

of which had become very scarce. The expense of this edition (Frankfort-on-the-Oder), amounting to \$50,000, was defrayed entirely by Bermann; and most of the 5,000 copies printed were presented to scholars.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** Auerbach, *Gesch. der Jüdischen Gemeinde Halberstadt*, pp. 43 *et seq.*; *Ha-Maggid*, ii. 75; Fuenn, *Keneset Yisrael*, p. 184.

I. Br.

**BERMANN, MORIZ** (pseudonyms, **Berthold Mormann, Moritz B. Zimmermann, Louis Mühlfeld, and Julius Marlott**): Austrian author; born at Vienna March 16, 1823; died there June 12, 1895. Bermann, who came of a family of publishers, was educated for a musical career; but after the death of his father he devoted himself for a time to collecting autographs. He soon became known as the owner of one of the finest biographical libraries in Europe. Shortly after the Hungarian Revolution he began (1851) what was intended to be a twenty-volume work, "Oesterreichisches Biographisches Lexikon," etc.; but, owing to the condition of unrest in Austria, it proceeded no farther than the letter A.

On Jan. 1, 1856, Bermann became editor of the "Wiener Courier" and developed into a remarkably prolific writer of sketches, historical novels, plays, and even dance-music; writing under the pseudonyms mentioned above. Among his works are: "Dunkle Geschichten," 1868; "Maria Theresa und der Schwarze Papst," 1870; "Das Schwarze Kabinett"; "Schöne Sünderin"; "Die Kaisertöchter als Bräute," 1890; and the historical comedies "Ein Stündchen auf der Karlsschule" and "Die Entführung aus dem Auge Gottes."

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** *Das Geistige Wien*, pp. 32, 33; Wurzbach, *Biogr. Lexikon des Kaiserthums Oesterreich*, i. 322-323.

E. Ms.

**BERN**: Capital of the Swiss Confederation. Jews resided within its territory as early as the sixth century, but the first documentary evidence of Jewish inhabitants in Bern is for the year 1259. Though under the protection of the city, with the emperor as their real liege lord, they were usually in an unprotected state. In the separate Jews' street in which they lived, near the present Casino, was also their cemetery, which, after their expulsion in 1294, became private property; and in the "Inselgasse"—as the Jews' street was called after the convent built by the "Inselchwestern"—there was found in 1888, when the "Inselspital" was torn down, the tombstone of a Jew, dated 1293 (Studer, in "Archiv des Historischen Vereins des Kantons Bern," iv. 1, 38; iv. 2, 15; viii. 56, 212).

The Jews of Bern devoted themselves exclusively to banking and pawnbroking. As in Basel and Zurich, the rate of interest fixed by the government was 43%, two pennies per week in the pound; later it was reduced to 30%.  
**Jews Bankers and Pawn-brokers.** All classes—the clergy and the nobles, the burghers and the peasants, as well as the convents and the towns—regarded the Jews as their brokers; and in order to protect the Christians, the city council decreed, at Easter in 1283, that the term set for repayment should be limited to one year. Through

their money transactions the Jews earned the hatred of the populace, and as the citizens of Bern were deeply in debt to the Jews and, through various circumstances, were reduced to financial straits, they cast about, shortly after the death of Emperor Rudolf, for means of acquittal.

A pretext for action against the Jews was soon found. In 1294 they were accused of having kidnapped and killed a boy named Rudolf (Ruff). This accusation, which was also made at about the same time against the Jews of Colmar and Mayence, sufficed to start a persecution. The Jew Joel (Föli), who was regarded as the real offender, and all other Jews of Bern, women as well as men, were seized and maltreated, and either tortured or driven from the town. This event has been wrongly assigned to the year 1287, during the reign of Emperor Rudolf (Stettler, "Schweizer Chronik," i. 20; Justinger, "Berner Chronik," pp. 38 *et seq.*; Ulrich, "Schweizer Geschichten," pp. 144 *et seq.*; "Emek ha-Baka," p. 56; Zunz, "S. P." p. 33, etc.; compare "Annales Colmariens," 28, for the year 1294; "Judæi Bernenses Puerum ut Dixerunt Occiderunt"; Tillier, "Gesch. des Freistaates Bern," i. 72; on the murder of the boy Rudolf, see Stammli, in "Katholische Schweizerblätter," 1888).

King Adolf, perhaps appealed to by the Jews themselves, appointed a commission to investigate the matter, composed of the bishop Peter of Basel, the knight Gottfried von Merenberg, governor of the realm in Burgundy; Cuno von Bergheim, and Hartmann von Ratzhausen. This commission decided, June 30, 1294, that the Jews, male and female, should forfeit all their claims against the mayor, the council, the community, and every one living in Bern up to the time of the decree; that they should give up all their securities and pledges; and that, in addition, they should pay to the community one thousand marks in silver, and to the mayor of Bern five hundred marks in silver—according to the standard of weight in Bern. King Adolf confirmed this enactment Aug. 1, 1294, in Frankfort-on-the-Main. The Jews assigned to the mayor in payment of his share their claims against the Knights of St. John, the monastery of Interlaken, Ulrich von Thor, and others. A characteristic expression is found in the receipt of the mayor, Jakob von Kienberg: "Pro occasione pueri, videlicet b. Rudolphi quem dicti Judei, ut dicitur, occiderunt." The same cautious phraseology, "ut dicitur," was employed by King Albrecht six years later, when he confirmed the decree, April 29, 1300 ("Solothurner Wochenblatt," 1828, pp. 192 *et seq.*). The Bernese immediately attached the property of the Jews. A woman, Berchta von Habstetten, was forced to give up a chest filled with gold, silver, ornaments, veils, etc., that had been confided to her by the Jew Vivilin and his partner (document of Aug. 14, 1294, "Monatsschrift," xiii. 49 *et seq.*; Stobbe, "Die Juden in Deutschland," p. 283, which reads "1494" instead of "1294," and "Bertha" instead of "Berchta"). Expelled from Bern, the Jews returned before the middle of the fourteenth century; and when the

**The Jews  
Tortured  
or  
Expelled.**

**Their  
Claims  
Forfeited.**

Black Death swept the country in 1349, the people of Bern and of Zofingen gained the questionable reputation of fanning everywhere the hatred against the Jews, burning or banishing them and destroying evidences of indebtedness to them, as at the former persecution.

Twenty-five years later there were again Jews at Bern. In 1379 Master Isaac von Tanne, who lived there, loaned to the city of Freiburg 1,470 gold gulden. This "modest man," probably from Thann in Alsace, was, like Master Mathys Eberlin and his wife, Esther Merlinon, a money-lender.

At the end of the fourteenth century the Bernese showed a positively friendly feeling for the Jews, not only permitting them, for financial reasons, to settle in Bern, but naturalizing them for periods of six years, in consideration of a yearly tax of sixty schiltfranken in gold. They were not restricted in their worship; on their festival days they were not to be called into court; matters of dispute among themselves could either be decided according to Jewish law or be brought before the Bernese courts; butchers were enjoined to sell the meat killed according to Jewish ordinance, at the same price as other meat. About this time Christians also engaged in the money-lending business in rivalry with the Jews.

As soon as the Bernese were easier financially, the old hatred against the Jews revived, stimulated by Justinger, author of a Bernese chronicle, who was also a notary public, and as such carried on money transactions. His proposition to expel the Jews found no lack of support, for

**Banished.** "The Council and the Two Hundred of the City" decided unanimously, May 10, 1427, to drive the Jews forever from the city and the country. This decision was carried into effect, and matters continued thus for several hundred years. Not until about 1820 did Jews again settle at Bern, and coming, as they did, mainly from Alsace as French citizens, they were given absolute religious freedom. In 1865 Bern had twenty-seven Jewish families, which, having had a synagogue since 1855, formed themselves into an association for worship ("Cultusverein"). In 1875 the community numbered 286 persons; in 1897, 348. It had a religious teacher, a burial society (hebrah kaddishah), and a fund for sick women. The canton of Bern had in 1874 1,000 Jews; in 1897, 1,195. The University of Bern was the first to appoint Jews as professors. The well-known physiologist, G. Valentini, who was the first Jew to be naturalized, obtained a position there as early as 1835. Later on the university numbered among its professors Lazarus, Munk, the two Schiffs, Ludwig Stein, and others. In the federal offices J. Dreifuss of Endingen occupied, in 1901, a most respected position.

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G.

M. K.

**BERN, MAXIMILIAN:** German author; born at Kherson, South Russia, Nov. 18, 1849, where his father practised medicine. On the latter's death Bern and his mother went to Vienna that he might complete his education. The loss of his fortune forced him to abandon his studies at the university, and in 1873 he became private tutor to the apprentices at an equestrian school.

Bern soon tired of this occupation and turned to literature for a livelihood. His first novel, "Auf Schwankem Grunde," met with considerable success, though in this, as in fact in most of his writings, Bern is inclined to the gloomy despair of the majority of Slavonic writers. The success of his first novel enabled him to visit Berlin, Hamburg, Leipsic, Dresden, Frankfurt, and Munich, at all of which places he studied assiduously. In 1886 he went to Paris, and a year later married a young Austrian actress, Olga Wohlbrück. In 1888 he settled in Berlin. Bern is the author of: "Gestrüpp," 1876; "Deutsche Lyrik seit Göthe's Tode," 1877; "Meine Geschiedene Frau," 1878; "Sich Selbst im Wege," a sketch of stage-life, 1877; "Ein Stummer Musikant," 1879; "Liliput," 1879; "Anthologie für die Kinderstube," 1879; "Illustrierter Hausschatz für die Jugend," 1880; "Aus der Gesellschaft," an almanac, 1881-82; "Am Eigenen Herd," 1886; "Deklamatorium," anthology, 1887; "Lustige Stunden," 1887; "Himmelan!" 1889; "Christliches Gedenkbuch," 1893; "Evangelisches Deklamatorium," 1895.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** *Das Geistige Berlin*, pp. 21, 22; Kürschner, *Deutscher Literatur-Kalender*, p. 89.

E. Ms.

**BERN, OLGA (née Wohlbrück):** Austrian author; wife of Maximilian Bern; born at Vienna July 5, 1865. She went on the stage under her own name, Wohlbrück, and while at the Odeon, Paris, in 1887, married the German author Bern. She abandoned the stage for literature in 1888. She is the author of "Aus Drei Ländern," 1890, short stories; "Unausslöschlich und Andere Novellen," 1892; "Carrière," 1892; "Glück," short stories, 1893; "Das Recht auf Glück," a drama, 1893; and "Vater Chaim und Pater Benediktus," a novel.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** *Das Geistige Berlin*, pp. 22, 23.

S.

E. Ms.

**BERNAL, ABRAHAM NUÑEZ:** Spanish martyr; burned at the stake by the Inquisition of Cordova May 3, 1655. His martyrdom is celebrated in a work published by Jacob Bernal (Amsterdam, 1655), entitled "Elogios que Zelozos Dedicaron á la Felice Memoria de Abraham Nuñez Bernal que fue Quemado Vivo, Santificando el Nombre de su Criador," etc., and dedicated to Señor Elian Nuñez Bernal. The work contains, among other items, a sermon in Bernal's honor preached by Isaac Aboab, and poems by Daniel á Ribera, Eliakim Castriel, Joseph Frances of Hamburg, Jonah Abravanel, Samuel de Castro, and Jacob de Pina.

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G.

**BERNAL, ISAAC (MARCUS) DE ALMEYDA:** Spanish martyr; born in Montilla 1633; burned at the stake in St. Iago de Compostella