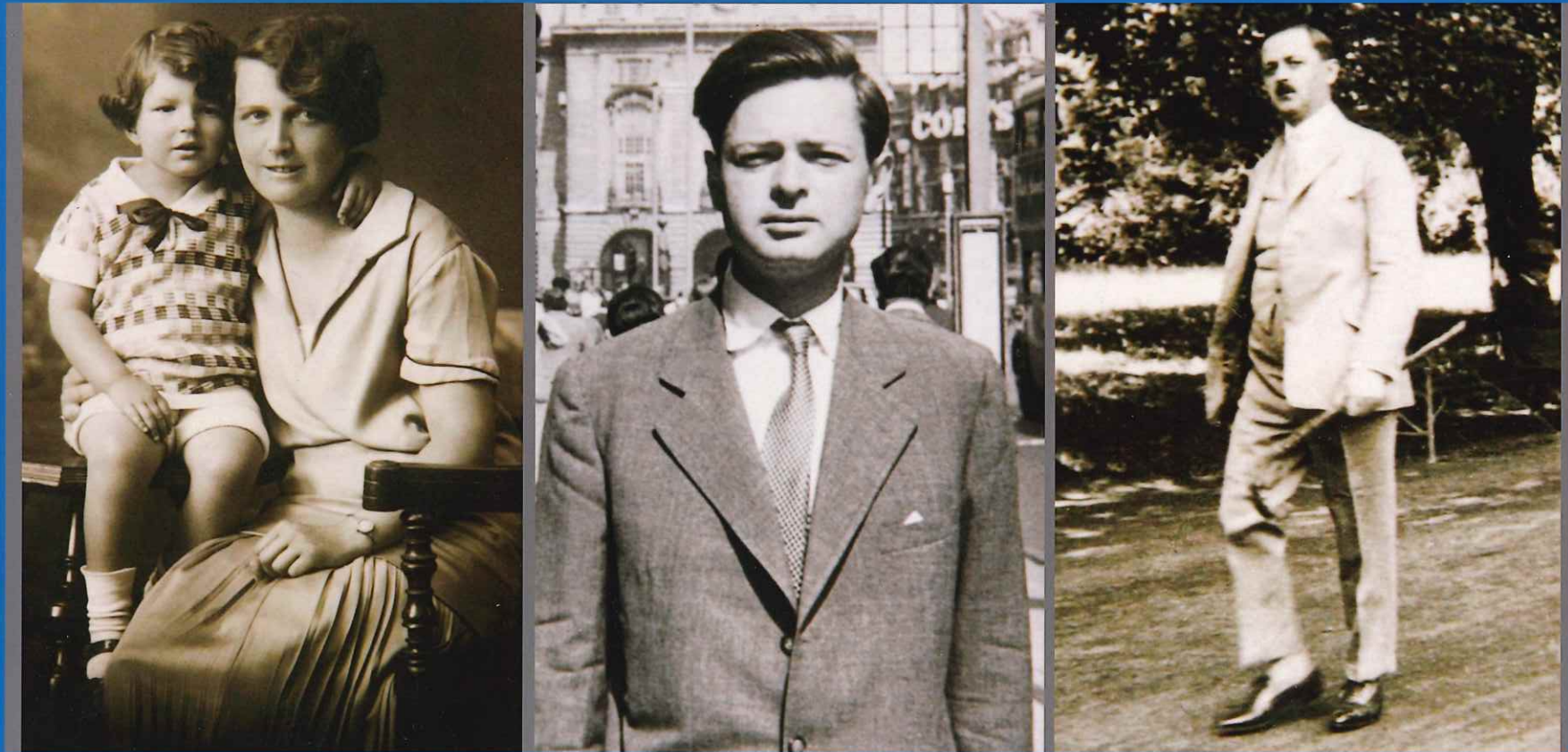


# Edward Gelles

## Photographs

Relating to my family and ancestral background



# Edward Gelles

## Photographs

relating to my family and ancestral background

which is described in my books including :

An Ancient Lineage : European Roots of a Jewish Family

Gelles-Griffel-Wahl-Chajes-Safier-Low-Taube

(Valentine Mitchell, 2006)

The Jewish Journey : A Passage through European History

(Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016)

and in "Papers of Edward Gelles at Balliol College Archives & Manuscripts"

The inter-disciplinary study of my ancestral background combined the history of European Jewry with genealogy, genetics, and onomastics to produce an outline of the inter-marriages of many prominent families and their migrations across the continent. It has enabled me to trace my family back for many hundreds of years. As far as photographic records are concerned, the material presented herewith adds some colour to the family history of the past two centuries, depleted as it has been by the ravages and upheavals of the period.

My great - grandparents, who lived in Galicia when it was a province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, were Rabbi David Isaac Gelles & Sarah Horowitz of Narayow, Rabbi Zvi Aryeh Weinstein of Solotwina & Gittel Horowitz, Eliezer Griffel of Nadworna & Sarah Matel Chajes of Kolomea, and Shulim Wahl & Sarah Safier of Tarnobrzeg. My grandparents were Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles & Esther Weinstein and David Mendel Griffel & Chawa Wahl. My parents were Dr David Gelles & Regina Griffel of Vienna. I was their second son - my elder brother Ludwig perished in the second world war.

Photographs relating to me and some of the above are followed by studies of some siblings of my parents and grandparents and of their descendants.

Charts for my paternal and maternal family connections highlight available photos.



Edward Gelles 1980



1920

## My Father

Dr David Gelles was born in 1883 in Austrian Galicia to an old rabbinic family. He left the Munkacz Yeshiva in Hungary to seek a secular education, eventually becoming Dr Juris of the University of Vienna and a successful advocate in that city. From his student days he was an ardent Zionist and was prominent in some of its organisations in Austria and elsewhere. He married Regina Griffel of another ultra orthodox Galician family in 1921. David and Regina fled to England with their children in 1938 to escape the Nazis. He and his family acquired British nationality in 1948. My father later returned to his advocate's practice in Vienna where he died in 1964.

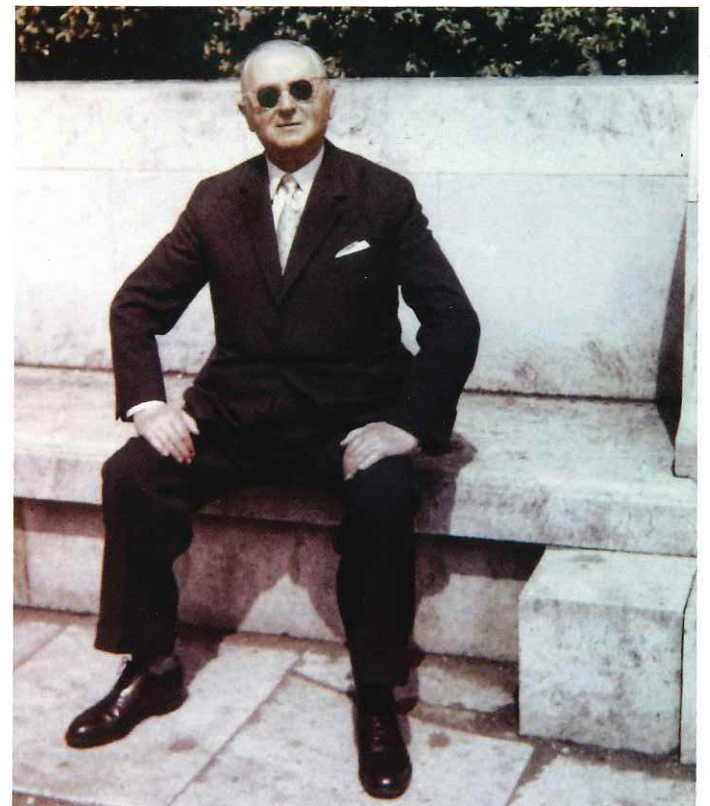
see Edward Gelles,  
"Family Connections: Gelles – Shapiro – Friedman"  
(Shaker Publishing 2009) Chapters 5 & 6



1927



1950s



1960



The photograph with my father dates from the early 1950's. I was at a boarding school at Cheshunt near Potters Bar in 1939-40. My parents and I spent two years together in Oxford where I went to the City of Oxford High School and took my School Certificate. We returned to our Bayswater flat in 1942 when my mother took a job with the BBC World Service Polish Section. I went to Haberdasher's Aske's School, Hampstead for my A levels, prior to winning an open scholarship to Balliol College Oxford in 1944. I came back to London six years later with an M.A. and D.Phil (Oxon). In the following years I was a research fellow and lecturer in physical chemistry at several Universities.

My mother's parents were David Mendel Griffel, son of Eliezer Griffel, the head of the Jewish community of Nadworna, and Chawa Wahl of Tarnobrzeg, who was a descendant of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Katzenellenbogen Chief Rabbis of Padua and Venice. Their scion Saul Wahl (1545-1617) played a semi-legendary role in Polish state affairs and had a distinguished progeny.

My great-grandfather Eliezer Griffel was a wealthy entrepreneur with substantial oil and timber interests stretching far beyond his base in Galicia. The outbreak of the first world war turned Galicia into a battle field and led many Jewish families to seek safety in the imperial capital of Vienna.

## My Mother

My mother Regina Griffel was born at Nadworna in 1900 and died in London in 1954. The photographs of my mother are from the 1920's. The second photo shows her with my brother Ludwig when he was about 3 or 4 years old.



# My Brother

A brief essay on my brother's life " Ludwig Friedrich Gelles (1922-1943) " can be read on the internet.



1924



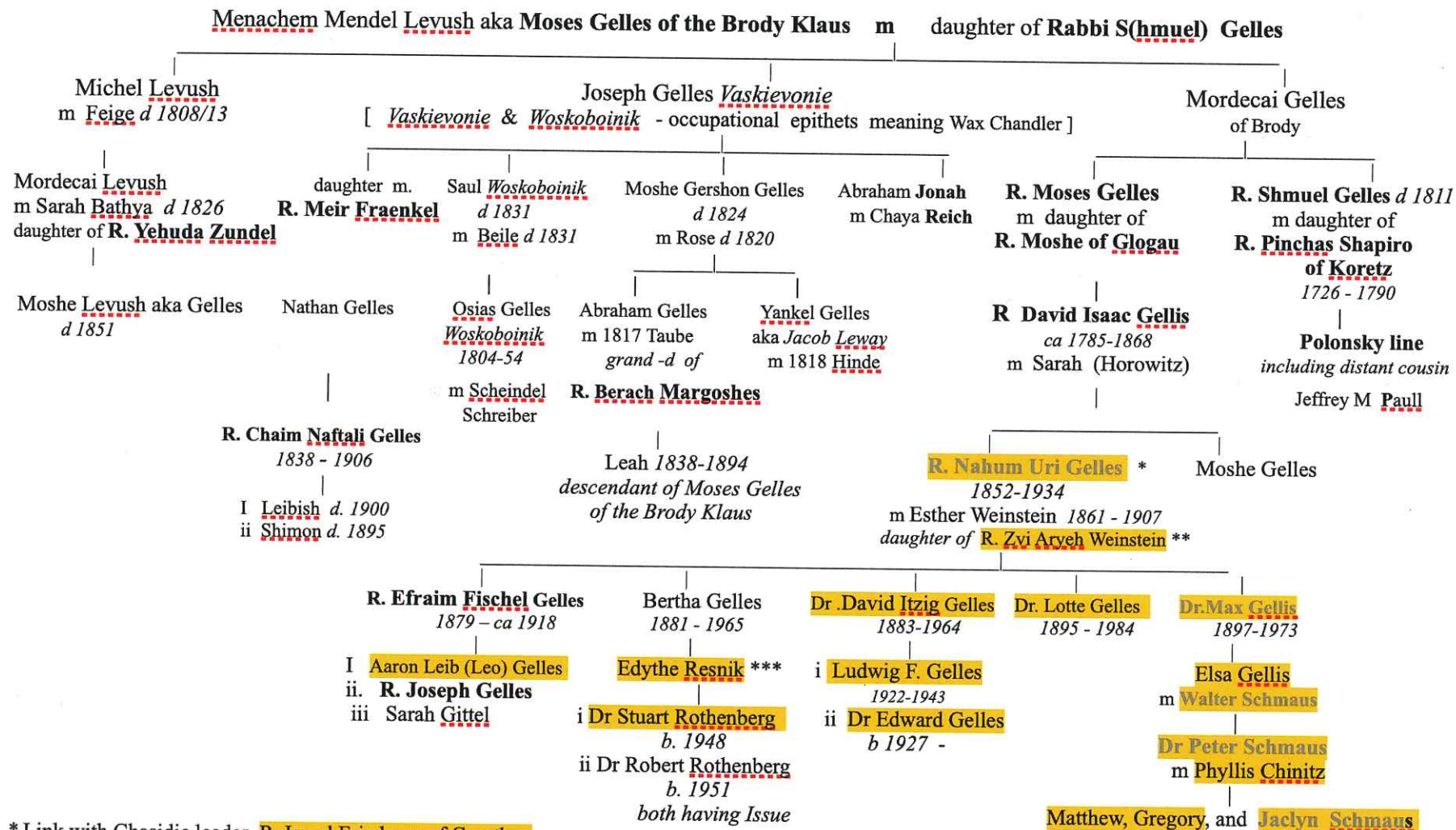
London 1939



Holiday photo at unknown location in Austria around 1933 showing my brother and me standing in front of our mother



## Paternal Connections of Edward Gelles : Gelles of Brody : Photos related to highlighted names



\* Link with Chasidic leader R. Israel Friedman of Czortkov

\*\* Weinstein progeny

\*\*\* Edythe Resnik's first cousin Ofira Resnikov m Yitzchak Navon

# My Paternal Grandfather



Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles, Chief Rabbi of Solotwina  
died in Vienna 1934



My Grandfather was an adherent and relative  
of the Chasidic leader Rabbi Israel Friedman  
of Czortkov who died in Vienna 1933

(see Edward Gelles, "Family Connections:  
Gelles -Shapiro -Friedman", Shaker  
Publishing, 2009)



My uncle Dr Max Gellis standing behind his daughter Elsa and next to cousin Leo Gelles, Elsa being seated next to our grandfather Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles

## Uncle Max & Cousin Elsa

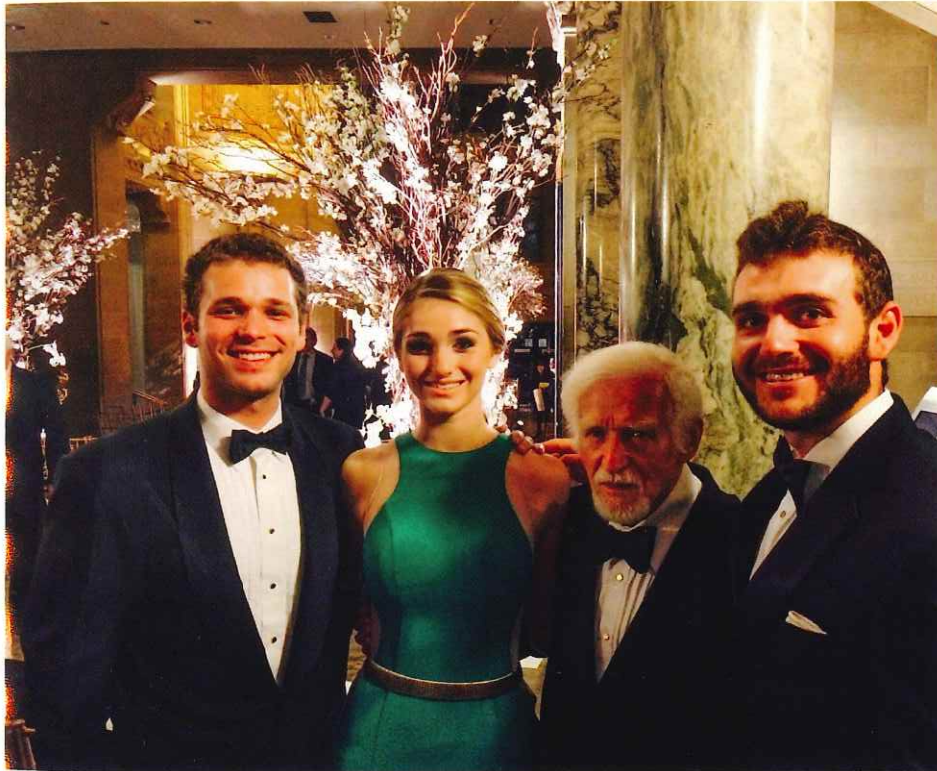
My uncle Dr Max Gellis was my father's younger brother. He wrote a definitive commentary on Austrian Company Law and was an outstanding amateur chess player, some of whose matches are recorded in the international chess literature (see "Family Chess Notes" by Edward Gelles on the internet). His daughter Elsa, born in 1929, was taken out of Austria on the "Kinder Transport", with Max following to England some months later. Elsa and her mother went on to the U.S. while her father's journey took him to Australia (with my brother Ludwig), back to post-war Vienna, and finally to Tel Aviv where his sister Lotte had lived since the 1930's.



My father (middle) with his younger brother Max and Max's daughter Elsa who married Walter Schmaus. Elsa's son Peter Schmaus is in front.

## Cousins - the Schmaus Family

Elsa's husband Walter Schmaus with their grandchildren  
Matthew, Jaclyn, and Gregory Schmaus



Elsa's son Dr Peter Schmaus with his  
wife Phyllis and their three children



Gregory, Matthew, and Jaclyn Schmaus  
at a wedding in June 2019



Matthew at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem

## Aunt Lotte

Lotte Gelles was a younger sister of my father. She was a Dr Juris of Vienna University as were her brothers David and Max. She married twice, firstly a Dr L. Ostrer who was a lawyer in Vienna, and secondly the physician Dr K. Kallman in Tel Aviv.



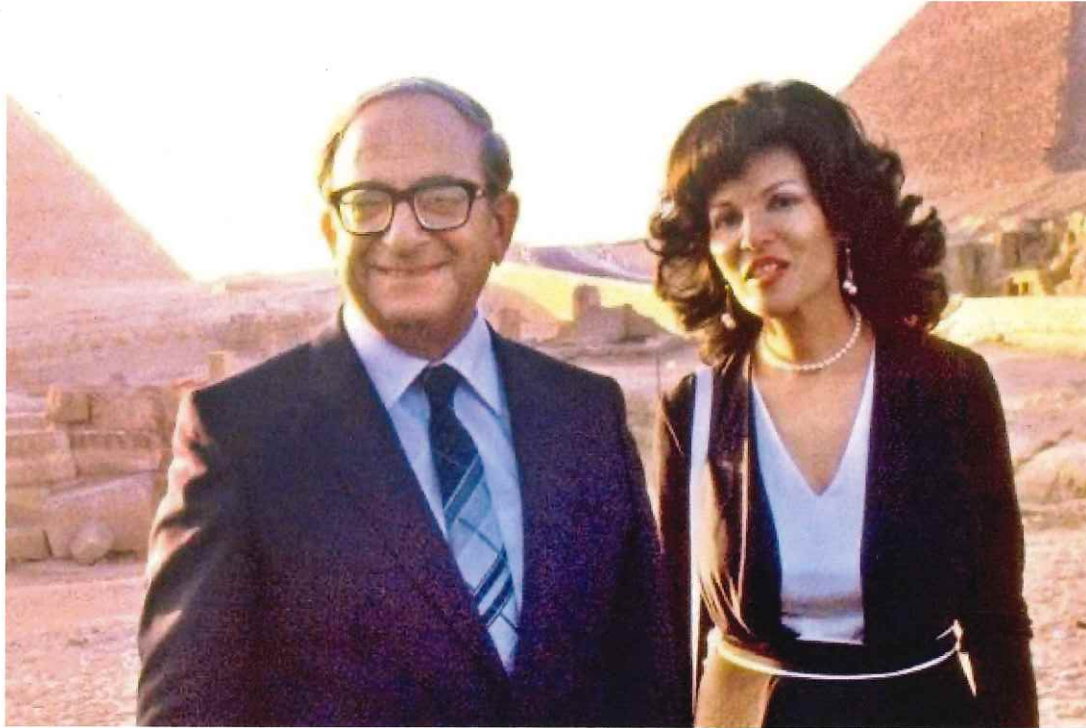
## Cousin Edythe Rothenberg



My father's elder sister Bertha Gelles went to America on her own in 1910 and married a bookstore owner, Nathan Resnik. One of their children was Edythe (on right) who married Murray (Moshe) Rothenberg. They had two sons, Stuart and Robert.



Dr Stuart Rothenberg is an authority on Ayurvedic Medicine

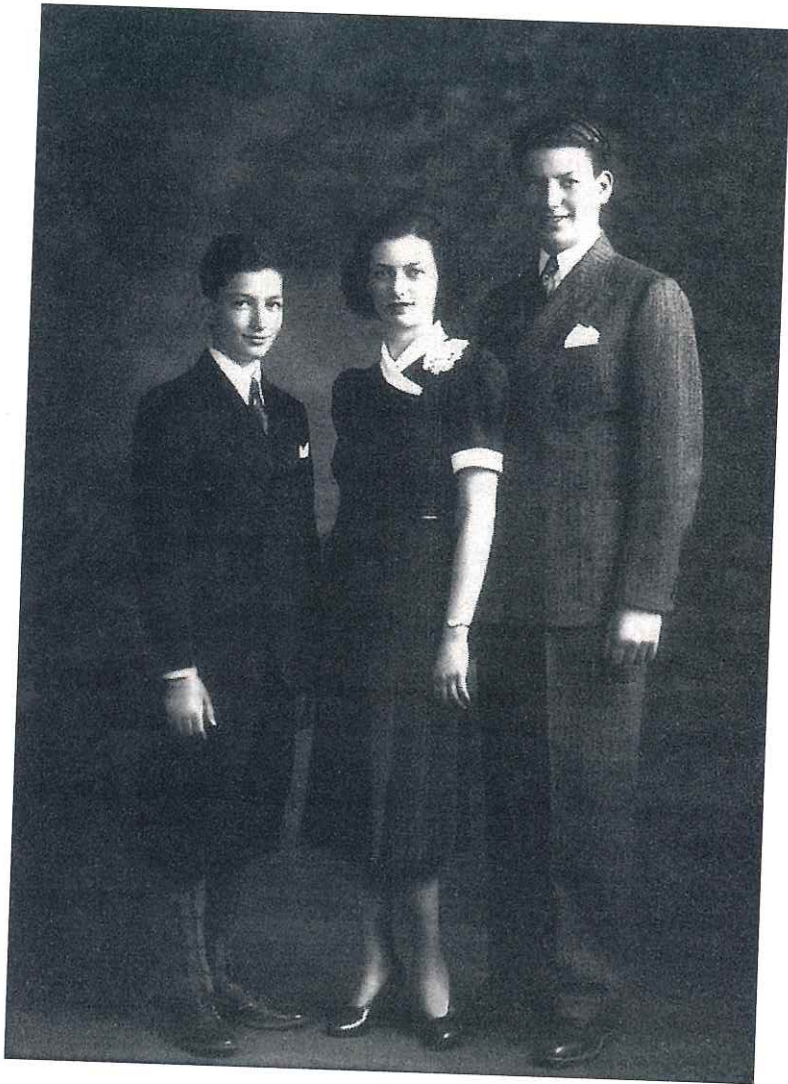


Edythe's first (Resnik) cousin was Ofira Resnikov (1936-1993), who was born in Israel. She became an academically qualified psychologist and "Miss Israel" Beauty Queen. In 1963 she married the politician Yitzchak Navon (1928-2015) who was of notable Sephardic descent. He became 5<sup>th</sup> President of Israel in 1978 and Ofira contributed to the success of his presidency in many ways as the much admired "First Lady" of Israel.



## Weinstein Descendants

(see my book "The Jewish Journey" - chart 18.1 on page 222)



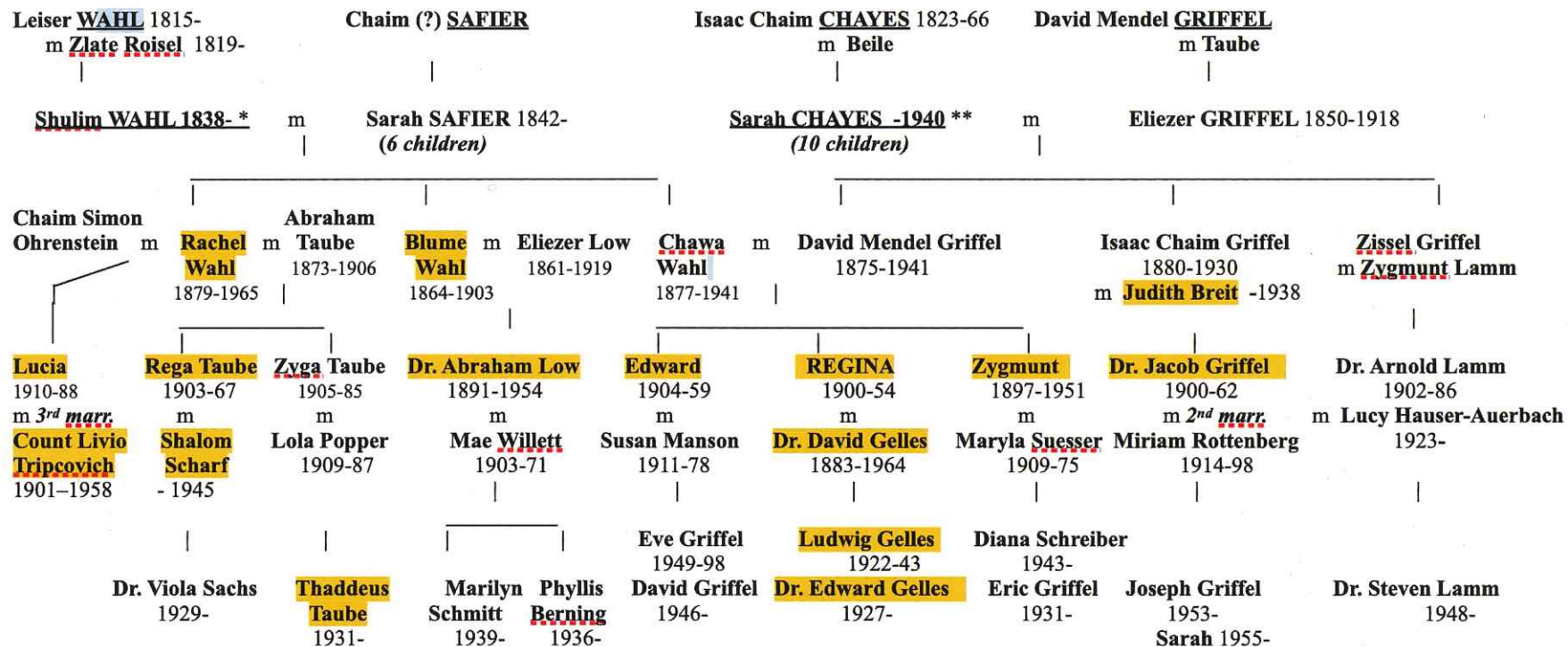
from my paternal great-grandfather Rabbi Zvi Aryeh Weinstein of Solotwina - my second cousins, Howard, Nancy, and Philip Weinstein. Howard and Philip were attorneys in New York.



Their respective daughters Susan Lee and Elaine Beth Weinstein (my second cousins once removed) are shown with their aunt Nancy in 2012

## Maternal Connections of Edward Gelles : Griffel of Nadworna with Chayes and Wahl

### Photos related to highlighted names



\* WAHL cousins include several lines of descendants from Blume Wahl. The Low family photos include **Nat Low** (a brother of Dr Abraham Low) with his wife Dorothy and the musician **David Low**.

\*\* CHAYES relations of this ancient family include many notable rabbis and scholars. Photos are included for the Chief Rabbi of Vienna (**Zvi**) **Hirsch Perez Chajes** (1876 – 1927) and the composer **Julius Chajes** (1910 - 1985)

# The Griffel Family

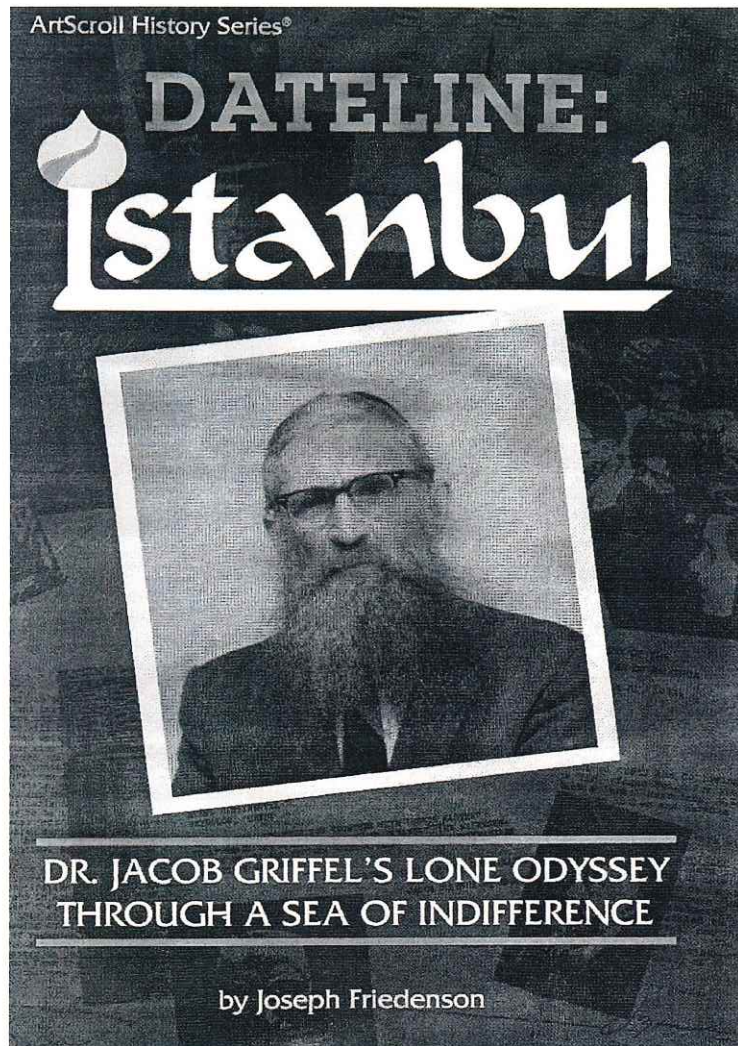


Zygmunt Griffel  
my mother's elder brother



Edward Griffel  
my mother's younger brother

## And Maternal Family Connections



Dr Jacob Griffel  
(biography of a hero of WW2 rescue )  
my mother's first cousin  
son of my uncle Isaac Chaim Griffel



*M. Kremski*



KRAKÓW

Judith Breit  
wife of Isaac Chaim Griffel

## Wahl Cousins



Rachel Wahl

sister of Blume Wahl and Chawa Wahl (my grandmother)  
mother of Rega and Zyga Taube and of Lucia Ohrenstein,  
grandmother of Tad Taube



Rega Taube, daughter of Rachel Wahl and Abraham Taube  
sister of Zyga Taube and first cousin of my mother Regina Griffel

Rega Taube and her husband Shulem Scharf



Lucia Ohrenstein  
daughter of Rachel Wahl and Chaim Simon Ohrenstein  
married (3<sup>rd</sup>) Count Livio Tripcovich of Trieste



Lucia Ohrenstein, Countess Tripcovich  
and (in mirror) her husband Count Livio Tripcovich

Thaddeus N Taube  
prominent US philanthropist  
son of Zyga Taube and Lola Popper  
grandson of Rachel Wahl



Tad Taube and his wife Dianne with his second  
cousin Edward Gelles in London, 2002

Tad Taube receiving Honorary Doctorate  
from Jagiellonian University of Krakow, 2018







## Great Aunt Blume Wahl married Lazar Low

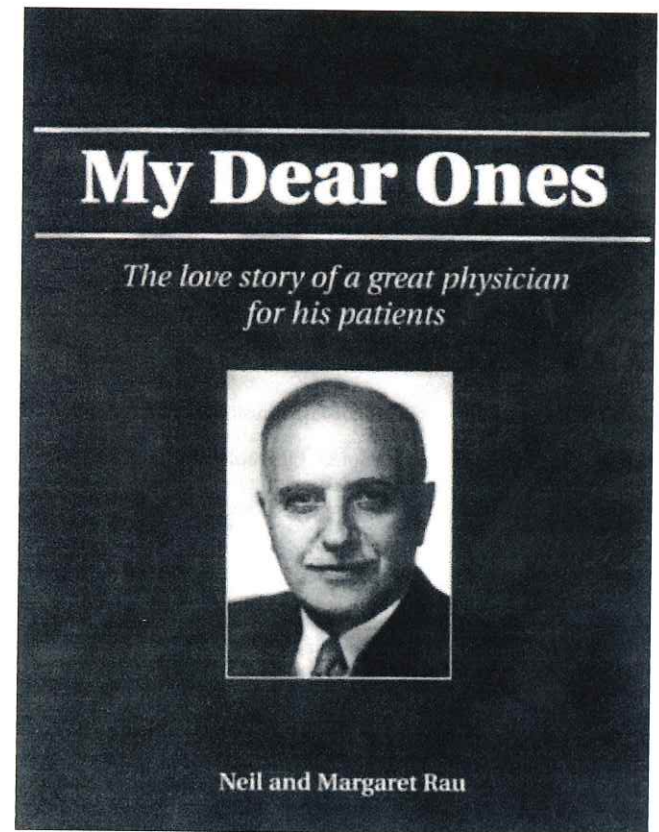
Their children included Dr Abraham Low, who married Mae Willett, Nathaniel Low who married Dorothy Burland, and Sol Low, who married Rosamond Trilling (full details of all nine children and their issue are listed in my book, "An Ancient Lineage", page 79).

Tombstone of Blume Wahl in Strasbourg,  
1903, flanked by her descendants



Dr Abraham Low, born in Strasbourg,  
medical officer of elite Austrian regiment in WW1,  
later a prominent psychiatrist in Chicago

Front cover of "My Dear Ones"  
a biography of Dr Abraham Low





Nathaniel Low (brother of Dr Abraham Low)  
and Dorothy Low in Venice on holiday from  
New York in 1931



David Low  
cellist and musical director  
grandson of Sol Low and Rosamond Trilling  
great-grandson of Blume Wahl and Lazar Low

# Relatives of my maternal great-grandmother Sarah M Chajes

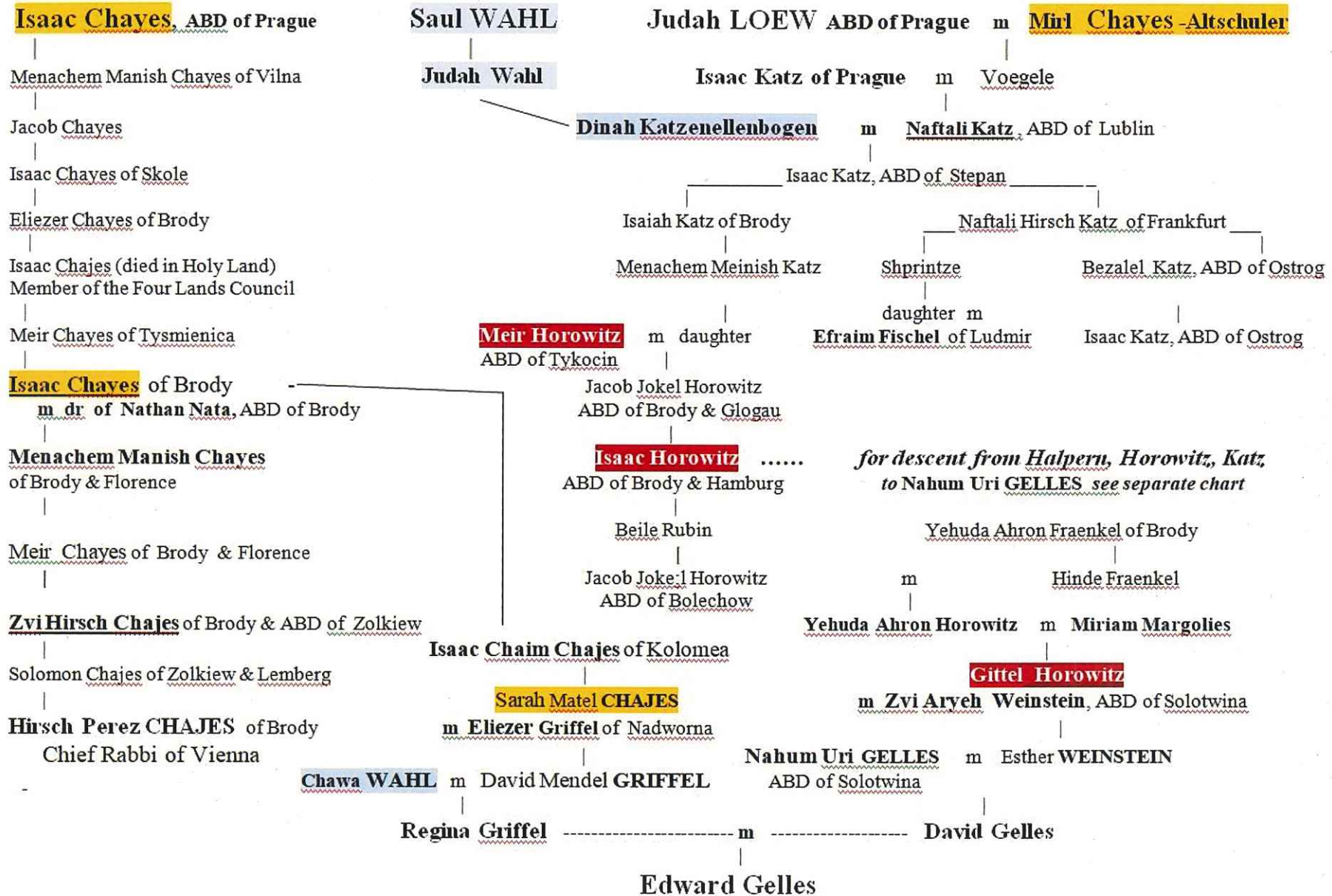


Zvi Hirsch Perez Chajes (1876-1927)  
Chief Rabbi of Vienna  
(see following family chart)



Julius Chajes (1910-1985), American-Israeli pianist, conductor, and composer, with his son  
(see my book "An Ancient Lineage, page 322)

Chaves, Wahl, and Horowitz ancestors of Edward Gelles

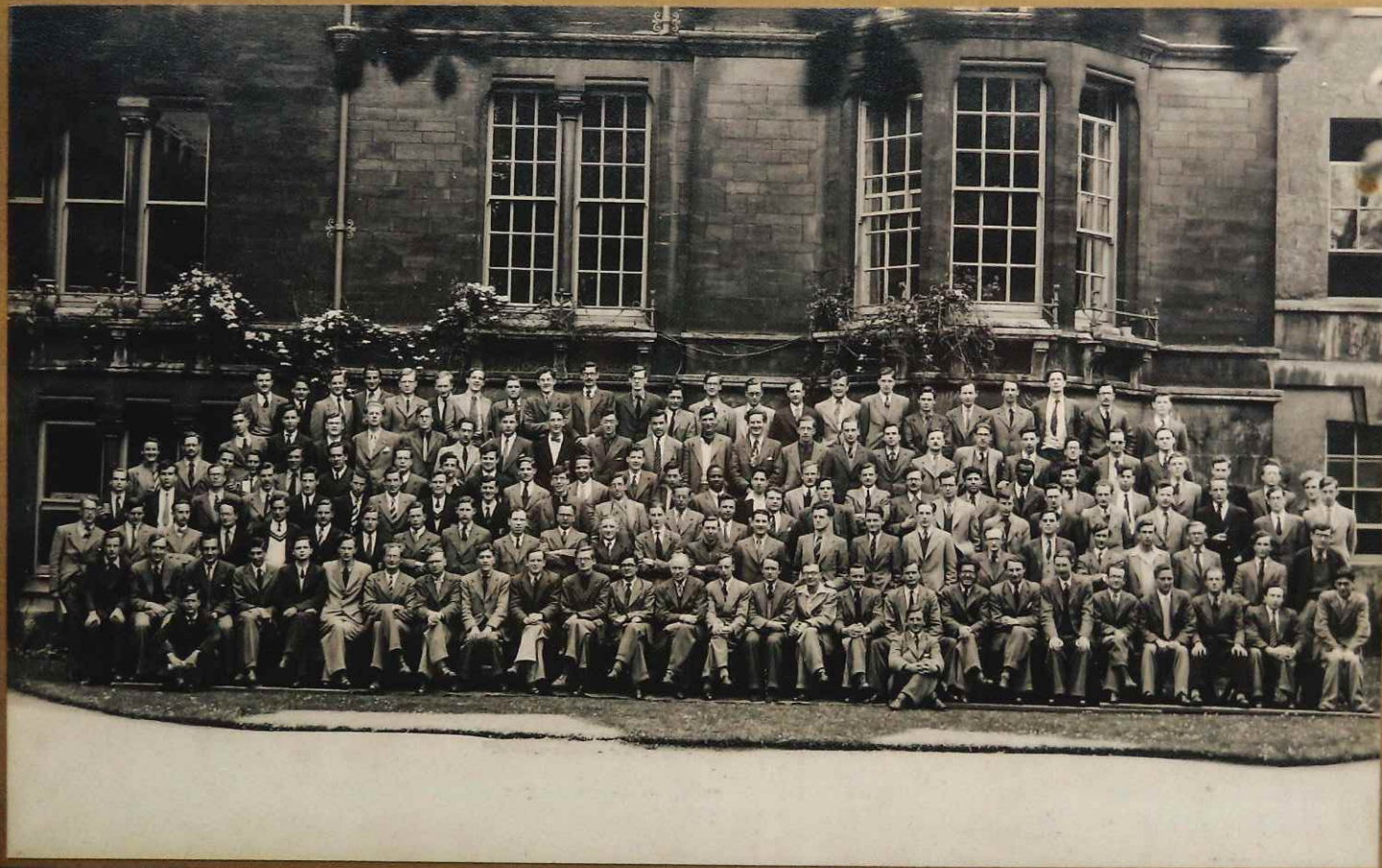


# Miscellaneous photographs relating to Edward Gelles



Balliol College, Oxford 1945  
Edward Gelles – middle of 3<sup>rd</sup> row from the back

Balliol College



GILLMAN & BORME

OXFORD



Balliol College, Oxford 1947  
Edward Gelles – sitting 5<sup>th</sup> from left in front row



Edward Gelles , Chamonix, 1947  
holiday with old family friend (Hopmeyer)



Edward Gelles, Ascona, 1948  
holiday with Horovitz family





collecting English bronzes (1980's)



in Sanderstead, posing for my portrait



my portrait by Carel Weight



in my sitting room, Hyde Park Crescent



in my study, Hyde Park Crescent

in Regent Street, 1959



in Hyde Park Street with  
Annette Campbell, 2018



Edward Gelles, 2014



Edward Gelles, 2020



Dr Bela Horovitz, founder and proprietor of the “ Phaidon Press”  
He and his wife Lotte and their children Joseph and Elly were our oldest family friends

(see Edward Gelles, “Refugees in wartime London and Oxford” – mentions Lord Weidenfeld, another Viennese refugee who became a distinguished publisher and supporter of Jewish culture.

George Weidenfeld was a passing acquaintance in the mid 1940’s with whom I have some common Horowitz ancestry)

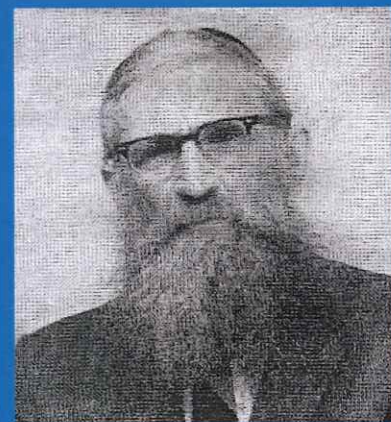
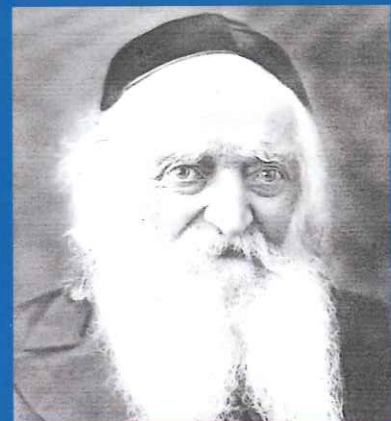


on my 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday with Elly Miller nee Horovitz,  
her brother Joseph Horovitz and his wife Anna

Edward Gelles in his 95<sup>th</sup> year







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