

## **Heimatbuch Leipzig/Bessarabien**

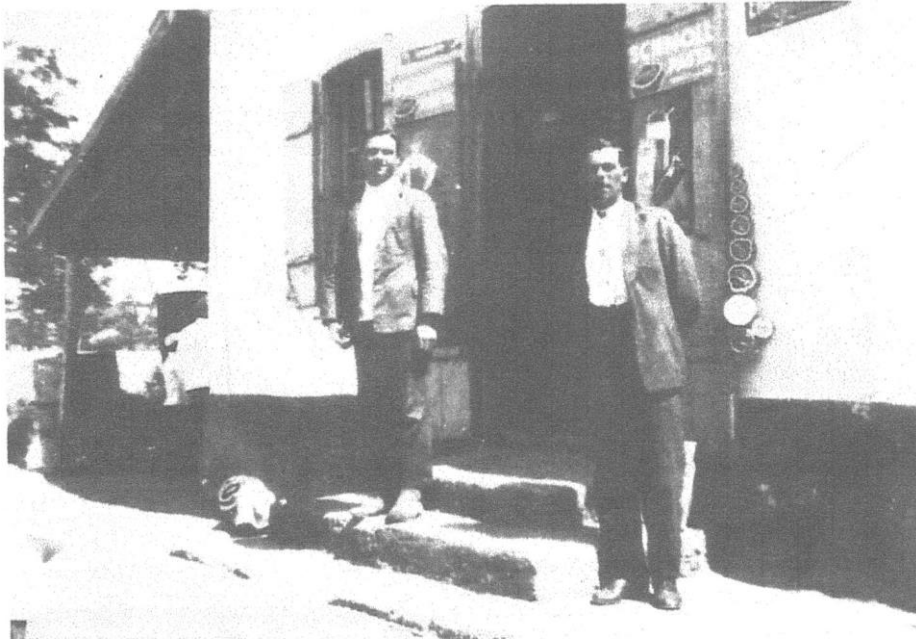
by Alfred Lächelt of Aalen, Germany.

Published by F. Steinmeier of Nördlingen, Germany, 1982

### **Home Memoirs, Leipzig, Bessarabia**

#### **Trade and commerce in Leipzig**

Until 1918 all the trade was in the hands of the Jews: Chaim, Duvid, Leib and Herschel. After 1918 the Germans also tried to devote themselves to trade. First, the community (*German*) of Leipzig began with the founding of a small store with a mixed commodity (as a co-operative). Then the store was enlarged. Sellers for work were accepted: Tobler (store manager) and Jacob Pal - with one hand, then Winkler (store manager) and Baiš, both not from Leipzig. However, after a few years, the situation fell into decay. It was then taken over by a private company and equipped (filled) with a new store, again with textiles and everything that was needed in the countryside. The owners were: Friedrich Lhehelt, Heinrich Pahl, Heinrich Martin and Johan Martin. The director was Friedrich Hacker from Lichtental; Prodovtsami were Heinrich Sprenger and Emanuel Spreher.



Community-cooperative store in Leipzig. Before the door on the right, director Friedrich Hacker and an employee Heinrich Sprenger. The building was destroyed during the September 2, 1927 flood.

It was not easy for the Germans to do business or trade, because the competition was very strong. It could be said, it was a competitive struggle. First from the Jews, and later the Germans competed with each other.

Textiles were bought from merchants in Galati, as well as small goods: sewing thread, ribbons, buttons, etc. For the most part, we ourselves went to Galati and bought at our discretion. Then the goods were sent to our station in Leipzig (Bassarabeasca). Groceries, except kerosene and sugar - were brought from Chisinau. Often a mediator came, but we ourselves went there. From Chisinau, the goods were delivered by truck, which was cheaper.

Sugar and kerosene were bought in Romanovka (Bessarabesca). There was a sugar warehouse, and a cistern for kerosene at our station. Nobody could compete with these two products, neither a Jew, nor a German. I must also note that the Jews in Galati, as well as in Chisinau, kept the trade in their hands and we, the Germans, were always charged with prices one percent higher. This also contributed to the fact that we, the Germans, were not very successful.

### **Nathanael Spreher**

According to the countrymen in Leipzig in 1940, before the Soviets arrived the following commercial enterprises (businesses) existed:

Owner

No.	Owner's Surname	Name	Part of the village	Street
1.	Buchwitz	Friedrich	Upper	Main
2.	Kishlanski	Aron (Jew)	Upper	Rear
3.	Klaus	Otto	Upper	Main
4.	Krajs	Jakob (Jew)	Lower	Main
5.	Lehelt Müller	Friedrich and Heinrich	Lower	Main
6.	Raishevich	Srul (Jew)	Upper	Suburb
7.	Seifert	Chaim (Jew)	Lower	Main
8.	Sprenger	Heinrich	Lower	Main
9.	Turkenich	Aron (Jew)	Lower	Main
10.	Turkenich	Ruvn (Jew)		



Tarutino (*13 miles from Leipzig*) market day of 1926.

### **"Old Shai" and "Schullem"**

Two Jewish merchants from Romanovka were loved and very popular in Leipzig: "old Shai" and "Schullem", who were often seen riding around the village on a cart drawn by one horse. They were interested in small products of peasant production: goose feathers, eggs, pig's bristle after the face, skins (fur) of hammered cows, calves and lambs. Peasant boys sold them the skins of rabbits they raised or caught field hares. Skins of field hares in the winter if hunting was allowed, were the best, so hunters also were their suppliers.

How old was the "old Shai" nobody knew? He looked really respectable with his gray (white) head and long white beard. The old people of the community said that already in their youth they called him "old Shai".

Excerpts from the book were translated by **Leonid Lozovik**, Germany and **Yefim Kogan**, USA