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CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS CHARITIES COMMITTEE

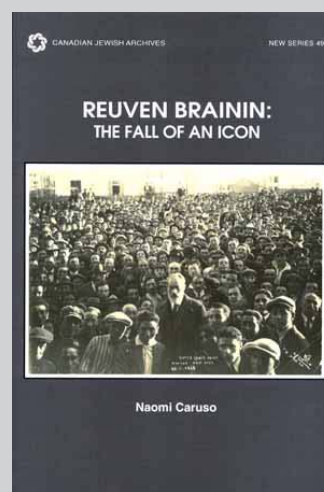
# National Archives Newsletter

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## PUBLISHING NEWS

After an 11-year hiatus, a new title in the Canadian Jewish Archives new series has just been published, in an attractive book-sized format. *Reuven Brainin: The Fall Of An Icon*, by **Naomi Caruso**, details the unexpected twists that led Reuven Brainin, renowned Jewish intellectual on the world stage, to end his days as a discredited pariah, reviled for his unorthodox views on Zionism versus the Soviet state. The book is now available for purchase through our office, at a cost of \$12.00.



## A TECHNICAL ADVANCEMENT

Responding to expressions of bafflement by some of our users when presented with a cassette copy of a requested audio resource, we have purchased a device that allows us to make **digital copies of cassettes**. Digital files can be provided in WAV or WPA (Windows Media) format, the former being a large file that can be played on computers or in CD players, while the latter, more compact, files can be accessed with most computers.

## FUNDING DEVELOPMENTS

We recently received a small grant from the **BAnQ (Bibliothèque et Archives nationales de Québec)** earmarked to help us catalogue the Wolff family collection, which has continued to grow in recent months. Meanwhile, the **Marvin A. Drimer foundation**

renewed its commitment to the Canadian Jewish Virtual Museum and Archives website ([www.cjvma.org](http://www.cjvma.org)), with a show of continued financial support.

## COLLECTION NEWS

As mentioned above, the **Wolff family** collection gained several boxes of important early Quebec documents, donated through **Annette Wolff** and her sister, **Rosetta Elkin**. Quebec Jewish life in a smaller community is the focus of a delightful and long-sought-after collection of slides and accompanying audio narrative about **Ste-Sophie**, prepared in 1989 by the late **Ruth Colton Lehman**, with the assistance of former Ste-Sophie resident **Nathan Rosenberg**. The 160-slide treasure was donated by Mr. Rosenberg, along with his own illustrated memoir of life in the lower Laurentians, written with his cousin Fred Rudy, who is also a native of the region.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Janice Rosen is busy preparing for two sessions at the upcoming **Association of Canadian Jewish Studies** conference in Vancouver June 1 to 3. One is a panel discussion on the multifaceted legacy of David Rome, for which she will review Rome's contributions as a Jewish community archivist. The second is a Jewish Archivists Round Table, in which four other Canadian Jewish archivists from across Canada (Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg and Toronto) will participate.

Janice Rosen and Pierre Anctil will be speaking about Jewish archives at the **Association of Quebec Archivists'** annual conference in Quebec City in mid-May. The conference coincides with the opening of an exhibit on Jewish history in Quebec, organized as part of that city's 400th anniversary celebrations, for which both Janice and Pierre served as advisors.

## OTHER OUTREACH NEWS

On January 21, the Archives hosted a **Concordia University** Department of Religion class on Montreal Jewish history, taught by Sonia Zylberberg. We were helped in preparing for it by our student intern, **Greg Bartlett**, from the McGill Library School master's level program in Archives. Greg's primary project during his internship is the arrangement and cataloguing of the Lord Reading Yacht Club collection.

About 25 photos from CJCCNA are currently on display in a new virtual exhibit "**Montréal, 500 years of history in archives**," a project of the Groupe des Archivistes de la Région de Montréal, located at [www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/montrealistes/500ans](http://www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/montrealistes/500ans).

Meanwhile, the dozens of CJCCNA photos which had been provided to Federation CJA for publications associated with its 90th anniversary were on view until the end of 2007 at various locations in the Montreal Jewish community as part of the Federation's attractive multi-panel display "**Montreal's Jewish Federation: 90 Years of Building a Better Community.**"

## SOLDIERS PROJECT CONTINUES TO MARCH ON

The Canadian Jewish casualties database, at [www.cjccc.ca/archives/casualties.php](http://www.cjccc.ca/archives/casualties.php), continues to attract new users. Researcher Robert Shepherd, assisting Dr. David J Bercuson of the **University of Calgary**, made use of our bank of information in preparing a list of all Jewish Canadian servicemen killed in WWII, to be displayed at the Military Museum of Calgary.

In addition, Hélène Vallée's knowledge of military sources was put to good use solving several long-standing mysteries, notably one involving an American Jewish soldier who had perished in the Netherlands, prompting his Canadian-resident parents to donate a Sefer Torah there. The second mystery concerned a soldier buried in the British War Cemetery in Be'er Sheva. This latter case was featured in **Sheldon Kirschner's** column "Far From Home" in the *Canadian Jewish News* last September and October.

## MORE DATA BASE DEVELOPMENTS

In addition to working on the Casualties website, our data base expert Shirley Brodt has made it possible for several more aspects of the Archives' knowledge base to be searched and easily accessible to researchers through result tables sent via e-mail. The detailed listings of the **Jewish Colonization Association**, an index to the **Holocaust Documentation Project** interviews of 1981-1983, and the much-used **Montreal Historic Synagogue Finder's Guide** are now all available in this way.

Adding to our information bank on an ongoing basis, Archives volunteers **Willie Glaser** and **Shirley Sibelus** continue to contribute an invaluable service through their cataloguing and arrangement of CJC records, audiotapes, and newly received publications. They are also of great help to our clientele, as we put their passion for research to frequent use on behalf of those who contact us from far away. □