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Maps of Jewish Settlement in Ukraine in 1648

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Maps of Jewish settlement in Ukraine in 1648

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The first of the accompanying maps, which locates Jewish communities in Red Rus', Volyn, Podillia, Bratslav, Kiev and nearby regions in 1648 on the basis of reports in Jewish sources, illuminates the geographic scope of Jewish settlement at that time in Ukraine. Transliterations are based on Ukrainian usage and the excellent *Map and Gazetteer of Ukraine*, compiled by Volodymyr Kubojovyc and Arkadii Zhukovsky.[1] Jewish chronicles are the main source of information about the Jewish communities that existed at the time. The richest source of references to communities is Shmuel Feibush's chronicle, *Tit HaYaven* (Venice 1655?). Most of the communities he mentioned are identifiable (about 85%) and the majority (about two thirds) of the unidentifiable communities were apparently quite small. Studies by Ettinger[2] and Lukin[3] provide references to additional communities that are not mentioned in *Tit HaYaven.* In the map, a distinctive typeface is used to distinguish communities referred to in these studies but not mentioned in *Tit HaYaven.* Two additional Jewish chronicles, *Yeven Metsula* (Abyss of Despair) of Natan Hanover[4] and *Zok HaItim* of Meir b. Shmuel[5] are often cited in studies of the period and they generally refer to the same communities. On the map, underlining of the names of communities mentioned in *Tit HaYaven* or of those referred to by Ettinger or Lukin, is used to indicate communities that are also mentioned either in *Yeven Metsula* or *Zok HaItim.* The separate map of the Jewish communities of Red Rus' is based on a map Maurycy Horn appended to his book *Żydzi na Rusi Czerwonej w XVI i pierwszej połowie XVII w.*[6] The Polish place names are printed without the diacriticals.

The maps were very ably (and patiently) drawn by Tamar Soffer of the Hebrew University Cartographic Laboratory. The author would be grateful if readers would sent corrections and comments to stampfer@huji.ac.il.

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Notes

1. It was published as *Map and Gazetteer Volume* of *Encyclopedia of Ukraine* (Toronto, 1985).
2. Shmuel Ettinger, "Jewish Participation in the Colonization of Ukraine (1569–1648)," *Zion* 21 (1956), 107-142 (Hebrew).
3. Benjamin Lukin, "The Bush that was not Consumed," (Russian) introduction to B. Lukin, ed., *100 Evreiskikh Mestechek Ukraini/Istoricheskii Putevoditel*, 2nd ed. (St. Petersburg, 2000).
4. Venice, 1653. It is available in an English translation entitled *Abyss of Despair* by Abraham Mesch (New York, 1950; reprint New Brunswick, 1983).
5. Krakow, 1650.
6. Warszawa, 1975. In Horn's book, the map is appendix 2 and it is inserted opposite p. 64.

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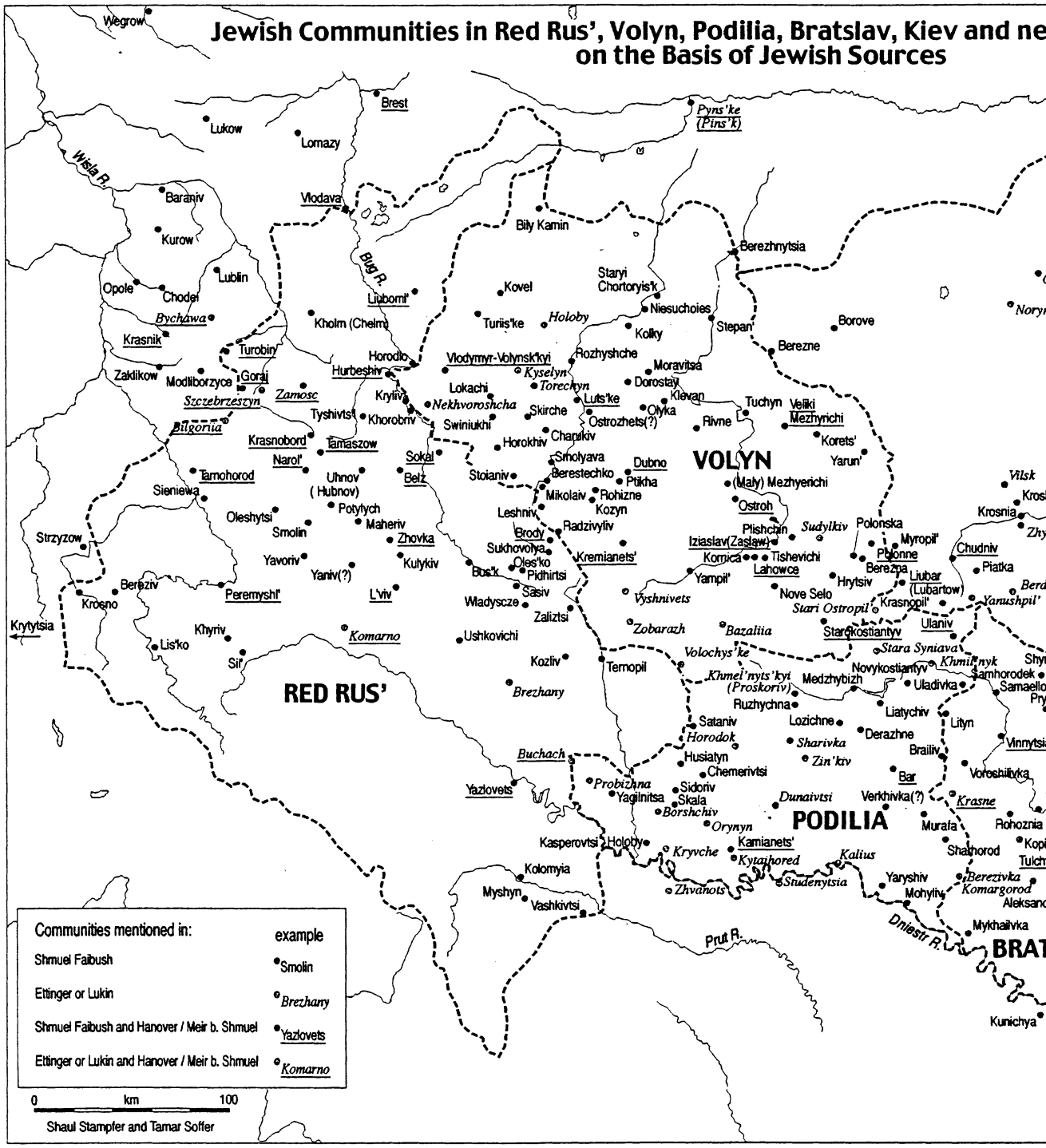

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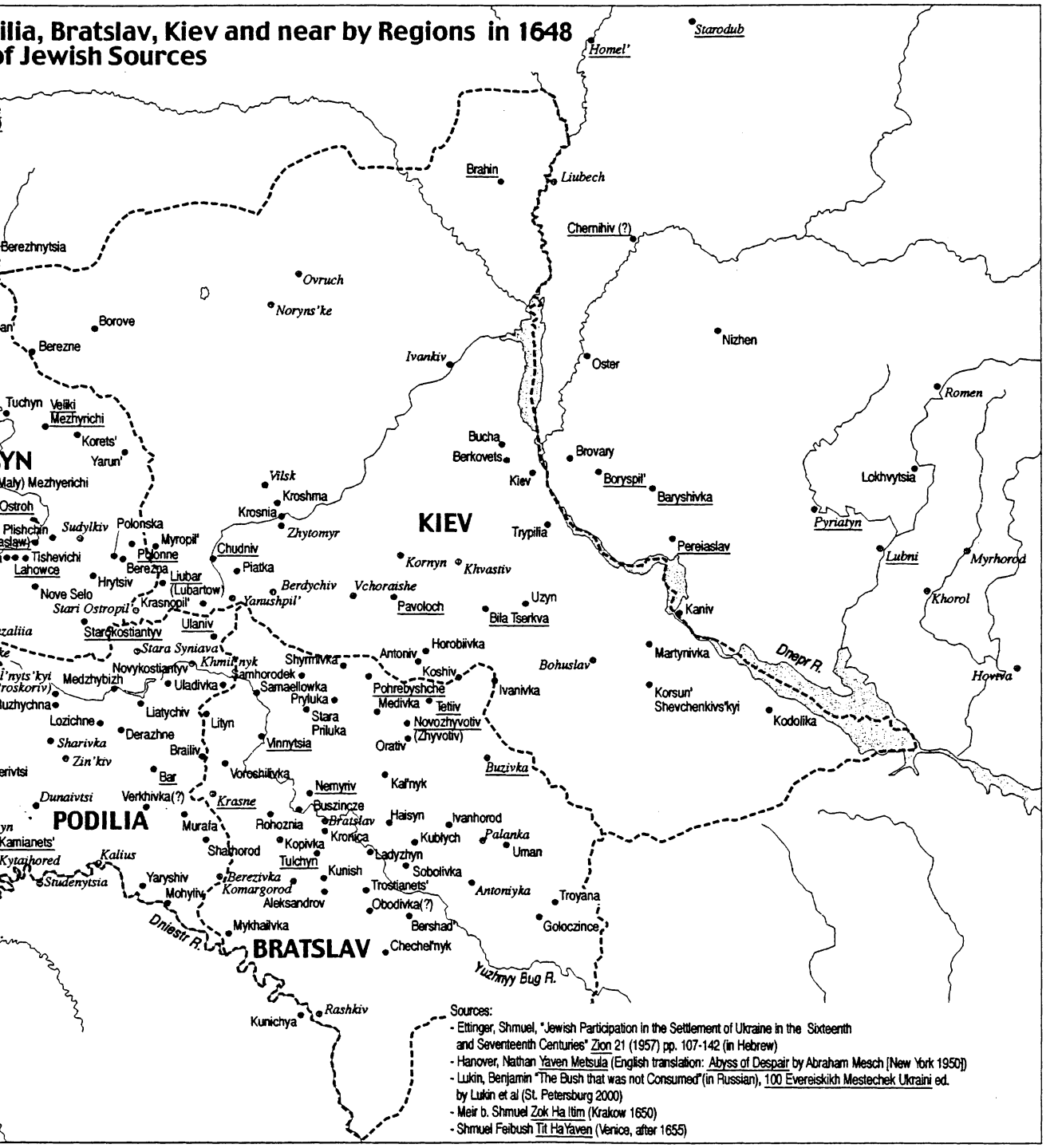

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