Argentina: Jewish Family History Research Guide

Portuguese of Jewish descent entered Argentina as early as 1580. Non-Catholics endured religious persecution until about 1813, when the Inquisition was officially abolished. In the constitution of 1853, religious freedom was guaranteed. Immigrants from Western Europe soon arrived, and in the late 1800’s immigration from Eastern Europe followed. Among these immigrants were people being aided by the Jewish Colonization Association of the Baron de Hirsch Fund, founder of the agricultural settlements. Jews from Morocco, Syria, and other Sephardic communities also immigrated to Argentina. Ashkenazim and Sephardim maintained separate communal organizations. During WWII thousands of Jewish refugees entered Argentina, many illegally. In 1948 a general amnesty for illegal immigrants was declared.

Sources at the Center for Jewish History

Genealogical Data

These sources contain information about Jewish individuals and families in Argentina:

*Delagacion de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas* (1939). The index of this book lists 800 people who arrived in Argentina on August 14, 1889 on the “Weser.”
*AJHS F 3021 .J5 D4*

HICEM Latin America Files. HICEM was formed when HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Association, joined several other organizations to establish offices throughout the world. It was particularly active helping refugees during the WWII period. Case files are restricted—permission to study them must be granted by the YIVO Archivist. There is a finding aid, and immigrants are listed in alphabetical order.
*YIVO Archives RG 245.4.13*

Lewin, Boleslao. *Como Fue la Inmigracion Judio a la Argentina*. The book traces Jewish colonization from New Christians and crypto Jews (late 1500s) through the establishment of agricultural colonies by Baron Hirsch. It lists names of prominent Jewish families.
*AJHS F 3021 .J5 L47*

Pulido, Jose Garcia. *Chaco Crisol de Razas-Homenaje a los Inmigrantes y sus Descendientes*. Includes genealogies of prominent Jews, with a table of contents listing family names.
*AJHS F 2876 .G27*

Saban, Mario Javier. *Judios Conversos: Los Antepasados Judios de las Familias Tradicionales Argentinas*. This book traces the immigration of converted Jews from Portugal to Argentina and Brazil. It contains over one hundred pages of genealogies.
*AJHS F 3001.9 .J5 S23*


Genealogy Institute

General Information

These reference books may be consulted in the Lillian Goldman Reading Room:

*Bibliografia Tematica Sobre Judaismo Argentina* (AMIA, 1987) 4 volumes
*REF F 2799 .J4 B5*

*Bibliography to 50 Years of the Colonist-Cooperative* (YIVO of Buenos Aires, 1978).

Ref F 1419 .J4 E43


Ref F 1419 .J4 L52


Ref F 1419 .J4 I44

The following books must be requested from the appropriate librarian in the CJH Reading Room:


LBI DS 135 .A82 A812


AJHS G 1756 .E43 K5


LBI HV 640.5 .J4 M65


AJHS F 3021 .J5 UJ4

*Union Central Israelita Polaca en la Argentina* (1985). 4 volumes, in Yiddish. Essays about various aspects of Jewish life in Argentina and Poland, and photographs of organizational groups, past presidents, and community activities in Argentina.

AJHS F 3031 .J5 U5

Other sources may be found in CJH’s online catalog at [http://catalog.cjh.org](http://catalog.cjh.org).

## Research in Argentina

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Argentina’s overview of research in Argentina has been translated into English at [www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/argentina.html](http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/argentina.html). The file includes the addresses, fees, and research policies of local, national, and Jewish archives in Argentina, many of which accept inquiries by mail for a small fee.

You can also contact the JGS of Argentina by mail, phone, or e-mail. The society cannot conduct research for you, but can provide suggestions and make referrals to professional researchers:

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