

# Material of the Mazheik Jewish Community Council in the YIVO Archives

## INTRODUCTION

Invaluable material, pertaining to the Jewish communities in Lithuania between the World Wars in general, and to the Mazheik (Mazeikiai in Lithuanian, מײזעיק in Yiddish) Jewish Community Council in particular, was rescued from destruction and looting by the Nazis and finally found its home in the Archives of the YIVO Institution for Jewish Research in New York City.

See: <https://yivo.org/YIVO-During-WWII>

Until recently this material was not available for online review, requiring either physical access to the YIVO archives in New York or ordering and receiving hard copies of requested material.

During the years, partial research was done on the history of the Jewish community of Mazheik based on representative samples of the material.

See:

- a. [Overview of Mazheik Jewish Community Material](#) on the Mazheik Memorial Website (MMWS). This was partial work covering sample documents included only in two folders.
- b. *Litvak she'Sarad, Milet ve'Heepil (The Litvak who Survived, Rescued, and made Aliyah)*, by Yehoshua Trigori; in Hebrew, Yuvalim publishing house, Jerusalem 2004. Copies of representative documents are included in the annex to the book, pages 235-301.

Recently, a considerable amount of YIVO archival material, including that pertaining to Lithuanian Jewish communities between the World Wars, has been made available for online review on the website of the Center for Jewish History (CJH) in New York City.

Link to Lithuanian Jewish Communities Collection:

<https://archives.cjh.org/repositories/7/resources/20003>

Link to Subseries 1: Records of Community Councils (1919-1926):

[https://archives.cjh.org/repositories/7/archival\\_objects/1180580](https://archives.cjh.org/repositories/7/archival_objects/1180580)

Most luckily, archival materials of the Jewish Community Council of Mazheik are included among these collections.

## LIST of FOLDERS

The material of the Mazheik Jewish Community Council is included in 31 files, containing approximately 1,300 individual documents. The files are listed in Table 1, shown below. The location identifiers in the YIVO Archive are as follows:

Collection group: RG2 - Lithuanian Jewish Communities Collection

Boxes: 29 and 30

Folders: 554 - 584

Each folder name includes a link to the online contents of the folder on the website of the Center for Jewish History (CJH) in New York.

For access to an individual folder click the relevant link, and then click "View the folder".

## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to the above-mentioned folders and files pertaining specifically to Mazheik, there is additional relevant material in other sections of the collection. A preliminary search has produced some results. See Table 2, below.

**Table 1: Mazheik Jewish Community Council Archival Material - Scope and Contents of Folders**

Line No.	File name and link	Box	Folder	No. of pages	Scope and Contents
1	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קמאזייק) , 1920-1924 *</a>	29	554	101	Minutes of the Vaad Hakahal, 4 November 1920-17 December 1924. * Note: this folder is divided into two parts: Part 1 and Part 2
2	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קמאזייק) , 1921</a>	29	555	17	Two correspondence registers.
3	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קמאזייק) , 1920-1921</a>	29	556	32	Incoming correspondence from the Jewish National Council and various communities, including: statistics of births, marriages, and deaths in Siad and Tirkshle (Tirkšliai), 1921; list of Jews in Veger and their occupations.
4	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קמאזייק) , 1919-1921</a>	29	557	25	Correspondence from the Ministry for Jewish Affairs and other materials, including: admonition by the Ministry for Jewish Affairs against the Vaad Hakahal issuing certificates beyond the limits of its competence; managing houses of absentee landlords; tax commission; report concerning the 1915 Mazheik fire; statement by the Mazheik community in 1918 about their refusal to participate in the elections of the municipal committee; school questionnaire; list of Jews who did not pay their taxes; questionnaires of the Kultur Lige.
5	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קמאזייק) , 1920-1921</a>	29	558	21	Correspondence with the Jewish National Council concerning financial and material support, and other matters.
6	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קמאזייק) , 1920-1921</a>	29	559	52	Correspondence, including: appointing a physician; contract with teacher Meir Kwartowski; order by the commander to supply military uniforms or fabrics; report about the public school.
7	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קמאזייק) , 1921-1922</a>	29	560	74	Correspondence and other materials, including: advertisement by a Jewish quicklime merchant in Pikeln; minutes of the Vaad Hakahal refugee committee, 19-20 July 1921; filled-out questionnaire for the JDC about the state of the community, July 1921; former Mazheik Rabbi Samuel Rubinstein returns with a group of refugees; appeal by the Kultur Lige about a subsidy for evening courses; appeal to erect a booth at the bathing site; Hebrew public schools.
8	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קמאזייק) , 1921-1924</a>	29	561	56	Incoming correspondence and receipts from the Ministry for Jewish Affairs, concerning the functioning of the local Vaad Hakahal, sending an instructor from Kovne, communal budget, issuing personal documents, the composition of the local education commission (bildungskomisye). Includes a list of candidates to the Vaad Hakahal, with the number of votes received.
9	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קמאזייק) , 1921-1924</a>	29	562	18	Correspondence, contracts, receipts, and other materials, including contracts between the local Vaad Hakahal and teachers in the local Hebrew elementary school.
10	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קמאזייק) , 1922</a>	29	563	43	Correspondence from the Ministry for Jewish Affairs and Jewish National Council and other materials, including: petition to pay the teachers in the local Hebrew school so they can go home for Passover; fees for recording vital records; taxation; petition to have the money collected for the starving in Russia transferred to the Jewish National Council (with signatures of the participants in the meeting).

Line No.	File name and link	Box	Folder	No. of pages	Scope and Contents
11	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קייזאָמאָ) , 1922-1924</a>	29	564	60	Correspondence with the Jewish National Council and other Jewish institutions, concerning financial matters, taxes. Includes a letter from the JDC concerning financial assistance for construction of houses; relief for refugees; preparations for the upcoming elections to the Jewish National Council; list of 12 towns in the Mazheik district.
12	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קייזאָמאָ) , 1923-1924</a>	29	565	94	Correspondence and other materials, including: letter about setting up an education commission (bildungskomisyje) of the Vaad Hakahal; a report to the Vaad Hakahal concerning the school system in Siad and Vekshne; correspondence from Agudas Harabonim (Central Association of Lithuanian Rabbis) concerning the difficult situation of rabbis in the country; a letter from the library council at the Zionist Federation in Mazheik concerning the setting of the Zionist library; list of 49 people entitled to vote in the community of Latskeve; list of students at the Hebrew gymnasium (high school) in need of welfare assistance; minutes of a session of the Vaad Hakahal about Passover alms and shkhite, 1 April 1924; circular about a Passover kitchen for 33 mentally ill in the Tauragė hospital; shkhite fees.
13	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קייזאָמאָ) , 1923-1925</a>	29	566	15	Correspondence and other materials, including: report of the Vaad Hakahal, 1923-January 1925; inquiries about land for a cemetery; inquiries about keeping the vital records; a copy of a resolution concerning the community shoykhet; list of Jews who owe money for taxes.
14	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קייזאָמאָ) , 1925-1926</a>	29	567	46	Correspondence from the Jewish Seimas faction and others. Subjects include: the shoykhet and his salary; requests concerning tax; keeping the vital records; psychiatric institution; requests for assistance for Passover; reports on Vaad Hakahal's activities; invitation to a meeting organized by Mažeikiai House Owners Association.
15	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קייזאָמאָ) , 1920-1921</a>	29	568	34	Correspondence with municipal and government institutions. Includes: excerpt from minutes related to selling a forest; order to get detective dogs to search for murders; inquiry about the vital records for 1920; excerpt from the minutes of Mažeikiai Education and Culture Commission meeting; circulars and announcements related to animal plague; regulations for traveling in and out of Mažeikiai; invitation to a meeting organized by Lithuanian Defense Committee.
16	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קייזאָמאָ) , 1921-1924</a>	30	569	104	Correspondence with municipal and government institutions. Subjects include: regulations related to slaughterhouses and kosher meat; order to send a list of school age residents (both genders); inquiry from Central Statistical Bureau; inquiry to establish a Jewish cemetery; conscription; elections; marking legally imported chocolate; taxes; copy of an announcement about regaining the property taken away from Lithuania during 1914-1917, related to the peace treaty with Russia; announcement to stop Latvian anti-Lithuanian propaganda; road maintenance; orders for alcohol sellers; regulations for Latvian citizens living in Lithuania.
17	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קייזאָמאָ) , 1922-1923</a>	30	570	40	Correspondence with municipal and government institutions. Includes: order to return clothing to the army; taxes; different orders related to cleanliness, trade, keeping dogs; invitation to participate in commemorating Lithuanian Independence Day; meeting for household owners; children's vaccination; correspondence related to buying lumber to build a synagogue; calculations of how much lumber would be needed to build a synagogue; regulations on food products.

Line No.	File name and link	Box	Folder	No. of pages	Scope and Contents
18	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קײמאזשײק) , 1925-1926</a>	30	571	46	Correspondence and announcements, including announcements about: butchers; sidewalk repair and street-cleaning; conscription; taxes; announcement for land owners; vital records; order to set up electric lights.
19	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קײמאזשײק) , undated</a>	30	572	10	List of persons entitled to vote. Fragmentary, includes: name, age, profession, education, and date of return from Russia.
20	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קײמאזשײק) , 1920</a>	30	573	12	List of voters, including name and age.
21	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קײמאזשײק) , 1920-1921</a>	30	574	14	Election materials, including minutes with the names of candidates and number of votes, protest against election.
22	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קײמאזשײק) , 1923</a>	30	575	16	Election materials, including circulars of the Vaad Hakahal election committee, minutes of the Consultation of the Mazheik District, 8 May 1923.
23	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קײמאזשײק) , 1923</a>	30	576	17	Candidate lists for the community elections.
24	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קײמאזשײק) , 1924</a>	30	577	58	Various vital records and copies of official certificates.
25	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קײמאזשײק) , 1925</a>	30	578	5	List of taxes to be extracted by the militia (includes names and the sum owed); receipt for damage of sidewalk near the synagogue; inquiry regarding butchers; protest about social allowance.
26	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קײמאזשײק) , 1921</a>	30	579	16	Correspondence, including materials about the fight against a band of robbers, their arrest, and correspondence with Pikeln on the topic; budget of the community.
27	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קײמאזשײק) , undated</a>	30	580	36	Financial records.
28	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קײמאזשײק) , 1920-1921</a>	30	581	46	Accounts, lists of donors, and other financial records, including: accounts for books; teaching tools for the public schools, library, and other community institutions.
29	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קײמאזשײק) , 1920-1921</a>	30	582	94	Various financial materials, includes receipts related to the functioning of the Jewish public school, financial lists of community members (undated and unspecified), receipts for stationery, residency certificate, telegraphs, inquiry to receive travel permit, minutes about teachers' salaries and preparation for winter.
30	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קײמאזשײק) , 1920-1923</a>	30	583	88	Correspondence, lists, and other materials, including: an appeal by the Vaad Hakahal to the Jewish population of the town regarding taxes; correspondence about taxes, keeping the books of vital records; requests to issue documents related to list of people to whom shoes and clothing were distributed (includes name, age, place of origin); list of Jewish population; list of delegates to the regional meeting on 30 August 1923; appeal by a cantor regarding his salary.
31	<a href="#">Mažeikiai (Mazheik/קײמאזשײק) , 1922-1923</a>	30	584	29	Correspondence and other materials, including: budgets; rules for a society for the protection of animals; list of taxpayers by category, January 1923; lists of donors to refugee relief; candidate lists.
	Total no. of pages (incl. cover page of each file):			<b>1,319</b>	

**Table 2: Additional Materials concerning Mazheik - Scope and Contents of Folders**

Line No.	File name and link	Box	Folder	No. of pages	Scope and Contents
1	<a href="#">Correspondence, by town: Mažeikiai (Mazheik/מאזייקאיי), 1930-1931</a>	79	1528	10	Correspondence, by town: Mažeikiai (Mazheik/מאזייקאיי), 1930-1931
2	<a href="#">Mazheik (Mažeikiai), Maliat (Molėtai), Mariampol (Mariampolė), Nemokst (Nemakščiai), 1915, 1925, 1930, 1932, 1936, undated</a> Included in Series 4, Subseries IV: Photographs 1884, 1900-1939		1667	23	The first two photographs refer to Mazheik Jewish community: 76754 Children and a teacher in a circle, doing calisthenics under evergreens in a playground at the Mazheik OZE summer camp, 1930. 76755 Children and teachers, led by a brass band, marching in a parade down the street through the OZE summer camp, in celebration of "Cleanliness Week." Mazheik, 1932.
3	<a href="#">Miscellaneous materials, 1920-1934</a>	68	1371	36	Includes: list of minutes sent to Mažeikiai mayor due to the liquidation of the Vaad Hakahal; description of a house of a well-to-do family in Pren; clipping from a Riga newspaper Narodnaya Misl about the campaign against autonomy, 17 March 1925; blank elementary school diploma in Hebrew and Latvian; protestations against taxes set too high.

Compiled by Ilan Ganot

Co-webmaster, [Mazheik Memorial Website](#) (MMWS)

Hosted by the [JewishGen KehilaLinks](#) website

Email: [ilang12350@gmail.com](mailto:ilang12350@gmail.com)

February 2023