

Archival Examination of Hasidic Mystics in Galicia

The grant will be used for detailed examination of archives throughout the former Galicia: Krakow, Tarnow, Rzeszow, Sanok, Przemysl, and Lvov, with the aim of collecting biographical details about mystics operating in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries: the Rebbe of Titchin; R. Menachem Eckstein (1881-1942), a Dzikov Hasid from the city of Raysa (Rzeszow), and Rabbi David Isaac Isaac Rabinowitz (1898-1979) - the Rebbe of Skali and others.

Hasidic figures in Galicia from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century were exposed to knowledge of modern psychological practices (pre-hypnosis and hypnosis). Psychological literature, which was translated from German into Hebrew, mainly in the city of Vienna, reached the northeastern region of the Austro-Hungarian Empire (Galicia). Surprisingly, a number of Hasidic figures who dealt, among other things, with the psychology of Kabbalah, adopted these practices and integrated them into their spiritual and mystical world. Rabbi Yekutiel Aryeh Kamelhor (1871-1937) from Rzeszow quotes hypnotic literature and explains the phenomenon of the ascension of the soul (*Aliyat Neshama*) of the Baal Shem Tov by Hypnotic methods. Aaron Marcus attests that the Belz Rebbe used hypnotic practice and more. Galicia was a fruitful meeting place between modern psychology that developed in Western and Central Europe and Hasidic psychology.