

The Daily RYS 3/6/07 Expands XI

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They searched for young adherents of the Musar doctrine and trained them in its spirit.

In 1880, R. Zvi Rabinowitz gave up his business and became rabbi of Mitau (Latvia). Someone else had to be appointed to replace him. R. Isaac Elchanan accordingly convened a meeting of the founders which was attended by R. Alexander Mosheh Lapidus, R. Elijah Eliezer Grodensky, and R. Isaac Blazer, who had in the meantime left his rabbinical position in St. Petersburg and taken up residence in Kovno. R. Isaac Blazer was chosen as Dean of the Kolel and R. Elijah Merkel . and R. Baruch Braude (veteran Musar adherents in Kovno) as treasurers. On account of his extreme modesty, R. Abraham Shenker refused to accept any office whatsoever, but pledged to continue his efforts with the same determination as hitherto. The authorized signatories of the Kolel were to be : R. Isaac Elchanan, R. Isaac Blazer and R. Abraham Shenker.

Once the institution had passed into the care of R. Isaac Blazer, it entered a new phase. Within a short time the number of students had increased to 120. The name of the Kolel became renowned, and young men, Torah scholars of repute, flocked to it from all corners of the Jewish world. Among those enrolled at the time the following are noteworthy: R. Abraham Burstein of Tavrig; R. Zvi Mayofis of Wilkowiski; R. Samuel Faivelson of Plungyane; R. Joshua Klatzkin of Rosseyeny; R. Chaim Rabinowitz of Moysedis and later Rosh Yeshivah of Telshe.

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