

June 2020

Folder 3 – Zlotnikow (Slotnikov), Nathan – 1929 - 1930

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B'NAI B'RITH BUREAU

MANAGER
L. J. WEINBERGER

FOR WORK IN MEXICO

POST OFFICE BOX
666

5A. CALLE DE MINA 95

MEXICO, D. F.

July 15, 1929.

Mr. R. E. Weinstein,
El Paso, Tex.

Re Slotnikov

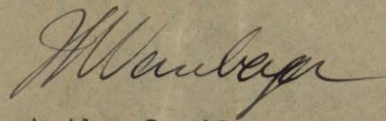
Dear Mr. Weinstein:-

Mrs. Slotnikov and her daughter 16 years old arrived here from Russia some months ago. The object of their coming was to get in touch with the husband of Mrs. Slotnikov then living in Los Angeles. It transpired that the man was living with another woman and married to her. Information from Los Angeles leads us to believe that the man is of a low moral type. He separated from wife No. 2 and now wishes to reunite with wife No. 1. He is now in El Paso, and has sent for them, but societies here would have to pay the R. R. fare, that is about \$100.00(pesos)

It was my opinion that such a step should not be taken before consulting with you, and I accordingly gave the woman a card with your address to send to her husband, so that you could have a talk with him. Will the woman be any better off, by going to C. Juarez? Will the husband help to support the family, or will he exploit them and expect them to support him? There is no doubt that they would have to do some work up there. He would live in El Paso, and they in Mexico. I understand that he entered the States illegally between 15 and 20 years ago, so there is no hope of his taking the family into the States. Am giving you this short sketch so that you may be the better able to question the man and decide on what should be done.

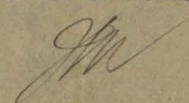
Awaiting your kind reply and thanking you for this cooperation, I am,

Sincerely yours,



P. S.

I forgot to mention that the family arrived without means and we gave them some financial assistance and bought them a sewing machine.



MANAGER
L. J. WEINBERGER

B'NAI B'RITH BUREAU
FOR WORK IN MEXICO

5A. CALLE DE MINA 95

POST OFFICE BOX
666

MEXICO, D. F.

July 16, 1929.

Mr. R. E. Weinstein,
El Paso, Texas,

Dear Mr. Weinstein:-

Referring to the Slotnikov case, I have just received a letter from Rabbi Roth, highly commending Mr. Slotnikov, and asking us to pay the R. R. fare for the family.

Sincerely yours,

L. J. Weinberger

July 19, 1929

Slotnikov

Mr. J. L. Weinberger
B'nai B'rith Bureau
5A Calle de Mina 95
Mexico, D. F.

Dear Mr. Weinberger:-

Re: Slotnikov

This will acknowledge receipt of your letters of July 15th and 16th with reference to the above captioned party, and wish to advise that I have just interviewed Mr. Slotnikov, and from his story, I find that he has made many attempts to have his wife come to this country, even before the quota law, and not receiving any reply from her, he finally secured a divorce from her in 1922 at some place in Missouri.

About four years ago, he moved to Los Angeles, and about a year and a half ago he married another woman, but only lived with her for six months, and it appears now that she is bringing suit for divorce from him, but the final decree, to his knowledge, has as yet not been granted, and it will possibly be another month or two before the decree can be granted, as it is necessary for one year to elapse in matters of this kind, according to the California law.

He seemed very sincere to be re-united with this first wife and daughter, and of course, is asking for ~~your~~ consent or ~~consentation~~ regarding sending the wife and daughter up to Ciudad Juarez. I explained to him the danger of such an action at this time, inasmuch as he could not legally visit her as his wife, and which would possibly arouse the Mexican immigration officials, and it is needless for me to tell you what fun there would be then, as Mrs. Slotnikov and her daughter would surely face deportation from Mexico.

This seemed to impress Mr. Slotnikov, and in compliance with his request for my advice, I suggested that he leave the entire matter rest for at least 60 days, or until he should secure definite proof from Los Angeles that he is finally divorced from his second wife, and then we will start negotiations to have his wife and daughter brought to Ciudad Juarez and he can then re-marry her and take care of them there, that is, if he could re-marry her and still retain his right as a declarant for citizenship. Of course, I do not know the exact legal phase of this particular circumstance.

I would suggest that you advise Mrs. Slotnikov that under the circumstances, it is practically impossible for her to come up to Juarez, and she should stay in Mexico with her daughter at least another two months, and as long as Mr. Slotnikov sends \$5.00 weekly towards her support, I am sure that she can be assured that everything will be done to eventually reconcile the family.

At the request of Mr. Slotnikov, I will ask you to please not put this matter in a way to cause her to be suspicious that he is not aiming to do the right thing towards her, but he really impressed me that he wants to do what is right, and

Mr. J. L. Weinberger

#2....

7/19/29

only on account of my explanation to him of the severe circumstances that may arise by her coming to Juarez now, has he consented to follow my advice and let the matter wait until he can get his final decree from Los Angeles. I would not tell her too much about the Los Angeles matter, but use your own judgement, in explaining the entire situation to her, especially that this man impressed me that he will eventually take care of her in the proper way.

Mr. Slotnikov now enjoys a local passport showing legal entry in 1913, so the information you received regarding his illegal entry, unless verified by actual evidence, is just hearsay.

Assuring you that I am always anxious to cooperate in matters of this kind, and thanking you for the interest you have taken in this case, also hoping to hear from you further, and with kindest personal regards, beg to remain,

Yours very sincerely,

RW:b

P.S. It just occurred to me that if wife #2 secures a divorce, it may be possible that he may have no right to marry within a year after, and you can readily see what a mix-up can be caused in this whole situation, if every attempt possible is not made to safe-guard against any illegal acts on his part.

November 19th, 1929.

Miss Cecilia Razovsky,
National Council of Jewish Women,
799 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

Re: Nathan Zlotnikow

My dear Miss Razovsky:

The last wife of the above named, whom Mr. Zlotnikow deserted in March of this year, has come to our office stating that she married Mr. Zlotnikow in September, 1928 - and that a religious as well as a civil marriage was affected. She was aware at that time that Mr. Zlotnikow had been married in Russia before, ^{was divorced} and that he had sent the wife a "ghet" some years ago. Our records show that the wife in Russia refused to accept a "ghet". The local Mrs. Zlotnikow does not know if her husband had informed the Rabbi who married them of the facts; she thinks not.

Mrs. Zlotnikow has already filed a civil suit for divorce on the grounds of desertion, but is very eager to be freed by a "ghet" as well, at the insistence of her very orthodox mother. We shall appreciate having this matter investigated, and if the man is located, that the suggestion be made to him that it would be advisable for him to send a "ghet" to his wife here.

Assuring you of our appreciation for your cooperation with us, I am -

Very truly yours,

MRL:R

Executive Director

December 24th, 1929.

Miss Cecilia Razovsky,
National Council of Jewish Women,
799 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

Re: Nathan Zlotnikow

My dear Miss Razovsky:

In reply to your communication, we wish to say that this case was first referred to your office February 26, 1925 by our Section. At that time we were assisting Mr. Zlotnikow in securing necessary data for his application for naturalization papers.

On October 18, 1928 -- the case was referred to us by the B'nai B'rith Bureau for work in Mexico, informing us that the wife and child of the above named, arrived in Mexico about two weeks previous to that date, and they also gave the following information:

In 1923 Mr. Zlotnikow tried to bring his family to the States, but they were unable to get a number on the quota. About that time Rabbi S. M. Neches of Los Angeles sent a letter to Mrs. Zlotnikow in Mexico, asking her to give the husband a "ghet." This she refused to do. Through M. Millman of Los Angeles, she learned that her husband had married again. We were then asked to locate him and secure his material assistance for his first wife. At that time we learned from Mr. Millman, who is a cousin of Mr. Zlotnikow, that he has known Mr. Zlotnikow since Mr. Zlotnikow's arrival in this country about sixteen years ago, and to his knowledge and belief, the man is of low character. He has been married two or three times and has contracted his previous marriages without the formality of getting divorces from former wives. He always, according to Mr. Millman, exploited the women after marrying them and refused to carry his share of responsibility. On one occasion he bought a horse and wagon and traveled through the city with the young woman in whom we are now interested, and who at that time, thought she was his legal wife. He forced her to beg for work for him, as he had a small key fitting outfit on this wagon. He was too proud and too lazy to make his own way.

At that time we could not locate Mr. Zlotnikow. Now the last wife of Mr. Zlotnikow, whom he deserted about March, 1929, claims to have information that he has joined his first

December 24th, 1929.

Re: Nathan Zlotnikow

wife in Mexico City. She states that she married him in September, 1928, and that a religious as well as a civil marriage was affected. She was aware at that time that he had been married in Russia before, but was under the impression that he had sent the wife a "ghet" some years ago. You will note that our records show that the Russian wife refused to either accept or send a "ghet." The local Mrs. Zlotnikow does not know if her husband had informed the Rabbi who performed their marriage, of the facts; she thinks not. (We quote this last information from our last letter to you.)

We corresponded with the B'nai B'rith Bureau in Mexico, and received the following information: -- "Nathan Zlotnikow is residing either in El Paso, Texas or C. Juarez, Mexico, and we would suggest that the El Paso Section of your organization could help secure the "ghet" desired by his wife."

We are very sorry that our first letter to you was so vague. Through oversight we left out a good deal of helpful information.

Will you assist us in locating Mr. Zlotnikow and try to persuade him to send a "ghet" to this wife?

Very truly yours,

RRL:R

Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRANT AID
The National Council of Jewish Women
799 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

FROM Merle Henoch

DATE January 7, 1930

TO Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky
El Paso

SUBJECT Nathan Zlotnikon

We are enclosing two letters we have received from Los Angeles regarding the above. The first letter left us in doubt as to what it was all about and we wrote for further information, thus the second letter. As this is a matter between Los Angeles and El Paso and not an international affair, we would ask that you take care of the matter and we are writing to Los Angeles telling them that in the future she should correspond direct in local matters. *MA*

MH:G
Encl. 2

April 3, 1930.

Mrs. Geo. Goldsmith
1419 South Wilton Pl.
Los Angeles, Cal.

Re; Nathan Zlotnikow

The above case was referred to me through the New York Dept. of immigrant Aid. We have repeatedly tried to get in touch with the wife and daughter but they refuse to give us an interview, stating that Mr. Zlotnikow advised them at no time to see any social service workers from El Paso. We have the following for your information;

Mr. Zlotnikow is at the present time and has been for the past three months in your city. The wife here claims that she is not divorced from her husband, that she refused to accept the "ghet"(divorce) that her husband sent her and she therefore claims that she is his legal wife.

We are informed that Mr. Zlotnikow is coming back to El Paso and will spend that Passover holidays with his wife and daughter in Juarez, Mexico.

For my files will you please advise me if he has divorced wife No. 2 or not?

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky
Chairman Immigrant Aid
Council of Jewish Women
1016 Olive Street
El Paso, Texas.

OFICINA EN MEXICO DE LA

SOCIEDAD DE BENEFICENCIA B'NAI B'RITH

B'NAI B'RITH BUREAU FOR WORK IN MEXICO

5a CALLE DE MINA 95

MEXICO, D. F.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF B'NAI B'RITH

OFFICE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

40 ELECTRIC BLDG. - CINCINNATI, O. U. S. A.

DIRECTOR:

J. L. WEINBERGER

R. Weinstein

447 First Nat. Bank Bldg
El Paso, Texas.