The images of a world destroyed are immortalized in a rare collection of Judaic postcards published in a recent book titled *Yiddishland* by Gerard Silvain and Henri Minczeles (Gingko Press). Revealing in their broad depictions of Jewish life, yet compelling in detail, the photos span the era between the turn of the twentieth century and the Holocaust. The following sampling of the book’s photos presents unforgettable faces and places from our collective past.
Mezrich, Poland, 1931: A Tarbut Jewish school in a town of 10,000 Jews, 90 kilometers north of Lublin.

Above: Ivanova, Ukraine: A Jewish street during the holiday of Sukkot in 1916. Note the open roofs indicating the family sukkah in every home.

Below: Stanislav (under Austrian rule), 1918: Jews read news from the front posted on the wall of the commander’s office. Their apprehension was well justified since Stanislav was twice occupied and destroyed by the Russian army; the synagogue was burnt down and the community pillaged. In 1919 Jozef Haller’s “Blue Army” (Polish) entered Stanislav, instigating pogroms and looting Jewish property. The city was part of Poland until 1939.

Left: Vilna, Lithuania: Synagogue courtyard and entrance to the Strashun library, built in 1901.

Below: Lodz, Poland: A carpenter with the tools of his trade.
Above: Vilna Cemetery, Lithuania: Note the grave at the far right of Rabbi Samuel Strashun (1794-1872), prominent Talmud scholar and community leader. His son, Matisyahu, founded the 5,700 volume Strashun library.
Right: Grodno, Lithuania: The synagogue of Grodno, built in the 18th century. During the First World War, 2/3 of the town's population was Jewish.

Above: Lublin, Poland, 1930: The famous Yeshivas Chachmei Lublin founded by Rabbi Meir Shapira.
Right: Lodz, Poland, 1912: The funeral of Rabbi Eliyahu Chaim Meisel, founder of the Talmud Torah of Lodz (1873) and noted philanthropist.
Below: World War I: A convoy of Jewish refugees fleeing the Russian army trying to reach the protection of the German army.

She reads prayers aloud for women.