

# Guide to the Leyzer Ran Collection on the Jewish Communities of Vilna and Kovno

MS 2043



compiled by Julie Cohen

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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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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 2043

**CREATOR:** Ran, Leyzer, 1912-1995

**TITLE:** Leyzer Ran collection on the Jewish communities of Vilna and Kovno

**DATES:** 1886–1941

**BULK DATES:** 1919–1932

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** .83 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** Multiple languages

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of over two hundred hand-written, printed, or mimeographed documents from the Jewish community of Vilna (Vilnius), as well as about twenty documents from Kovno (Kaunas) and a few sent to Vilna from other places. Material types include letters, announcements, poems, essays, invitations to cultural events, circulars, newsletters, by-laws, and reports of various communal organizations.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2043>

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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.2043>.

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. The materials were originally purchased from Rosenfeld and Vinograd on the Rosalyn and Joseph Newman Collection Fund, 2010, 2012, and 2014.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research. Researchers should contact the Yale University Library Judaica Collection at <http://web.library.yale.edu/international/judaica-collection> for reference requests.

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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

Leyzer Ran Collection on the Jewish Communities of Vilna and Kovno (MS 2043). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Leyzer Ran (1912-1995), was born and grew up in the vibrant Jewish community of Vilna, an intellectual, religious, and cultural center considered "the Jerusalem of Lithuania." After the Holocaust he settled in New York and set about collecting documentary evidence of the lost Yiddish civilization, establishing a reputation as Vilna's foremost bibliographer and ephemerist.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of over two hundred hand-written, printed, or mimeographed documents from the Jewish community of Vilna (Vilnius), as well as about twenty documents from Kovno (Kaunas) and a few sent to Vilna from other places. The Vilna collection includes letters, announcements, poems, essays, invitations to cultural events, circulars, newsletters, by-laws, and reports of various communal organizations. Among the papers are rare publications, such as a mimeographed text-booklet dated 1940 for students in the vocational program in metals technology at the ORT school of Vilna, or issues of the newsletter of the Yiddishist youth group Bin (Bee). The documents from Kovno include memoranda of the community council, a survey of schools in the area, notices, and forms. According to the vendor, the papers were originally in the collection of the bibliographer, Leyzer Ran. Facsimiles of some of these documents appeared in Ran's 1974 book, *Jerusalem of Lithuania: illustrated and documented*, but most are unpublished. Many of the documents are marked with Leyzer Ran's distinctive stamp.

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## Arrangement

The papers contain three sets of documents purchased from the same vendor over a four-year period. For the most part papers are arranged in the order received from the vendor. This list covers the papers acquired in 2010, the largest portion of the collection. These papers have been placed in folders numbered

1-189, according to the vendor's item numbers. Additional documents acquired in 2014 were placed in subsequent folders, the items from Vilna numbered 190-203 and from Kovno 204-205. The last folder (206) contains a group of documents from Kovno bound loosely together with thread that was acquired in 2012.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1-113	Documents from Vilna	1886-1941
b. 2, f. 1-79	Documents from Vilna	1919-1941
b. 2, f. 80-94	Documents from Vilna	1911-1938
b. 2, f. 95-97	Documents from Kovno	Circa 1920

## **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**

Jews -- Lithuania -- Kaunas -- History -- Sources

Jews -- Lithuania -- Vilnius -- History -- Sources