

# Guide to the Shemu'el ben Avraham David ha-Kaṭan Papers

MS 2031



compiled by Julie Cohen

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 2031

**CREATOR:** Shemu'el ben Avraham David, ha-Ḳaṭan

**TITLE:** Shemu'el ben Avraham David ha-Ḳaṭan papers

**DATES:** Circa 1920-1938.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** .98 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** The material is in Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian, Polish, and English.

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of items from the estate of Rabbi Shemu'el ben Avraham David ha-Ḳaṭan Kaufman Me-Rabenu, spiritual leader of the Hasidic Kaminka-Myropil community. The papers contain four volumes of Rebbe Shemuel's handwritten novellae and commentary on the Torah and Talmud. The collection also includes visa applications, passports, recommendations, and other documents related to the immigration of the rebbe and his family to the United States, as well as a few photographs and a metal seal for embossing the rebbe's name on papers.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2031>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2031>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the Judaica Collection Curator, 2015. Purchased from Kedem Auctions on the Rosalyn and Joseph Newman Collection Fund, 2014.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Guide to the Shemu'el ben Avraham David ha-Katan Papers (MS 2031). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Rabbi Shemuel Kaufman, son of Rebbe Avraham David of Myropil (Wołyń or Volhynia, Ukraine), succeeded his father as Rebbe of the Kaminka-Myropil Hasidim. The family was known as Me-Rabenu, tracing their genealogy to Rabbi Judah ha-Nasi. A notable forbear was Kaufman's grandfather, the Hasidic sage Shemuel Kaminker (circa 1878-1943), who was known in local legends as an exorcist of dybbuks (the soul of a dead person embedded in that of a living person) and may even have served as An-sky's model for the character Rebbe Azriel of Miropol in his play, *The Dybbuk*. In 1923 Rebbe Shemuel Kaufman immigrated to the United States. In New York he became known as "The Tzaddik of Myropil." Most of his writings remained in Russia and were lost. Some of his novellae were printed in the periodical "Pardes" and in his book "Tiferet Shemuel," published in New York in 1926. In 1996 his grandson published *Tiferet Shemuel*, part 2, including many of the texts found in this collection in the original manuscript form. Kaufman's son Moshe did not assume the role of rebbe, leaving Shemuel ben Avraham David Kaufman as the last Rebbe of the Kaminka-Myropil dynasty. He died in 1938.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of items from the estate of Rabbi Shemu'el ben Avraham David ha-Katan Kaufman Me-Rabenu, spiritual leader of the Hasidic Kaminka-Myropil community. The papers contain four volumes of Rebbe Shemuel's handwritten novellae and commentary on the Torah and Talmud. The collection also includes visa applications, passports, recommendations, and other documents related to the immigration of the rebbe and his family to the United States, as well as a few photographs and a metal seal for embossing the rebbe's name on papers.

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## Arrangement

The material is arranged according to document type.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1b. 2, f. 1-2	Handwritten novellae and commentary	Circa 1920-1938
b. 3, f. 1	Documentation and photographs	Circa 1920-1938
b. 4	Seal	Circa 1920-1938

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Hasidism -- United States  
Rabbis -- United States

### **Names**

Shemu'el ben Avraham Dayid, ha-Ḳaṭan