



A group from the Trade Union of Needle-workers at a secret conference in the Ruzel Forest. Vilna, 1906. YIVO Archives.

# THE JEWISH LABOR AND POLITICAL ARCHIVES





#### FEATURED ARTIFACT

### A Book of Linocuts from the Vladek Home

A house in the mountains. A *shabes* table. A ship. A shtetl. A forest. The Wandering Jew.

These are some of the subjects of a book of linocuts made in 1949 by children living in the Vladek Home in Brunoy, France. The book was given as a gift to Menukha and Gershon Zaltzman, Bundists and Jewish educators who organized and managed the Vladek Home orphanage as part of their work for the Jewish Labor Committee.

Founded just after the war and named in honor of labor leader and organizer of the Jewish Labor Committee, Baruch Charney Vladek, the Vladek Home supported Jewish children ages six to twelve. In addition to the psychological and physical rehabilitation of these children, the Vladek Home tried to restore a sense of normalcy to their daily lives. The children adhered to a schedule that included ample time for lessons, reading, play, and art activities. To create a sense of home and of family, special events were held for each holiday, and a celebration took place in honor of the birthdays of each child. A weekly talent show, held every *shabes*, allowed the children the opportunity to showcase their hidden abilities. Through the encouragement of the Zaltzmans, who tried to foster an environment where every child felt they had a place within the Vladek Home community, even the most timid children were able to express their creativity.







## Two Revolutionary Jews: Leon Trotsky and Chaim Zhitlowsky

YIVO launched a new, ongoing lecture series inspired by its landmark digitization of the Jewish Labor and Political Archives. The first program in the series, *Two Revolutionary Jews: Leon Trotsky and Chaim Zhitlowsky*, featured a talk by historian Tony Michels. Michels examined how these two influential thinkers offered sharply contrasting political visions at the turn of the 20th century—Zhitlowsky advocating a fusion of socialism and Yiddish nationalism, and Trotsky championing a rigid internationalism that rejected Jewish national identity. Many Jews, however, embraced both as leaders whose ideas offered paths toward Jewish national liberation and working-class revolution, a Jewish homeland, as well as a flourishing life in the diaspora.

## JLPA BY THE NUMBERS: TO DATE



Approximately  
**3.5 million**  
pages in the collection

**74%** conserved  
**43%** processed  
**20%** digitized and  
available online

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Consisting of nearly 200 collections encompassing 3.5 million pages of archival documents, the Jewish Labor and Political Archives (JLPA) forms the world's most comprehensive body of material pertaining to Jewish social and political activism in Europe and the United States. Spanning the years 1870 to 1992, the JLPA tells the story of Jews' involvement in the European political and revolutionary movements of the 20th century and resistance to the Holocaust, as well as their impact on the American labor movement and the fight for fair wages and workers' rights. YIVO is now in the midst of an eight-year project to digitize these unparalleled materials and make them available for free access online.

As of August 4, 2025, the JLPA project has raised over \$6 million toward its \$8.5 million goal. **With the recent termination of Federal funding, please consider supporting the digitization of this important project to ensure we can continue to make this historic archival resource available to a global audience.** Your commitment will be matched by a challenge grant from an anonymous foundation, amplifying your support!

We are profoundly indebted to Irene Pletka for her generous lead support of this extraordinary collection.

For more information and naming opportunities, please contact Melissa S. Cohen at **212.294.6156** or via email at **[mcohen@yivo.org](mailto:mcohen@yivo.org)**.

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As of AUGUST 4, 2025

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please report any corrections to [mcohen@yivo.org](mailto:mcohen@yivo.org).



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