

Cataloging and Digitization of the Archives of the Szeged (Hungary) Jewish Community: A Central European Case Study

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Description: Szeged is the third biggest city in Hungary and was a focal point of Neolog Judaism. The archive's spectrum contains official and private documents from a time span of two hundred years. In a two-year project, 82 linear feet of the Szeged Jewish Community are digitized and indexed. The archives contain the plans of the world-famous Szeged Synagogue (1907), paintings, and liturgical textiles. These are highly endangered and irreplaceable records that need to be preserved and made internationally researchable. Additionally, the Archive has created a large integrative database from historical and genealogical sites including the 1944 original Holocaust deportation list, plus 1,700 survivors who returned to Szeged in 1945-1946, sources from Yad Vashem, and the archival records. Electronic resources are used to locate maiden names of female Holocaust victims from their Hungarian marriage licenses. This innovative library project provides a comprehensive overview spanning decades recording the Szeged Jewish community.

Dóra Pataricza, PhD has MAs and a PhD in classical philology from the University of Debrecen. She works as a project manager for the Szeged Jewish Community (Hungary) and the Helsinki Jewish Community. Dóra's great-great-grandmother got on the 1940 Szeged transport train and survived.

Kathy Glatter, MD graduated with honors from Northwestern University and Harvard Medical School. Her grandparents left Budapest, immigrated and hid their Jewish roots. A professional genealogist revealed that relatives were murdered in the Holocaust. She is related to Miklós (Glatter) Radnóti, the great Holocaust poet, and is working on graduate certification in Holocaust studies from Gratz College.