

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 Asosociaciones 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

Toldot, the journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Argentina (1996-1999).

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).

Elkin, Judith *Jews of the Latin American Republics* (University of North Carolina Press, 1980).
REF F 1419 .J4 E43

Liebman, Seymour. *The Inquisition and the Jews in the New World*. (University of Miami Press, 1974).
REF F 1419 .J4 L52

Nes El, Moshe. *Biographical Guide to Latin American Judaism*. (UMIA, 1996).
REF F 1419 .J4 I44

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

Avni, Haim. *Argentina and the Jews: a History of Jewish Immigration*. (U. Alabama Press, 1991).
LBI DS 135 .A82 A812

Kleiner, Alberto. *Atlas de los Territorios de la Jewish Colonization Association en Argentina y Brazil*. (Liberos y Editores del Poligono, 1983).
AJHS G 1756 .E43 K5

Moneke, Kirsten. *Die Emigration der Deutschen Juden nach Argentinien (1933-1945): Zur Rolle der juedischen Hilfsverein*. (St. Ingbert, 1993).
LBI HV 640.5 .J4 M65

Union Central Israelita de Galitzia en la Argentina (1986). 3 volumes, in Yiddish. Essays about various aspects of Jewish life in Argentina and Galicia, and photographs of community activists from Galicia, in Argentina.
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 F3031 .J5 U5

Other sources may be found in CJH's online catalog at <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. 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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