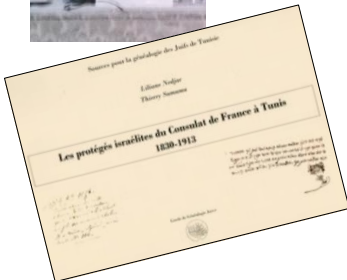
Anne Lifshitz-Krams



Thierry Samama



On the fringe of the Congress, Liliane Nedjar and Thierry Samama presented their work, *“The Protected Israelites of the French Consulate in Tunis (1830-1913) at the branch of the **CGJ** at Netanja.*





Certain bookshops distribute CGJ publications (Lamartine Bookshop, MAHJ, Shoah Memorial, Temple Bookshop, AMALIVRES, Bookshop of Memories and Documents...)



Conference of Gilles Boulu and Alain Nedjar, at the launch of their book about the *Ketúbbot* of the *Granás* community. Librairie Lamartine (Paris 16^e)
Presentation of the authors by Silvio Ascoli.



Stand of Alain Nedjar, showing "The Portugese Community of Tunis" during the B'Nai B'Rrith book exhibition at Enghien, organised in partnership with Librairie Lamartine.

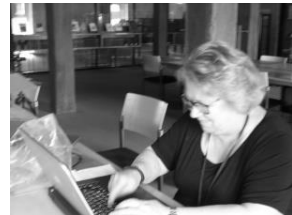


Du Temple Library (Paris 4°)





The **CGJ** has partnership agreements with the diplomatical Archives (La Courneuve CADC, Nantes CADN), the Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah and the Compensation Comity of the Shoah Victims (CIVS).



Team of volunteers in Paris and in Jérusalem

Thanks to the partnership with Akadem, many among our conferences are audio-visible on website :
<http://akadem.org/organisateurs/Cercle-de-G%C3%A9mologie-Juive-54.php>



Cercle de Généalogie Juive

The French Jewish Genealogical Society

The First Association of Jewish Genealogy in France

Your genealogy



TO CONTACT US :

CGJ - 16, rue de l'Échiquier – 75010 Paris (France) Tél : + 33 (0) 1 40 23 04 90

secretariat@genealoj.org - www.genealoj.org

www.facebook.com/genealoj



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