



Call for Papers

The Institute of National Remembrance Branch in Łódź and the Centre for Jewish Research of the University of Łódź have the honor to announce international scientific conference

“Jewish towns are now all gone ...”

The destruction of Jews in Polish countryside

The conference will be held at the Institute of History of the University of Łódź **on 27-28 October 2011.**

The main objective of the conference is to present the situation of the Jewish population in the Polish countryside during World War Two. It is an attempt to find answers to questions concerning the organization of the mechanism of the destruction of Jews (legal system, administrative apparatus) and the process of extermination itself. Another significant issue involves the response of the Polish and German society to the drama of thousands of Jews.

Another objective of the conference is to present the current status of research of the Holocaust of small Jewish communities. On the one hand, subjects covering the major ghettos (Warsaw, Łódź, Kraków, Białystok) and extermination camps (Auschwitz, Chelmno on the Ner, Majdanek) are dominant in the historiography, while on the other hand, the majority of research is focusing on the subject of territories incorporated into the General Government as compared with the area of Poland annexed by the Third Reich.

Program of the conference will include the following thematic groups:

Panel I – Shtetl

This section will feature a concise presentation of the Jewish countryside on the eve of World War II. The main emphasis will be placed on the depiction of Polish-Jewish relations (economic, political, etc.). The

interwar period, especially in the late 1930s, seems to be extremely important for a better understanding of Polish-Jewish relations under the Nazi occupation (especially in the initial period).

Panel II – Victims

The second part of the conference will be devoted to the discussion of the course of extermination of the Jewish community living in the Polish countryside. The main question in this section will be as follows: was the process of the Holocaust the same in all areas of the Nazi-occupied Poland? Is it possible to distinguish certain common features or differences in the implementation of the policy of extermination in the lands of the General Government and those incorporated into the Third Reich? Were the chances of rescue and survival "outside the ghetto fence" the same in both these areas?

Panel III - Perpetrators

The next section will present the structure and functioning of the Holocaust mechanism of the Jewish community in the Polish countryside (such as the German administrative and policing apparatus). It will also present the profiles of those responsible for carrying out the extermination actions.

Panel IV – Witnesses

Section of the conference devoted to the reactions of Poles and Germans witnessing the Holocaust – such as neighbors or members of the Polish resistance. The subject still provokes intense emotions, also outside the historians' circles. The purpose of the conference is not only to present the results of individual studies but also, more importantly, to provide an opportunity for a public debate.

Panel V – Memory

The last part of the conference will be an attempt to answer the question about the memory of the Jewish residents of the Polish countryside. Were the victims commemorated after the war had ended? Has the memory of the fate of towns' residents been cultivated? Is it limited to the period of the Holocaust? In this panel, we will focus on the differences in the methods of commemorating the community in large cities and in the countryside.

Proposals of papers to be presented with a short abstract (up to 1500 characters) should be sent to konferencja.miasteczka@gmail.com no later than 17th May 2011.

Authors of papers accepted for the conference will be notified by organizers by 30th May 2011.

In case of any questions, please contact: konferencja.miasteczka@gmail.com or directly the organizers - Adam Sitarek (The Institute of National Remembrance, University of Lodz) 663 365 359, Ewa Wiatr (University of Lodz) 601 238 939