

Many priceless Jewish cultural and historic treasures are being rediscovered...

UKRAINIAN JOURNEY

Recordings of Sholom Aleichem reading his own works in Yiddish and authentic early Chassidic melodies are only some of the many priceless Jewish cultural and historic treasures being rediscovered in the Ukraine, a major center of Jewish life in pre-War Eastern Europe. Although the history of the Jews of the Ukraine was at times filled with suffering, the present government has made efforts to improve its relations with Israel and World Jewry. A cooperative agreement between the Israeli and Ukrainian Academies of Science was signed in 1993, and a Ukrainian delegation paid a formal visit to the Israel Academy at that time.

A high-level Israeli delegation, consisting of Israel Academy President, Prof. Jacob Ziv, Academy Vice-President, Prof. Hayim Tadmor, and Academy Executive Director, Dr. Meir Zadok, returned the visit in May 1997, during which many useful new discussions were held. Although most related to such general issues as preserving the Jewish heritage of the Ukraine and the possibility of jointly funded research, many specific cooperative opportunities were also discussed.

For example, the Kiev National Library suggested setting up a joint committee to suggest new areas of cooperation (the library already has an agreement with the National Library at the Hebrew University), perhaps including publishing the old archives of the Jewish community of Kiev. The Israel Museum could cooperate with Ukrainian counterparts in the archaeology of the Scythian gold hoards found in that country.



The Ukrainian National Library has an unparalleled collection of rare early Sholom Aleichem manuscripts and publications, here being examined by Prof. Haim Tadmor

Israel Academy officials visit Kiev to discuss Israeli-Ukrainian cooperation.

Left to right:

Israel Academy President, Prof. J. Ziv,
Prof. O. Onyshchenko and
Prof. V. Petrov of the Ukrainian Academy,
Israel Academy Director, Dr. M. Zadok,
Israel Academy Vice President, Prof. H. Tadmor



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extend their best wishes for a happy, healthy and productive New Year