

## Avraham Stahl, 1933-2000

The noted educator Dr. Avraham Stahl passed away in Jerusalem on April 9, 2000, after a three-year battle with cancer. Stahl was born in The Hague in 1933. He survived concentration camps and came to Israel illegally in early 1948, during the British blockade. From 1953 until his death he was actively involved in the field of education.

As a teacher, administrator, university lecturer, and prolific author, Stahl left an impressive legacy. From his early work on Jewish culture, Stahl became interested in Jewish family names, their origin, meaning, and transformation in the various communities, sub-communities, and cultures of the Jewish people. In 1987, he published a booklet, *Jewish Family Names: Material for Discussion and Work in the School and Community Center*, in Hebrew, which was later issued in English, French, and Russian. The objective of the booklet was to introduce the use of names in the formal and informal education of both adults and children.

Among Avraham Stahl's more recent onomastic publications are "Children's Names as a Reflection of Ideological Differences Among Israeli Parents" (*Names* 40: 283-94) and "The Imposition of Hebrew Names on New Immigrants to Israel: Past and Present" (*Names* 42: 279-88).

Encouraged by friends to expand the material on names which he had gathered over the years, Stahl wrote *What is Your Name? The Given Names and Surnames of the Jewish People*. This work was completed a short time before his death. Those of us who were associated with him and with his work hope that it will find a publisher soon since it would make a fitting memorial to Avraham Stahl's innovative approach to onomastics and to the application of his work in educating minority groups and many others toward greater self-awareness and pride in their heritage.

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