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From: izardma@u.washington.edu

Subject: Who discovered the Beregovski archive and when?

<http://www.ibiblio.org/pub/academic/languages/yiddish/mendele/vol6.113>

It appears that I am that very "knowledgeable Mendele reader" who can comment upon those two reports concerning the discovery of Beregovsky's archives.

One month ago I came from Kiev where I met with Dr. Liubov A. Dubrovina, the director of the Kievan Institute of Manuscripts of the Ukrainian National Library named after V.I. Vernadsky, where the legendary archives of the former Cabinet of Jewish Culture (which was headed by Moshe Beregovsky) have been kept recently.

The two reports which were quoted by Leonard Prager refer to different archives. I spoke of archives which became known in 1966 thanks to me, indeed. These are the manuscripts and draft copies of Beregovsky's own collection of Jewish folk songs and music (five huge volumes which he prepared for publication), his own articles in Yiddish and Russian, a few abstracts, a bibliography, and other documents, some rare books from his private library, as well as about 60 wax cylinders with Yiddish songs from his field work, which he kept at home. At that time and later when I wrote about these, let us say, St. Petersburg archives, nothing was known about another set of Ukrainian state archives which included numerous recordings of different folklorists, all of the sound archives from the famous An-sky expedition, Kiselgof's musical manuscripts, Beregovsky's recordings, and so on, and so forth.

When the Kievan Institute released the information about this magnificent collection, Prof. Israel Adler came to examine it (not to "discover") and to start the negotiations concerning its preservation, copying etc. He invited the best specialists from Vienna but, unfortunately, as far as I know from the director, there is no agreement yet, no cooperation between Kiev and Jerusalem, alas.

Liudmila Sholokhova-Goizman, a young musicologist from Kiev, is working selflessly to prepare these materials for publication. During the period 1994-96 she has already published ten articles about these archives and prepared the compact disc which was mentioned in the latest Hebrew information which Leonard Prager quoted. (By the way, while in Kiev, I was invited to be a consultant for this disc, which is really unique and priceless.)

Let us hope that these valuable archives will be preserved successfully and fully appreciated by future generations.