

A SHOT IN THE DARK

On the 30th of May I noticed a message by which all the Group Members are accessed on czernovitz-L@List.cornell.edu .

“I know this is a long shot, but I am amazed at how networked you all are, so I will give it a try: Does anyone remember Selig Nissen of Schiesstättergasse Nr.13 ? I have a book with his name and address dated 1937. Please contact me. Julie Dawson.”

Julie lives in New York City and currently works at the Leo Baek Institute as archivist interested in the study of German-speaking Jews. She is a graduate student at Columbia University and spent 3 years at Mediaș in Transylvania writing about the Jewish community and also involved in the restoration of the local synagogue.

During the clearing up process she came across some 1000 books on the Bukovina, diaries and prayer books which contained no names with addresses except one. Selig Nissens' Bemidbar. Selig whose name in German means blessed in the expression *Gott habe ihm selig* in other words God rest his soul.

Selig died in 1942 was related to my father Dr. A. Jaslowitz and was well known to me, when I was a boy, a very devout person who eked an existence with silver thread embroidery. He had four children of which Jacob was an outstanding gymnast and represented Romanian Jewry at the Maccabiah in Palestine. Samuel, known as Miliu, left home for France where he intended to study medicine at Tours before the outbreak of WW2. With the Nazi occupation he was handed over to the infamous Drancy selection camp and then to Auschwitz. Miraculously he survived and returned to Tours to finish his studies. He is no longer alive.

Over the many years I have been in constant touch with his wife and three sons and now hope to enable them to acquire their grand fathers books which were taken to Tel-Aviv by Julie during her professional travels and then dispatched to me.

The two books found recently in Romania are 1st editions and were printed by the Pessel Balaban, press and publishing firm, in 1871 in Lemberg, Lviv in the Ukraine today, and at that time the capital of the Austrian crown-land of Galicia.

Hebrew printing (Yivo Institute for Jewish Research) existed since 1470 and apparently the fate of Hebrew books was, throughout the centuries, like the fate of their owners the subject to censorship, inquisition, burnings, destruction or confiscation. Selig Nissen had the foresight to save his venerable books. After 1940 the Nazi and Communist regimes succeeded in finally obliterating almost all Hebrew and Yiddish presses in Europe.

Selig Nissen was born in 1874 and died in Czernowitz in 1942. His prayer books have in addition to his signature and full address the names of Wolf Jacob and Farcas Simon in pencil.

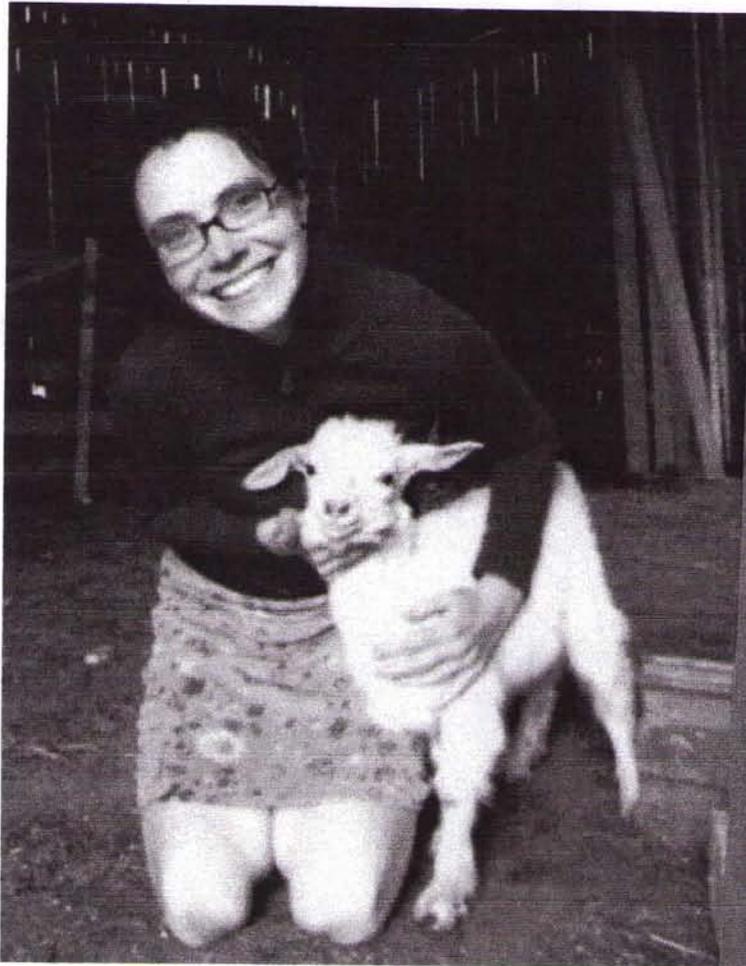
As it is customary to give prayer books to Bar-Mitzwah boys one can only assume that they were given to him in 1887 by his father or family.

Julie Dawson who found the books in Mediaş included a postcard and suggested that they might have been brought by Jewish migrants seeking refuge in 1941 from the Russian, Romanian or German occupying forces in Czernowitz.

Selig was alive then and able to send the books to relative security. There is no one today who can verify this as his sons Samuel (Miliu) Nissen from Le Havre and Bernard in the USA are no longer alive.

Although the books have no intrinsic antique value these 130 year old books of the Torah are rare in some respects and should be made available to posterity at the "Musée d'Art et du Judaïsme" in Paris.

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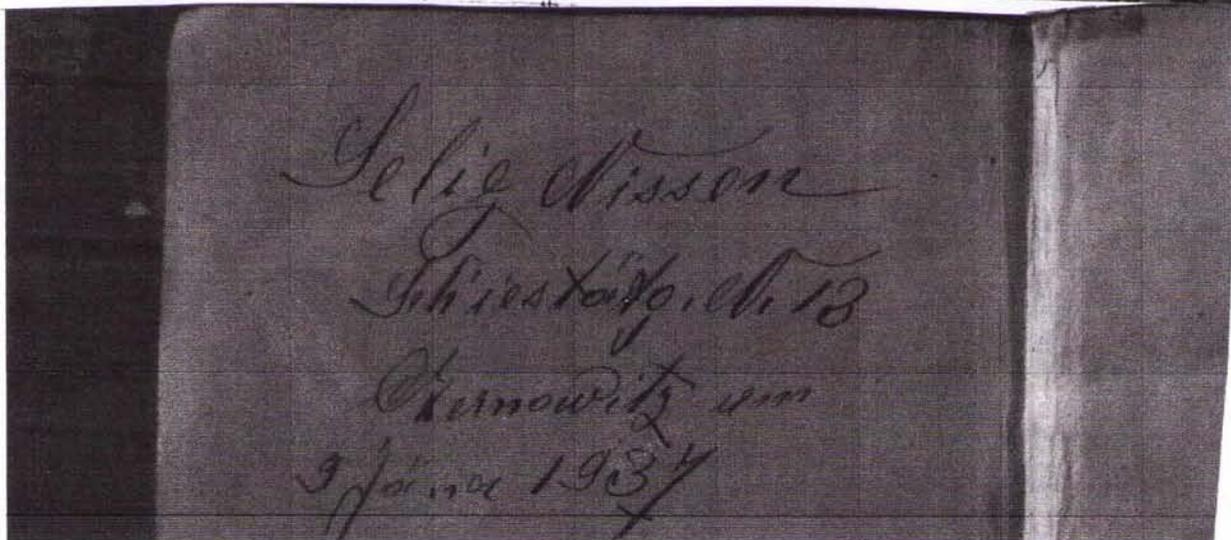
JULIE DAWSON at MEDIAS, ROUMANIA, WHERE SHE FOUND THE BOOK OF PRAYERS



Subj: [Cz-L] Selig Nissen, Schiesstättgasse
Date: 30/05/2011 21:18:17 GMT Daylight Time
From: juliegdawson@googlemail.com
To: Czernowitz-L@cornell.edu
Dear Czernowitzers,

I know this is a long shot, but I am amazed at how networked you all are, so I will give it a try: Does anyone remember Selig Nissen of Schiesstättgasse Nr. 13? I have a book with this name and address, dated 1937. Please contact me privately if you have any information about this family. Thank you!

Best,
Julie



REGATUL ROMÂNIEI
JUDEȚUL CERNAUȚI
COMUNA CERNAUȚI

1948r.

Buletin de înscriere la biroul populației

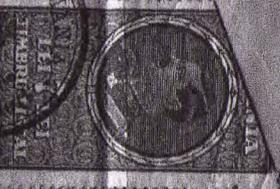
sub No. _____ Liberat la 28 Iul 1948Nume de familie TrancuPronume de botex Selby

Poreclă _____

Profesiunea _____

Locul nașterii ȘabalpuraData nașterii 1894Strada MoșgilorNumărul formularului de înscriere N^o 13
3138/1942

Locuințele succesive în comuna	Data declarației	Semnătura șefului biroului populației
Strada	No.	



NB. Acest biletin va fi prezentat
ori de câte ori interesatul va schim-
ba locuința și cu ocazia oricărei
declarațiuni

L.S.

Semnătura șefului
biroului populației

Semnalmente:

47 ani

Vârsta

Statura

Părul

Ochii

Nasul

Barba

Semne particulare _____

Semnătura declarantului

(în caz de neștiință de carte, impre-
simura digitală a degetului mare dela
mâna dreaptă).

Semnătura șefului
biroului populației

Șeful Biroului Populației
Ștefan Selby

Regatul României

Județul Cernăuți
Comuna Cernăuți

Buletin de înscriere la biroul populației

sub No. _____ Liberat la 28 Iul 1948Nume de familie TrancuPronume de botex Rachib

Poreclă _____

Profesiunea _____

Locul nașterii _____

Data nașterii _____

Strada _____

Numărul formularului de înscriere N^o 13
3138/1942

Locuințele succesive în comuna	Data declarației	Semnătura șefului biroului populației
Strada	No.	



NB. Acest biletin va fi prezentat
ori de câte ori interesatul va schim-
ba locuința și cu ocazia oricărei
declarațiuni

Semnalmente:

53 ani

Vârsta

Statura

Părul

Ochii

Nasul

Barba

Semne particulare _____

Semnătura declarantului

(în caz de neștiință de carte, impre-
simura digitală a dege-
tului mare dela mâna dreaptă)

Semnătura șefului
biroului populației

Șeful Biroului Populației
Ștefan Selby

ROMANIA



Județul Cernăuți

Judecătoria mixtă Cernăuți

Carte de Alegător No. 204/N

Pentru cameră și pentru Senat

Carol Hilsenrad

Noi, Judecătorul

certificăm ca

D-1

Nissen David Selig

domiciliat în

Bucinulm. 26

născut la

1874

de profesiune

comerciant

, este alegător la cameră

și fiind înscris în registrul electoral la No.

și votează în secțiunea

Eliberat azi luna *VII* 1932.

Judecător,

Grefier,

Semnătura alegătorului,