

*ICS 99*

## **Papers relating to Jewish settlers in South Africa**

### **SUMMARY GUIDE**

<b>Repository</b>	GB 101 Institute of Commonwealth Studies
<b>Reference code</b>	ICS 99
<b>Dates of creation</b>	c.1915-late 20th cent.
<b>Level of description</b>	Collection
<b>Extent</b>	10 files and items
<b>Name of creators</b>	Accumulated by Riva Krut

### **Administrative history**

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, significant numbers of Jews emigrated from Eastern Europe, Russia and elsewhere, to South Africa. The numbers from Russia, escaping extreme persecution, were particularly high. Many were attracted by the potential wealth from the gold mines, but success was not guaranteed and a struggle to become established was experienced by most settlers. However, in due course strong Jewish communities emerged in Johannesburg, Pretoria and elsewhere, and some found considerable financial success. Matters were interrupted by the South African War of 1899-1902, during which many Jews were forced to leave, but the influx resumed when peace was restored. In 1903 the Jewish Board of Deputies was established to provide for the welfare of new immigrants.

The records collected together here are a small sample of source material for the history of these events, and include a list of Jews resident in Johannesburg in c.1915-1917, compiled by the Board of Deputies' War Relief Committee for the purpose of raising funds for East European Jewish immigrants; copies of memoirs and biographical accounts of a small number of Jewish immigrants from the period; and copies of articles on the history of Jews in South Africa.

### **Archival history**

The material was donated to ICS by Baruch Hirson, and appears to have been given to him by Riva Krut, who accumulated it in the course of research work for a thesis on the subject.

### **Scope and content**

The papers comprise research material accumulated by Baruch Hirson on Jews in South Africa, and include photocopy of a list of Jews resident in Johannesburg, memoirs and copies of personal papers of individual Jews, and articles about Jews in South Africa.

### **System of arrangement**

Apart from the single file of census information, the records have been roughly grouped into two sections: memoirs/personal papers, and articles.

**Access**

Open

**Copyright/copying conditions**

Usual conditions apply. There is a specific requirement to refer to the author of one of the memoirs (Morris Schmulian) prior to publication.

**Language**

English

**Finding Aids**

A descriptive list is available at ICS

**Existence and location of originals**

The originals of ICS 99/1, 99/9 and 99/10 are in the Archives of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies

**Related material at ICS**

Other material on different topics has been donated to ICS by Barcuh Hirson: see ICS 3, ICS 4, ICS 32, ICS 60, ICS 88, A119. Riva Krut's thesis, 'Building a home and community: Jews in Johannesburg, 1886-1914' is available in ICS Library [shelfmark DS 135 S6 KRU fol].

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**DESCRIPTIVE LIST**

ICS 99/1	Photocopy of list of Jewish residents of Johannesburg, together with statistical analysis of addresses and occupations, and note of provenance  According to a note attached to the document, the list was found in a file of the War Relief Committee (for raising funds for Eastern European Jewry) kept at the Jewish Board of Deputies, Johannesburg. The list gives names, addresses, occupations and a reference number and covers, according to the note, only central Johannesburg	c.1915-1917
ICS 99/2	MS copy of beginning of memoir written in 1952 of Joseph Ratner (c.1871-1960), a Jew born in Grodno, Russia who settled in South Africa; together with photocopies of documents relating to his naturalisation in the United Kingdom and settlement in South Africa, 1902-1904; and a poor photocopy of a photograph of Ratner and his wife	n.d. [late 20th cent.]
ICS 99/3	MS notes of an interview with Izzy Rome, a Jew born in Lithuania in 1892 who settled in South Africa in 1908	n.d. [c.1982]
ICS 99/4	Note of trading links of the Abramowitz family, settlers in South Africa in 1896	n.d. [late 20th cent.]
ICS 99/5	Photocopy of letter from A Lazarus of Johannesburg to JH Hofmeyr, Acting Prime Minister of South Africa, enclosing a 'victory brooch' he had made for Hofmeyr as a tribute to his devotion to peace and serving humanity	1946
ICS 99/6	Photocopy of ms memoirs of Morris (Maurice) Schmulian (born c.1903) who settled in Johannesburg as a child in 1906, recorded by Riva Kint	1982
ICS 99/7	Typescript account by Mary Kropman of the life of Samuel Marks (1844-1920), a Jew from Neustaat, Kovnow, Russia who emigrated to Britain, and then to South Africa in 1868, becoming a highly successful and influential businessman, entrepreneur and politician	n.d. [1981]
ICS 99/8	Copy of article on Pretoria Jewry 1902-1910 [by Mary Kropman]	n.d. [1982]

ICS 99/9	[Incomplete?] copy of 'A sketch in modern Jewish history' by Morris Abrahams, Johannesburg, being an account of Jews in South Africa in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with covering note about Abrahams	n.d. [early 20th cent.]
ICS 99/10	Copy of an account of Jews in South Africa, possibly by Morris Abrahams	n.d. [early 20th cent.]