

Summary

JEWISH CHURCH AND SCHOOL COMMUNITY IN NIS FROM THE DOCUMENTS OF THE SAME NAME ARCHIVE HOLDING

Among the numerous archive holdings and collections housed at depots of Historic Archives of Nis, there is a holding known as “Church and School Jewish Community of Nis”, archival sign JOP, which involve valuable archive material for studying the history of Jewish people. Holding includes period from 1892 – 1918, 1927, 1931 and 1938. The archive materials consist of books and writings in Serbian, Bulgarian and Hebrew. It is possible to study the life of the Jewish people in Nis, on base of analytical inventory of information resources in archive science, which gives short content of 744 processed documents.

Jewish community represented safe bases where their rights were protected. Jewish were acting according to their own regulations, under the leadership of rabbis elected on gathering of communes, and according to the laws of state they were living in. Jewish were making an effort to save their own ethnicity and were doing it by obeying their customs and holidays. The Community was important institution of social protection and established its associations that provided public welfare, loans, as well as elementary school where the language of instruction was Hebrew.

Jewish people in Nis were sharing the destiny with citizen of the city during war period from 1912 – 1918. Collection of documents in Bulgarian dates from the period of Bulgarian occupation, gives testimony of that. Many Jewish were serving in Serbian Kingdom army, expressing in that way love toward the country they were living in. Some of them will receive silver and gold medals for courage showed on battlefield, as well as “Karadjordjeva zvezda”, while the bodies of many will remain in large nameless tombs, where they will lay down along with Serbian soldiers, joined in death.