THE HEBREW NEWSPAPER HA-ZVI: A MIRROR OF JERUSALEM’S PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

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Open Jerusalem Workshop
22 January 2015
IFEA Istanbul
Primary Outcomes and Samples*

*Actually, the work is still in the first stages where only certain issues of Ha-Zvi are done so far, roughly 350 issues out of around 700 that were selected to work on, which represents 11 years out of 22 years during which Ha-Zvi was published.
Why working on the archives of Hebrew press related to the period of Open Jerusalem project (1840-1940)?

Actually, the work on Hebrew newspapers have three main objectives:

- **First and most important**: To have a look at the main concept of OPEN JERUSALEM project; citadinité (mutual civil life of Jerusalem which is mostly transreligious and transnational) from an additional perspective or mirror i.e. the Hebrew Press of Jerusalem. After working on the archives and press mainly written in Arabic, Ottoman, Greek etc, it seems very important for the project to look for close information that written in Hebrew by the Jerusalemite Jews, who are considered to be a direct and highly involved source of information.

- **Second**: To look for certain complementary information that not found in the minutes of Jerusalem Municipal Council or other sources and therefore might exist in the archives of the Hebrew press. Here, we can give one example regarding the full names of the members of the municipality council that are absent from the municipal minutes and exist in an issue of Ha-Zvi belongs to 1898.
Third: To fill certain gaps of information about the public life of Jerusalem from additional or supplementary sources. Through Hebrew press, we might be able to deeply investigate the participant of Jews in the common civil life, such as their participation in the municipality elections, and may be further, their engagement in the public affairs, public space, public order, and public institutions…etc
All Hebrew newspapers in question that we are working on are available on the jpress internet site that has been created by Tel Aviv University:

http://www.jpress.org.il/Default/Skins/TAUEn/Client.asp?Skin=TAUEn&enter=true&sPublication=DHY&Hs=advanced&AW=1416771142494&AppName=2
HAZEWI 14e année N° 17
12 Février 1893

Note
[0025fire] 11 February 1893
Ha-Zvi
Samples of Jerusalem’s Public Affairs
Ha-Zvi for the year of 1898
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The supervising committee of the municipality elections checked the lists of people who had the right to run the elections of the municipality council and stressed that the lists had to be made public within eight days. This piece of news had mentioned, as well, some names of Jews who met the conditions to take part in the municipality elections.
A poll for municipality elections was opened today (Thursday) in Jerusalem for the election of municipality head among the new five municipality members. The names of the members were mentioned below.
No decision was made yet in regard of the results of municipality elections because there were two candidates who belonged to the same family which contracted the laws. Therefore, one of them should not run the elections, instead two persons will run; one of them is Jew while the other is Muslim.
Mr. Yasin Al-Khalidi was appointed the head of Jerusalem municipality. One of the five elected members of the municipal council was dismissed and Mr. Yahushua’ was appointed in his place.
The first meetings of the municipal council, with its new head Yasin Effendi, discussed several issues that related to the city. His Excellency sent a directive to the municipality to take care of the hygiene of the city and of the health of its inhabitants. Then, to take care of the new city out of the walls and lighten it. Regarding of the expense to do all this, the municipality will ask for allocations from the council.
Water was brought to Jerusalem up to the court area, this was not thanks to the municipality, but it was thanks to the decision of a special committee.
The Municipality started repairing water pipes and laying new ones between Shlomo pool and the Temple. This will solve the problem of impure water which Jerusalemites used to drink from the old wells.
The publication house “Ushiah”* made a bibliography for the Hebrew books to enable the public to read them.
Ha-Zvi for the year of 1908
An advertisement of Hebrew publishing house that included a list of book titles along with the prices of books.
The Governor of the city accompanied by municipality head and other officials visited a site of well near to Jerusalem. The visit aimed at examining how to bring well water to the city through pipes. The delegate of Ha-Zvi promised to help and to bring support for such a project.
An interview with Ruhi Effendi the Member of Parliament, representative of Palestine (Eretz Yisrael) who is from Jerusalem city.
A long article about the conditions of Jewish workers in the city; especially their low salaries and how they were exploited by Jewish owners who received the majority aids presented by wealthy Jews around the world.
The governor of Jerusalem sent two members of the municipality to examine the problems of city hygiene.
There was growing concern that the municipal hospital would be closed because of road tax cancellation that was paid by dragomen using the roads. This tax was the only income of the hospital. Many called upon the general governor to intervene in front of the central authorities.
Ha-Zvi for the year of 1887
The number of Jewish trainees learning the craft of chiseling stones at Nissim Behar School and how much they earn daily from their work.
Some Muslim notables of Jerusalem including Al-Shikh Yousef visited the school of Mr. Nissim Behar to examine the level of students in Arabic language. The notables showed their satisfaction of the visit, especially of the presence of Muslim students at the school.
The study year began in the Jewish school of Jerusalem such as the school of Nissim Behar and the school of orphans of Mr. Hertzborg. Below mentioned the number of the Jewish, Muslim and Christian students and the types of professional study they follow at the schools. In the Jewish schools there were classes for teaching only Hebrew.
Halqi Effendi, a nominee for the head of the supreme court of the Turkish government in Jerusalem, asked for the help of a distinguished teacher of the Torah and Work School owned by Mr. Nissim Behar to teach him the Turkish language.
Ha-Zvi for the year of 1893
A decision was received from Istanbul to reinstall Salim Effendi to his position as the head of municipality and 'Arif Bey as the head of education. The two were reinstalled as the investigations found them innocent.
The number of persons affected by fever and flew had increased in Jerusalem. Therefore, the railway company decided to reduce the number of passengers coming from Jaffa where the infection prevailed.
A suggestion was proposed to establish a stock market in Jerusalem where merchants can meet, negotiate, bargain and sell. The suggestion included paying certain fees, and to establish the market out of the Gate of Jaffa.