

JUDAICA THEMATIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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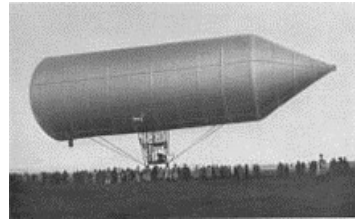
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Inventor of the Airship was Hungarian Jew

David Schwarz not Von Zeppelin!

By Hillton Israelsohn.



Vastly overshadowed by his successor, Ferdinand von Zeppelin, whose name became synonymous with the rigid airship, very little has been written about its true inventor, a Hungarian-Croatian Jew named David Schwarz.



Schwarz, whose parents were both Jewish was a timber merchant from Zagreb who developed an interest in aviation as a hobby from an early age. He was self-taught in mechanics and engineering and developed a vision of a rigid airship built of metal at a time when the only airships were wicker baskets attached with ropes to balloons. He told his wife Melanie that he (with amazing foresight) saw a time when airships would cross the continents carrying passengers and cargoes. His ideas were ridiculed in scientific circles of the time. In fact a leading German Physicist, Hermann von Helmholtz stated publically that it was absolutely impossible for an airship built of metal to fly as it would be too heavy!

Ignoring this, Schwarz pursued his dream by raising funds and by commissioning a German factory owner, Carl Berg to construct the airship according to his plans in a factory near what would become Tempelhof Airfield in Berlin. The German Government and Military began to take an interest in Schwarz' project, sending personnel on several occasions to observe the progress of the airship's construction. Even the German Emperor Wilhelm II visited the hangar at Templehof but never met Schwarz.

It is true that the German General Ferdinand Von Zeppelin had ideas for a directable airship but had never produced plans let alone constructed an airship at that time. His ideas were in fact rejected by the German Government! Von Zeppelin approached Schwarz early in 1896 requesting a co-operation. Schwarz refused.

Schwarz' airship was completed in summer of 1896. It was revolutionary for its time! Constructed using a recently discovered light weight metal Aluminium, and incorporating a unique lattice-work frame which was to become standard for airship construction in the decades to follow. The shape of the airship was likewise incredibly modern and aerodynamic for that age featuring a bullet shaped design, likened to that of an artillery shell. It was powered by a 16 horsepower Daimler engine which drove four 2 metre wide propellers. The airship's total length was 38.32 metres and lifted by 12 separate compartments filled with Hydrogen gas. It was designed to reach a height of 250 metres (it actually rose to 400 m in later test flights!) and fly at a speed of 25km/hour.

The tragedy of the story is that Schwarz' health began to fail rapidly due to a serious heart complaint which began to worsen during the final stages of the airship's construction. The German Kaiser was to attend the inaugural launch on Sept 27th 1896 but had to cancel due to some other pressing engagement. Schwarz almost anticipating his deteriorating health which seemed to be failing by the day, decided not to wait.

Finally on October 8th 1896 the filling of the hydrogen commenced, the engines started and Schwarz airship took to the air! The world's first rigid directionable airship rose into the sky. No longer simply a balloon to be carried by the vagaries of the wind and air currents but a flying machine powered by its own propulsion which could be flown anywhere the pilot directed.

Schwarz left Zagreb for Berlin on Jan 12th 1897 to present his ideas for the commercial and military exploitation of his airship. He sent a telegram to his wife requesting her to arrange for the airship to be filled with hydrogen in anticipation of his return with German military personnel for his demonstration. The next day in Vienna en route to Berlin, sadly he collapsed and died. He was 45 years old.

David Schwarz was posthumously awarded numerous honours by the Universities of Berlin and Vienna as well as from various Societies of Engineering and Technology. He was additionally given an honorary tomb in the Vienna Cemetery but soon thereafter his name seems to disappear from history.

General von Zeppelin was hovering in the background all this time and it is obvious that he seized the opportunity of Schwarz' death to further the development and construction of his own airships. Schwarz' company had contracts with the German government for the supply of airships but these appear not to have been honoured after his death. There is controversy whether or not Von Zeppelin copied the Schwarz airship or purchased patents and plans from his widow Melanie. There are some records that show Von Zeppelin paid Melanie Schwarz the fairly considerable sum for that time of 15,000 Marks but the invention was worth many times more.

There is also controversy as to whether it was pure German pride and nationalism inflamed by the fact that it was not a German invention or whether due to latent anti-Semitism that Von Zeppelin ultimately received the credit for the rigid airship and not Schwarz whose name was gradually written out of aviation's history and that Zeppelin's airships ultimately fulfilled Schwarz' dream of crossing the continents.

Philatelically too, there are only two countries in the world who have honoured and recognised this famous inventor who truly deserves the credit of inventing the airship, whereas countless others have done so for Zeppelin.

In 1948, Hungary issued an air post 6f green value (Scott # C57) featuring portraits of both Schwarz as well as von Zeppelin and their respective airships. Could there be significance in that Schwarz is in the foreground and appears to overshadow Zeppelin?



Then again in 1977 Hungary issued a series of seven stamps commemorating balloons, airships and their inventors. The 60f value (Scott #C386) shows a portrait of Schwarz and his airship.



In 2010 The West African country Togo issued a 3000f miniature sheet featuring "Dirigeables" (airships) and clearly shows Schwarz' rigid airship and the year 1897. (incorrectly the year after it was built).

Unusually, for once, no mention of Zeppelin!



Marshall Goldberg, A Great Jewish American

Football Player: Did He Suffer from CTE?

By Gene Eisen

Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy

On Oct. 9, 2013, the Public Broadcasting System televised a documentary on

FRONTLINE entitled "League of Denial: The NFL's Concussion Crisis."¹ Professional football probably vies with baseball for the honor of being America's most popular professional sport. FRONTLINE described how National Football League (NFL) executives had, in light of pretty convincing evidence, denied that league players were at risk of brain damage incurred by repeated concussions after years of playing foot ball.¹ This is reminiscent of an earlier time when the tobacco companies were denying any evidence that cigarette smoking had a direct link to lung cancer.

Evidence of a possible relationship between repeated concussions on the football field and brain injury first surfaced in 2002 when Dr. Bennet Omalu, a forensic pathologist, examined the postmortem brain of Mike Webster, a former Pittsburgh Steeler player who had died at age 50. Webster's brain revealed major abnormalities that were not characteristic of Alzheimer's disease. Webster had also suffered from mental problems for several years before his death.

Omalu named the disease *Chronic traumatic encephalopathy* (CTE). Then, in 2005, Omalu examined the postmortem brain of a second NFL player, Terry Long, who had committed suicide at age 46. Omalu found that Long's brain had all the characteristic symptoms of CTE. In addition, Long also had suffered from mental difficulties before his death. Omalu sent a report to the NFL with hopes that the owners and league executives would take notice of these events. However, his results were promptly rebuffed by the league as anecdotal and not substantiated in a cause and effect manner.¹

Soon, neuropathologists at major medical schools, including Dr. Ann McKee at Boston University, were studying the likelihood of a causal relationship between repeated concussions and CTE. As of December 2012, the evidence was now overwhelming: 33 NFL players have been diagnosed postmortem with CTE at several medical schools.² In 2013, the NFL agreed to a 765 million dollar settlement with retired players, who had filed a lawsuit claiming that the NFL executives had withheld evidence of the possible damaging effects of repeated concussions.³

Marshall Goldberg and CTE

Perhaps it is not surprising that few Jewish athletes have chosen American football as a sport. How many Jewish mothers would sanction their son being repeatedly clobbered on a football field? Because so few have done so, it's relatively easy to keep track of those Jews who have excelled. Therefore, the FRONTLINE documentary related easily to a first day cover I acquired several years ago from the now-defunct B'nai B'rith Philatelic Service. The cover features a cachet of Marshall Goldberg, a star college and pro footballer, with a brief caption describing his football career (Figure 1). The first day of issue was July 25, 1997 in Canton, Ohio, home of the NFL Hall of Fame. The United States commemorative was issued to celebrate the career of George Halas, a renowned NFL coach (Scott 3148).

While I was researching Goldberg's career, a comment in an obituary by Ira Berkow for the *New York Times* caught my immediate attention: "His wife, Rita Goldberg, said he had died in a nursing home, where he had been suffering in recent years from the effects of brain injuries caused by 14 or 15 concussions he received as a football player."⁴ Following his death at age 88 in 2006, his wife and daughter helped set up the Marshall Goldberg Traumatic Brain Injury Fund at the University of Illinois, Chicago.⁵ The goal is to draw attention to the dangers of head injuries to athletes. In three books on Jewish sports figures that I reviewed, the short biographies on Goldberg made no mention of the concussions and subsequent effects on his health.^{6,7, 8}

Did Marshall Goldberg suffer from CTE? The answer to that will probably never be found. Medical research is advancing to the point where it will soon be possible to diagnose CTE in living persons and eventually to treat the disease. Also, the NFL has instituted rules designed to avoid, or, at least, minimize, repeated concussions.

“Biggie” Goldberg’s Stellar Football Career

Goldberg was born in 1917 in the small town of Elkins, West Virginia where his father, an immigrant from Poland, was a prominent citizen. He acquired the nick name “Biggie” because he was always playing football with older boys. He excelled in football, basketball and track in high school. Goldberg went on to the University of Pittsburgh where he became an All-American running back in 1937 and 1938. In an era when footballers played both offense and defense, Biggie was a star performer in both. He led the University of Pittsburgh to the national collegiate championship in 1938.^{6, 7, 8}

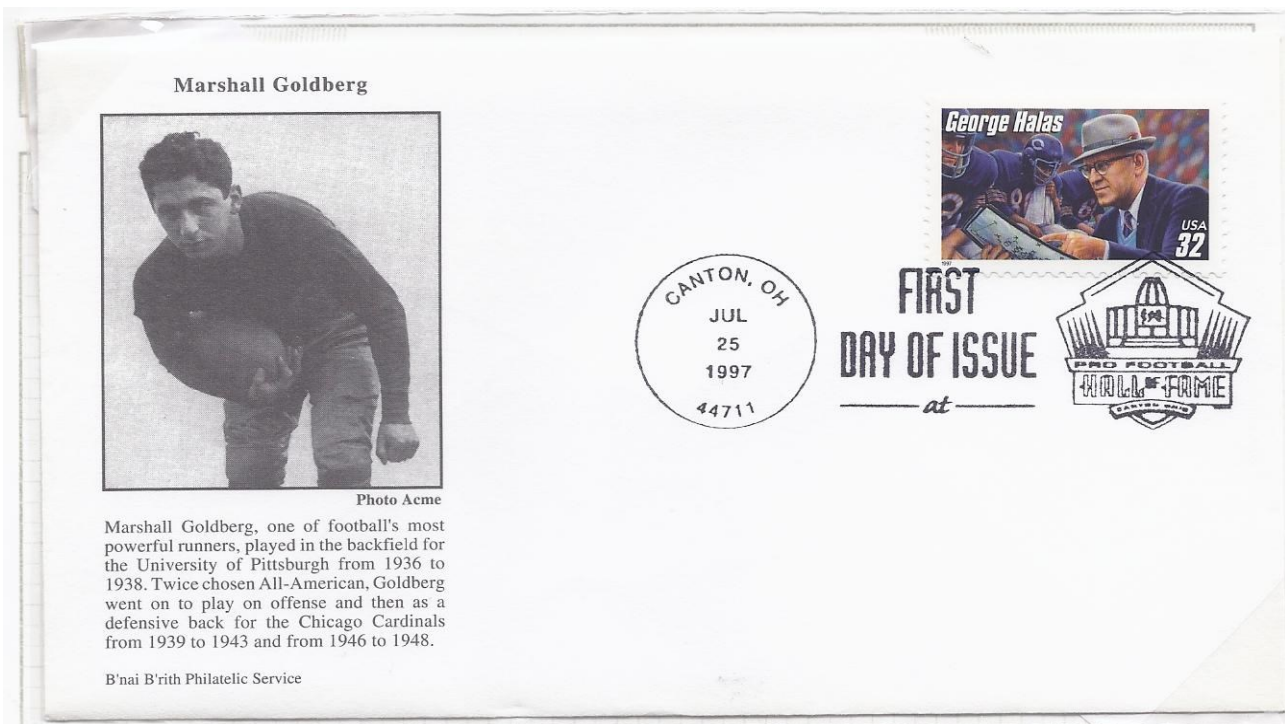
Goldberg played professionally with the Chicago Cardinals from 1939 to 1948, interrupted by two years (1944 to 1945) in the United States Navy in WWII. He was a top ground gainer until he injured a knee late in the 1947 season. Thereafter, he continued to star on defense, helping the Cardinals to a championship in 1947 and a division title in 1948.⁶

Goldberg was elected to the National College Football Hall of Fame in 1958. *Sports Illustrated* named him to the 1930s “College Football Team of the Decade.” He is also a member of the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and the National Jewish Hall of Fame. Goldberg was selected to the “mythical” top ten Jewish football players of all-time.⁹ Goldberg’s philosophy of life can best be summarized in this quote: “To me, playing sports should be a stepping stone to a career. It’s not an end in itself.”⁸

Goldberg worked in the insurance industry after he retired from football. Later he purchased a machine parts company in Rosemont, Illinois. U.S.A.

References

- 1) <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/oral-history/league-of-denial/>
- 2) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chronic_traumatic_encephalopathy
- 3) Castillo, Michelle. October 17, 2013. Unusual brain activity observed in ex-NFL players who had head injuries. CBS News.
- 4) Ira Berkow, April 7, 2006. Marshall Goldberg, 88, who Led 2 Teams to Football Titles, Dies. The New York Times.
- 5) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marshall_Goldberg
- 6) Ribalow, H.U. and M.E. Ribalow, 1985. *The Jew in American Sports*. Hippocrene Books, New York, NY.
- 7) Sieman, J., 1997. *Jewish Sports Legends*, Second edition, Brassey’s, London, UK.
- 8) Slater, R. 2000. *Great Jews in Sports*, Revised edition. Jonathan David Publishers, Inc, Middle Village, NY.
- 9) <http://www.jewocity.com/blog/top-10-jewish-football-player-of-all-time>



B’nai B’rith Philatelic Service First Day Cover with cachet of Marshall Goldberg. Commemorative stamp was issued by the United States to remember one of the great National Football League coaches, George Halas, on July 25, 1997, Scott 3148.

MEMBER'S CORRESPONDENCE FROM ARTICLES IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER:-

From Peter Keeda, Sydney, Australia.

Further to Hilton Israelsohn's article on stamps from the Norfolk Island, I thought some of your readers may be interested in some details of earlier Jewish presence in Norfolk Island.

On the 6 March 1788 Phillip Gidley King Superintendent and commandant arrived on Norfolk Island on the *Supply* to begin the first European settlement. There were 7 free men, 9 male and 6 female convicts with six month's provisions..

Frances Hart married her fellow convict William Robinson on 13 February 1788, in Sydney Cove. She gave evidence at a trial and was sworn in on the Old Testament. In March 1789 they sailed together on the vessel *Supply* to Norfolk Island.

Peter Opley, 'of the Jewish persuasion', was sent to Norfolk Island in January 1789 and within a year managed to take himself off government rations. In 1793 he took out a three year lease for land and returned to England in 1796.

Daniel Daniels was sentenced to seven years transportation in 1784 and in 1789 the Gloucester Journal published a letter from Port Jackson in which it was written that Daniel Daniels settled in Port Jackson and "had leave to teach the children of some of your nation to read and write Hebrew". The last recorded appearance of Daniel Daniels was on Norfolk Island in 1796.

Henry Abrahams was sent to Norfolk Island in 1789 and remained on the island until he returned to England in 1796.

The impending starvation at Sydney led to a great translocation of convicts and marines to Norfolk Island in March 1790 on HMS *Sirius*. This attempt to relieve the pressure on Sydney turned to disaster when *Sirius* was wrecked.

The first marriage contracted between two Jews in Australia took part on 13 February 1788 between Flora Sara (Larah) and John Hart. Four days after the wedding Hart was sent to Norfolk Island and Sara was unable to join him there until November 1789.

On 6 March 1790 Captain George Johnston and Esther Abrahams left Sydney for Norfolk Island together with their son, George, leaving behind in foster care Esther's daughter, Rosanna. They stayed on Norfolk Island for almost a year.

Early in 1790 John Harris was sent to Norfolk Island where he married and had a son and two daughters. On August 23 1793 the commander of the island selected some 'officers, settlers and inhabitants' to be constables and John Harris was among them, becoming a leader of the night watch. They left Norfolk Island in February 1796.

The settlement grew slowly as more convicts were sent from Sydney. Many convicts chose to remain as settlers on the expiry of their sentence, and the population grew to over 1000 by 1792. In February, 1814, the island was abandoned and its inhabitants transported to Van Diemen's Land.

Second Settlement -

In 1825, after eleven years, Norfolk Island was elected by His Majesty's Government to be the site of another colony.

In 1840 nine Jewish prisoners on Norfolk Island were encouraged by the Civil Superintendent of the island, Capt. Maconochie, to write to the Sydney Synagogue and ask for prayer books and food for Pesah. The Sydney congregation sent them a box with prayers books, some works on religious instruction, matzot for Pesach and an almanac with all the Jewish holidays. Among this congregation was James Lawrence, James (Mordechai) Woolfe, a seaman and erstwhile pirate.

The last Jewish convict on Norfolk Island was Isaac Levey who was freed in 1854.



From Claude Wainstain, Bobigny, France.

John Kienhuize was not Jewish. On his gravestone that appears on the Norfolk Island stamp, it is infact a Masonic symbol, and not a Star of David.

From Peter Keeda, Sydney, Australia.

Dear Issie,

Thanks for your article on *The Family of Man*. I grew up with a copy of this marvelous book, 'The Family of Man', and so it has always been close to my heart. 5-6 years ago my wife and I were driving through Luxembourg when we that we came to a small castle in Clervaux, where the original exhibition is permanently housed.

Thanks for pointing out the S/S which will now go with my torn and ragged copy of *The Family of Man* which we still treasure.

From John Embrey, U.K.

The Swiss cover is for 50th Anniversary Samedan Ango Flight. probably re-enactment flight, and possibly backstamped Agno. The building in the postmark is possibly a mineral spa in an old church. Can't see any Judaicia connection unless it relates to the pilots.

From David Blumenthal, U.S.A.

Can't find anything on the unknown cover except that it is in Italian speaking Switzerland with no known Jewish community.

From Sonny Kosky, U.K.

With regard to the article about the Swissair flight cover. The picture on the cover is I think a stylized representation of the Evangelical Reformed Church in Samedan. Therefore I can't think that there is any other Judaicia connection at all attached to this cover.

HUNGARY ISSUE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE STAMP



Hungary issued a commemorative stamp (depicted above) in remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust, on the 28th. April 2014.

Subject to availability, there may be some Mint stamps and First Day covers available —
Contact:- garygoodman@talktalk.net

Slovakia Issued Stamp on Synagogue in Levice

Reported By

Roberto Brzostowski



Slovakia has issued a stamp under “Cultural Heritage of Slovakia” series dedicated to the Synagogue in Levice. This was issued on the 8th. January 2014. The first Jews in Levice are mentioned only in the beginning of the 18th century, however their earlier presence is presumed. The Jewish residence and settlement were restricted by imperial regulation in order to protect the near mining towns from the influence of the Jewish merchants. Only after 1836 the Jewish population started coming to Levice and they created a Jewish community that was in existence there during the following century.

The Jews built their first synagogue in Levice in 1853, respectively in 1854. The number of the members of the congregation was increasing so in 1883 they decided to build a new, bigger synagogue that is still standing. It was built thanks to the then president of the congregation: physician Dr. Jozef Polya. The author of the synagogue project was Gustav Sisak of Kalnanad Hronom, who also built it. In 1902 the synagogue underwent a reconstruction that was designed and carried out by an architect and builder Rudolf Czibulka from Levice. The synagogue served its purpose until 1944. In June 1944 it became a part of the ghetto during the deportations period. In 1967 the congregation sold the synagogue to the state, and then it served as a furniture warehouse. It was declared a Historic Landmark in 1980. Since 1991, the municipality has owned the synagogue. An extensive reconstruction began in 2010. On March 24, 2011 in the lower part of the face wall (at north-eastern corner), the workers discovered a valuable artefact – the founding charter of the synagogue stored in a pharmaceutical bottle. The charter was placed there during the occasion of the foundation stone laying on April 24, 1883.

During the restoration of the mural painting, the names of painters were revealed on the arch – its authors were the painter Karl Tromsdorff of Levice and the assistant painter Ferdinand Reltscha of Nitra – with finishing date of the decorating works (August 30, 1883). The opening ceremony of the synagogue was held on April 26, 2012, it serves as a place for various cultural events, such as concerts or exhibitions.

NEW MEMBER

**144:- ANN ROSENWEIG.
980 LINWOOD PLACE,
NORTH BRUNSWICK,
NEW JERSEY 08902 - 2267,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

E-MAIL:- anndyapt@optimum.net

INTERESTS:- Arthur Szyk material.

Collect various items, including New Year Card cut-outs.

Interested eagerly to trade or swap.

Collect books illustrated on stamps, in various sub-categories e.g. Law, Government etc.,

Also collect Roses and Fruit on stamps.

Husband collects Israel and Palestine.

YET ANOTHER JUDAICA CONNECTION!



The Great Britain “Great British Film” issue was issued in May.

And as mentioned in the March newsletter, there were 5 stamps with Judaica connections.

However, I have now found out, that there is also a Judaica connection on the 6th stamp, that of the £1.28 value depicting a scene from “Secrets and Lies”.

The film Director is Mike Leigh, who is Jewish and was born in Salford, Manchester, England.

This must surely be a first. A set of stamps from Great Britain, where every stamp in the set has a Jewish connection.

FOR SALE

ISRAEL MINT STAMPS WITH TABS

ALSO CYLINDER BLOCKS OF 4

MOST AT VIRTUALLY FACE VALUE.

FROM 1980'S TO 2012 APPROX.

ALSO SOME SHEETLETS AND BOOKLETS
AND FIRST DAY COVERS.

ALSO SOME SOUVENIR LEAVES (NOT F.V.)
AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS

SEND YOUR WANTS LIST

TO GARY.

garygoodman@talktalk.net

FOR SALE

Member Rabbi Zaiden has the postcards depicted below for sale.

The colour postcard is of Temple Israel, Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass, U.S.A. and the price is £5 plus postage.

The black and white postcard is of the Alt Nei Synagogue in Prague, and is pre-second world war. The price of this item is £8 plus postage.

Both postcards are clean and have not been posted.

Anyone interested in these items should initially contact Rabbi Zaiden via e-mail (sazaiden@gmail.com).—

To confirm availability, and to discuss postage and acceptable payment details etc., for overseas members.