

## **Rank Dominika**

### **The formation of Brody's "ghetto" image in the works of Hermann Menkes and Leo Herzberg-Fränkell.**

(abstract)

*International conference for young scholars: "German - Jewish Culture in Galicia : Influence, Diffusion and Transformation"  
Krakow, June 11-13, 2013*

The focus of this study lies in making an attempt to characterize the development of Brody's ghetto image in the works of German Jewish writers from Brody: Hermann Menkes and Leo Herzberg-Fränkell. While these authors' novels are almost forgotten today, in the second half of the 19th century, they were widely published and quickly became well-known among the German-speaking readers in Germany and the Austrian Empire. Hermann Menkes and Leo Herzberg-Fränkell were representatives of the "Ghettoliteratur" genre, which no longer exists. The purpose of this study is not only to develop Brody's "ghetto" image, according to the genre and expectations of the readers, but also to identify similarities and differences in the description of life in the city and its population as samples "Ghettoliteratur".

In the 19th century, the Jewish population of Brody amounted to 77% of the city's total population. As a result, the city became widely recognized as the second Jerusalem. Given the dominant size of the Jewish population that lived freely throughout the city and its surrounding areas, Brody cannot be called a ghetto, as this term implies a voluntary or involuntary limited area of residence. In this case the "ghetto" term is a purely imaginary constructed concept, based on the general conception of the Galician Jews' life. The authors use only those elements of the town's urban area that are considered consistent with the views of what a ghetto consists of: narrow, dirty streets, a cemetery, poor buildings; also the characters' stories are standardized: Jews predict changes against their conservative coreligionists who clamped life in the narrow confines of concluded laws and customs. In my opinion, this contrast between modernity and conservatism is the continuation of the Haskalah traditions, which were quite popular in Brody in the first half of the 19th century.

The given research is based on Hermann Menkes's *Anna. Aus dem galizischen*

*Getto, Eine Erinnerung and Die Jüdin Leonora novels; and Leo Herzberg-Fränke's compilation of novels Polnische Juden.*