

# The Jews of Central Europe

By Rabbi Joseph Henry Stolz.  
Corsicana, Texas.

During my investigations a few years ago into the subject of European Jewish history I found what will undoubtedly prove to the reader of this paper a number of most interesting facts pertaining to the relations of the Jews of Central Europe during the Middle Ages to their neighbors. I am certain that the points, which I wish to make can best be done on the basis of the materials, which I collected.

Jews are known to have emigrated to Central Europe as early as the fourth century of the common era. In this century when the harsh decrees of the Holy Roman Emperor Constantine were issued, Jews found a haven of refuge among the barbaric tribes of the Rhine and Oder valleys. In the course of time they settled further east and by the close of the tenth century had established themselves in all large centers of trade and commerce. Therefore, the Jew, we may conclude is not a recent comer to Europe, for his settlement in these regions is often as early as history tells us was the arrival there of the Christian missionary, and in a number of instances the Jew preceded him. Do the Jew and Judaism constitute an alien element, why may not the same be said for Christianity and its institutions?

The vocations of the Jews who made their homes in the midst of these primitive European peoples were those of the artisan, physician and farmer. But it was as a merchant the Jew made himself especially useful. For in the then existing state of culture of his Christian neighbor, no one desired to follow a trading or commercial occupation. By means of the plough men chiefly gained a livelihood, or they would seek gain and spoil by wielding the bow and arrow, or the spear. The Jews in the early centuries of the common era formed then even as they do and international people, being found among all civilized and semi-civilized peoples. Spread out as they were in all the large trading centers of the Western European and Eastern Mediterranean lands Jewish merchants in distant parts of the then known world could find ready opportunities to form business relations with one another. They were quick to introduce the products of eastern climes into the most remote regions of Europe. Handicrafts like those of silk and cloth making and dying, Jewish artisans taught their new Gentile neighbors. Jewish youths did not hesitate to master the humbler callings of the husbandman, nor to establish themselves as artisans. Even as late as the thirteenth century there were a number of regions where Jew and Gentile pursued the same callings peacefully side by side.

Not only in trade and industry but more especially in finance the Jew became a pioneer. A Jewish merchant having the confidence in a co-religionist at some distant port or town would extend credit to him for loan of money or goods and this contact and faith formed the basis for the creation of bills of credit and exchange among Jewish merchants. Jewish financiers soon became quite common and were often the creditors of bishops and kings. Being able to form a financial as well as a commercial league among themselves to that degree, which necessity would dictate, the Jews had

all others at a disadvantage. And yet owing chiefly to the disdain with which the Gentile looked upon the calling of the trader and the money lender no jealousy or prejudice could move him to put any handicap upon the Jew in his pursuit of these callings.

The Jew was free to go and come throughout the land as he pleased and he enjoyed the fullest political and social rights with his neighbor.

For almost seven centuries after the fall of Rome, that is until the close of the eleventh century Jews were welcomed in every part of central as well as western Europe. They enjoyed this free and uninterrupted intercourse with the Gentile world on account of the indispensable role which they assumed in the economic and social life of the age.

(Continued Next Week)

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TEXARKANA.  
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Werner-Raphael.

Mrs. Rose Raphael announces the marriage of her daughter, Mildred, to Mr. Arthur Werner of Denver, Colo., at 8 o'clock Tuesday evening nineteen hundred and nineteen Texarkana, Texas.

The above announcements have been sent to our-of-town friends of the families of Mrs. Raphael and Mr. Werner, though none have been issued in the city, as the wedding was a very quiet affair.

The home of Mrs. Raphael on State street was the setting for the ceremony which was conducted by Dr. Rudolph Farber of Mount Sinai Temple in the presence of the relatives of the bridal couple.

During the ceremony the bride wore a coat suit of white tricollette with corsage bouquet of sweet peas. Her hat was of white Georgette and the costume was completed by all other pretty details in white.

Out-of-town guests were Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lillianstern, and George Lillianstern of Mount Pleasant, and E. Raphael and daughter, Miss Wilhemina of Ennis.

Following the reception Mr. and Mrs. Werner departed for Kansas City where they will visit before going on to their home in Denver.

Mr. and Mrs. Werner will reside in Denver, where the former's parents make their home.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lillianstern and George Lillianstern of Mount Pleasant and E. Raphael of Ennis have returned to their homes after attendance at the Raphael-Werner wedding of Tuesday evening but Miss Wilhemina Raphael will remain for a longer visit with her aunt, Mrs. Rose Raphael.

Miss Wexler departed Sunday for a visit with Miss Sarah Foreman in Memphis.

Events centering around the marriage of Miss Mildred Raphael to Arthur Werner was a six o'clock dinner given Monday by Mr. and Mrs. Morris Sandberger, uncle and aunt of the bride at their home on Walnut street and State Line avenue.

Sweet peas and ferns formed a lovely centerpiece for the table where a seven course dinner was served.

In pretty keeping with the occasion the place cards were decorated with orange blossoms.

Covers were laid for Miss Raphael

Mr. Werner, Mrs. Rose Raphael, Miss Helen Raphael, Miss Wilhemina Raphael, Ennis; Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Sandberger Louis Heilbron and Mr. and Mrs. Sandberger.

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MARSHALL.  
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Announcement Luncheon.

Thursday evening at her home on South Franklin street, Miss Lillian Gold entertained a few of her friends with a six o'clock luncheon. The

guests were blindfolded and led into the dining room to their places. When the blindfolds were removed all were surprised to see a large wedding bell suspended from the chandelier and as the ribbon was pulled small red hearts fell announcing the betrothal of Miss Ella Bearman to Mr. Nathan Kranson of Natchez, La. The color scheme of pink and green was carried out throughout the dining room which was beautifully decorated. A large doll bride adorned the center of the table and miniature doll brides and grooms were to be seen everywhere. A daintily appointed course luncheon was (Continued on Page 15)

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