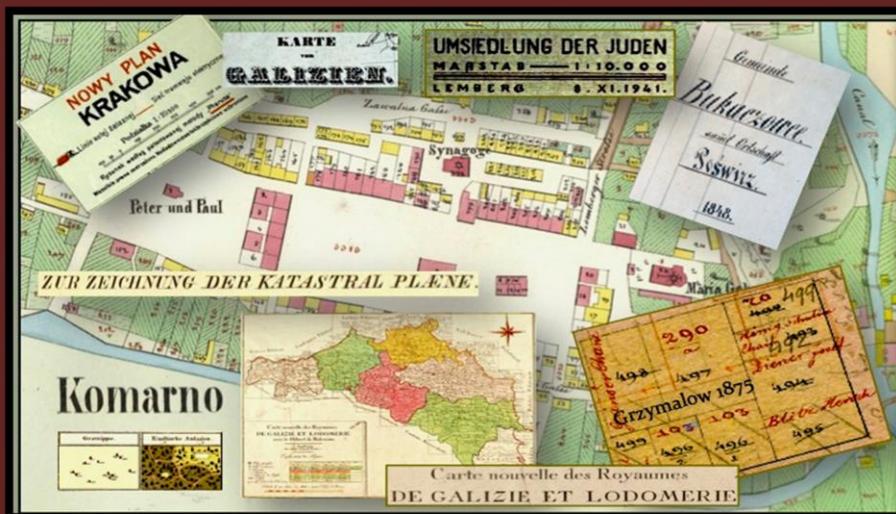


THE GALITZIANER

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Gesher Galicia

Gesher Galicia is a non-profit organization that promotes and conducts Jewish genealogical and historical research on Galicia, a province of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, which is today part of south-eastern Poland and western Ukraine.

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Submissions Policy

The *Galitzianer* accepts material broadly linked to Galicia, from 1772 to 1918, and may also include topics pertaining to earlier or later periods. The journal contains family stories, information about unique records, tutorials regarding genealogy research, articles on the history and geography of Galicia, book reviews, and more. The editorial committee reserves the right to revise or reject a submission or to defer its publication until a later date. For more detailed information about our submissions policy and author instructions, please consult the Gesher Galicia website at www.geshergalicia.org/the-galitzianer/#submissions.

From the Editor's Desk

As I finished editing this issue of the *Galitzianer*, I found myself wondering how another year has elapsed so quickly. Then, I read the year-end summary by Mark Jacobson, our Gesher Galicia research coordinator. Given how much has been accomplished, I realized that perhaps this year didn't fly by quite as fast as I thought: over 40,000 vital records indexed, over 6,100 Jews from the 1910 Kraków census uploaded to the All Galicia Database, about 45 new maps and town plans added to the Map Room, and the list goes on.

These accomplishments reflect the hard work of our organization. They also reflect the value of collaborative partnerships with our colleagues in the Polish and Ukrainian archives. The importance of collaboration in our work is highlighted again by an article in this issue of the journal. This article, by Johannes Koll, describes a research project conducted by the Vienna University of Economics and Business in cooperation with Gesher Galicia. The result has been a wealth of searchable information on over 2,000 Galician Jews who studied business and economics in Vienna from 1901 to 1938.

Koll's is one of three research-based articles in this issue. The Research Corner column, by Mark Jacobson, answers a question about record images, which Mark describes as the most frequently asked research question on the Gesher Galicia Infoline. And the article by Nolan Altman, research director of the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR), is a practical tutorial on the genealogical value of cemetery research.

The history buffs among our readers will appreciate the article by Jan Rybak, a research fellow at Birbeck, University of London. Rybak provides a glimpse at the early days of the Second Polish Republic through the lens of the Jewish citizens guard of Kraków.

The remaining articles are two very different family narratives. In the first one, Gesher Galicia member Anne Leader provides a wonderful description of the Galician village of Uhnów and then traces the lives of her Sonenthal ancestors after their immigration to the US in the early 20th century. In the second one, Mireille Podchlebnik follows the journey of her mother's family from life in Galicia to survival during two world wars to eventual immigration to France.

With its wide-ranging thematic diversity, this issue is an end-of-the-year treat. We look forward to bringing our readers more articles rich in Galician Jewish content in 2023.

Jodi G. Benjamin

Galician Jews Studying Business in Vienna

by Johannes Koll,
Vienna University of Economics and
Business

BECAUSE UNIVERSITY RECORDS are a valuable source of biographical information, the Vienna University of Economics and Business (*Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, WU*) has collaborated with Geshet Galicia to expand access to a set of student records. They are the records of the Jewish students from Galicia who attended WU's predecessor schools in Vienna from 1901 to 1938.

This collaborative project was conducted with the generous financial support of WU's Department of Socioeconomics, the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism, and the Future Fund of the Republic of Austria.

From Galicia to Vienna

Beginning in 1898, Galician students seeking professional education in the field of business administration and economics above the level of a commercial academy had the opportunity to attend the Imperial and Royal Academy of Export (*kaiserlich-königliche Export-Akademie*) in Vienna. After the First World War, this institution was elevated to the rank of a college, becoming, in 1919, the College for World Trade (*Hochschule für Welthandel*), the immediate predecessor of today's Vienna University of Economics and Business.



Inner courtyard of the Academy of Export and the Austrian Museum of Trade in the Palais Festetics; Source: Siegmund Feilbogen, Das k.k. österreichische Handels-Museum 1875-1900, Vienna, 1900

For decades, the teaching staff of the Academy of Export and then the College for World Trade included very few Jews—and not a single Jewish full professor. However, a considerable number of Jewish students attended the school up until the Anschluss of Austria in 1938, including Jews from the crown lands of the Habsburg Empire.

Among the graduates, Jewish students made up nearly 41 percent for the period 1900 to 1919 and about 24 percent for the period 1920 to 1931. In the last semester before the German Wehrmacht invaded Austria in March 1938, 24 percent of enrolled students were Jewish. In the summer term of that same year, only 39 Jewish students remained. As with all other universities in the German Reich, all domestic and foreign Jewish students were expelled from the Viennese College for World Trade after Kristallnacht (the Night of Broken Glass) in November 1938.

The first Jewish students of business administration and economics from Galicia—a group of six men—came to Vienna in 1901. A total of 225 Galician Jewish students were enrolled at the Academy of Export during the school's history. For the College for World Trade, that number rose to 2,171.

Project Overview

When my colleague Katharina Graf and I began this project, the first question we faced was how to define “Jewish students from Galicia.” We defined “Galician” to include those students whose birthplace and/or home jurisdiction was in the Habsburg crown land of the Austro-Hungarian Dual Monarchy called Galizien in German, which after the First World War, became part of the Second Polish Republic. Students were considered Jewish if they were listed in the records of the WU University Archives as “Jewish,” “Israelite,” or “Mosaic.” In the case of converts, only those who declared themselves Jewish when they enrolled in the university were included in the project.

We extracted the information on the Jewish students from Galicia from three types of records, which are available for the period 1898 to 1938 in WU’s University Archives: register volumes, which included personal details and exam results for each student per academic year for the Academy of Export; graduation registers for the period from 1900 to 1931; and file cards on individual students from the College for World Trade.

In their entirety, these records contain the following data for most students: date and town of birth; legal residence; citizenship; mother tongue; years of study at the Academy of Export and/or the College for World Trade; date of graduation and academic degree attained (if applicable); address during studies in Vienna; parents’ names, towns, and occupations; and prior schools attended. In addition, the sources listed above provide information on admission status, that is, whether students were matriculated (*ordentlich*) or non-matriculated (*außerordentlich*).

The results of this research project, as well as approximately 4,400 scans on individual students from the WU University Archives (archiv@wu.ac.at), were added by Geshher Galicia to its All Galicia



Exterior view of the College for World Trade; Source: Mitteilungen der American Relief Administration, July 1921

Database (<https://search.geshhergalicia.org/>). As with the results of similar projects that have been uploaded to this database, the findings from the WU University Archives constitute an additional source for identifying Galician Jews, which could be quite significant for Galician family researchers. These findings are also relevant for people interested in Galician history, the university history of the Habsburg Empire and its successor states, and the history of the Viennese Academy of Export and the College for World Trade.

General Observations

Upon reviewing the data from this project, we have made some general observations about the Jewish students from Galicia who came to Vienna to study business and economics.

Admission status and graduation rate: The vast majority of the Jewish students from Galicia were matriculated students. However, that does not mean that they all graduated. In fact, according to the documents available in the WU University Archives, only a relatively small percentage of Galician Jews left Vienna with one of the degrees awarded by the Academy of Export or the College

for World Trade (*Exportakademiker, Diplomkaufmann, Doktor der Handelswissenschaften*; the first two are equivalent to an MBA, and the third is a doctorate in commercial sciences).

Up to 1919, no more than 14 percent of Jewish students from Galicia successfully took the final exam and received a diploma from the Academy of Export. From the College for World Trade, only 10 percent of Galician Jewish students graduated in business administration and economics, and only 16 students (0.7 percent) were awarded a doctorate after this degree had been introduced in 1930. Unfortunately, the documents do not provide any information on whether those who dropped out of their studies without having earned an academic title entered working life, transferred to another university, or did a combination of the two. Only further biographical research on individual students could shed light on this question.

Towns of origin: In the earlier years, Jewish students mostly came from the larger cities of Galicia. Thus, Kraków, Lemberg (Lwów), and Kołomyja are the most common hometowns found in the early records of the WU University Archives. Starting in about 1910, there was an increase in the number of Jews from smaller Galician towns, such as Rożniatów, Brody, Sambor, Jarosław, and Biała. Hence there was increasing socio-geographical diversification during the four decades leading up to the Anschluss.

Socioeconomic backgrounds: The socioeconomic backgrounds of the Jewish students from Galicia also diversified over time. In the Academy of Export, the students' parents were mostly merchants, landowners, or public officials. In the College for World Trade, the spectrum widened to include children of craftsmen, school or bank directors, accountants, teachers, and rabbis.

Educational background: Before taking up their studies in Vienna, the Jewish students from

Galicia attended secondary school (*Gymnasium, Realschule*) and a commercial college or commercial academy (*Handelsschule, Handelsakademie*), which would have been consistent with the formal requirements of the Academy of Export and the College for World Trade. In addition, some of these students had already gained work experience (in their fathers' businesses, for example) or had studied at another university before beginning their studies in Vienna.

Residence in Vienna: How were the places of residence of the Jewish students from Galicia distributed across the city of Vienna? Like most other students, the Galician Jewish students found their accommodations in the vicinity of the Academy of Export or the College for World Trade, that is, in the 9th (Alsergrund) and the 18th (Währing) districts of Vienna. Quite a few of them also moved into apartments in the neighboring 19th (Döbling) and 20th districts (Brigittenau).

In several cases, the historical sources record a student dormitory at Grinzinger Allee 7 in the 19th district, which was probably a former barracks of the Austro-Hungarian army. The 2nd district (Leopoldstadt), the traditional Jewish quarter of Vienna, was also quite popular among Jewish students as a place of residence.

Native language: For most of the Jewish students from Galicia, German or Polish was their mother tongue, and some students listed both German and Polish. There are also individual records that indicate "Jewish" (meaning Yiddish) or Hebrew as the native language.

Citizenship: Citizenship information is only available for the College for World Trade, with Polish clearly ranking ahead of Austrian. To a remarkable extent, the records also mention Ukrainian citizenship; Czechoslovak and Romanian citizenship constitute a minority. The following nationalities are so minimally represented that they should be

regarded as exceptions: Hungarian (4 students); Palestinian (3 students); Yugoslav (2 students); and Bulgarian, Italian, and Swedish (1 student, respectively).

Gender: As with the overall student bodies of the Academy of Export and the College for World Trade, most of the Jewish students from Galicia were men. Using given names as the means of identifying gender, we determined that Anna Baidaff (1914–1917), Salomea Pobrille (1917–1918), and Maria Horszowska (1917–1918) were the only three Galician Jewish women to have ever enrolled at the Academy of Export. While the number increased at the College for World Trade, it remained extremely low, at just over 6 percent. The study of business administration and economics was clearly male dominated. This observation applies to an even greater extent among the teaching staff, which included no women at all.

Selected Biographies

The records we reviewed for this project are more than just a collection of random facts. As indicated by the biographies below, they make it possible to begin recreating the lives of the Jewish students from Galicia who came to Vienna to attend the Academy of Export or the College for World Trade. Of course, we needed to rely on additional sources to fill in the details of the students' later lives. The biographies of students from the College for World Trade who suffered persecution by the Nazi regime also appear in WU's Memorial Book for Victims of National Socialism and are available online at <https://gedenkbuch.wu.ac.at/>.

Anna Baidaff (1896–1982), born in Kołomyja, was the first female student from Galicia at the Academy of Export. After attending gymnasium in Lemberg, this daughter of the Jewish merchant Izak Baidaff enrolled at the Viennese academy from 1914 to 1917, where she earned the degree of *Exportakademiker*, which existed at that time only

in its male form: graduate export businessman. In fact, Baidaff remained the only woman to ever graduate from the Academy of Export among Jews and non-Jews alike.

While Baidaff's father presumably perished in the Shoah, she managed to emigrate from Vienna to Palestine during the Nazi era, together with her Jewish husband, Michael Friedmann, who had also been enrolled briefly at the Academy of Export, and their son, Joseph, who was born in Vienna in 1921. Baidaff died decades later in Israel.

Susanne Brück (1910–1964; maiden name Feld) was a student at the College for World Trade, born in Przemyśl. In addition to working in her own textile and lingerie shop in the 10th district (Favoriten) of Vienna, she studied business administration and economics in the winter terms of 1930–1931 and 1937–1938.

As a Jewish student, Brück was forced to leave the college after the Anschluss. Furthermore, her shop was aryanized, meaning it was taken over by non-Jewish owners under legislation that legitimized state-organized robbery. In October 1938, she immigrated to the US with her husband, the Austrian Jew Leopold Brück, and their daughter Liesbeth, who was born in 1934. The family's German citizenship was revoked in 1941, and their assets were confiscated by the Secret State Police for the eventual benefit of the German Reich.

Born in Lemberg, Arthur Luka (1882–1949) was a Jewish student who did not survive the Second World War. He attended courses at the Academy of Export beginning in 1916. Later, after having already earned two doctoral degrees elsewhere in Austria and in Germany, he enrolled at the College for World Trade for a doctorate in commercial sciences in 1936. Although Luka's doctoral thesis on Bosnia and Herzegovina had been positively reviewed by two professors, he could not complete his doctoral studies after the Anschluss because as

a Jew, he was not permitted to take the required “viva” (the oral exam by which doctoral students defend their theses).

Unlike some of the other Jewish students, Luka did not emigrate, and on November 17, 1941, he was picked up in Vienna. Eleven days later, he was deported to the ghetto of Minsk (now the capital of Belarus), where he was murdered by the Nazis. He was officially declared dead in 1949.

Finally, there was Zacharias Marmelstein (1913–?). Born in Lemberg, he was the younger brother of the controversial Viennese rabbi Benjamin Marmelstein, who saved Jewish lives but worked with the Nazis as a member of the Jewish Council of Vienna and as a so-called “Jewish Elder” (*Judenältester*) in the concentration camp of Theresienstadt/Te-rezín. Zacharias enrolled at the College for World Trade in the winter term of 1937–1938 but was forced to terminate his studies after barely two semesters because of the Anschluss.

Immediately after the invasion of Austria, he returned to his native town. In 1940, during the Soviet occupation of eastern Poland, Soviet authorities deported both Zacharias and his mother, Debora, to Alma Ata (present-day Almaty), Kazakhstan. In 1941, Zacharias enlisted in the Red Army. When the war ended, he initially returned to Poland but eventually emigrated and settled in Israel. While Deborah was murdered in the Shoah, her two sons survived the war.

Because of the joint project between WU and Gesher Galicia, substantial information about Jewish business and economics students from Galicia, like those mentioned above, is easily searchable, and further research on this group is possible. For example, researchers can link the data on Anna Baidaff with the already existing entry for her father, Izak, in the All Galicia Database.

Family researchers may be able to use this newly acquired information to expand their knowledge

and grow their family trees. Access to this information is also important for documenting and memorializing some of the Jewish students whose education came to an abrupt halt with the rise of National Socialism in Austria.

Editor’s Note: *For an interesting comparison, see the articles by Andrew Zalewski and Alexander Feller in the December 2021 issue of the Galitzianer, where biographical information is obtained from student applications submitted to Lviv State University’s faculty of medicine during the Soviet occupation.*

The NEW Gesher Galicia Discussion Group

Gesher Galicia’s email discussion group has moved to a new format, meaning:

- Messages don’t need to be in Plain Text.
- We can use accented characters and various alphabets.
- We can format text and attach images.
- We can include hyperlinks and hashtags.

The discussion group will continue to serve as an email forum to ask and answer questions about Galician research. Messages are read by Galitzianers worldwide, including many experts willing to help. Here’s how to subscribe:

- If you aren’t already subscribed to the main JewishGen discussion group, sign up: <https://groups.jewishgen.org/g/main>.
- Then, sign up for our subgroup: <https://groups.jewishgen.org/g/GesherGalicia>.

For questions, contact our discussion group moderator at renee.steinig@geshergalicia.org.