

The Israel Police's Experience with Official Documents of the Soviet Union: Driving Licenses, Birth Certificates, Nursing Diplomas

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This article reviews three types of official documents issued by the former Soviet Union, namely, driving licenses, birth certificates and nursing diplomas. The change in formatting of these documents over the years is described, including background prints, security features and details of how the personalia are entered. A description is given of the most common forgeries encountered in the authors' laboratory for each class of document.

Introduction

Ever since the doors of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) were opened, enabling its residents to emigrate freely, the State of Israel has welcomed approximately one million new immigrants. Apart from the expected logistical problems of absorbing a number of people that would become almost one fifth of the entire population of the country, other problems arose that resulted ultimately in changing several laws relating to the rights of new immigrants.

As the situation stood, various documents had to be presented in order to be eligible for certain rights. For example, if one arrived from one's country of origin with a valid driving license, it could be automatically exchanged for an Israeli license, without taking a driving test. Furthermore, the new immigrant could purchase a car, tax free; this in a country with a more than 100% levy on new cars for local residents. These conditions proved all too tempting for many new immigrants, arriving from a place where they had either no need or no means for a car, and therefore no driving license. Document examiners at the Questioned Documents Laboratory (QD Lab) of the Israel Police examined literally thousands of driving licenses of new immigrants. The forgeries encountered will be discussed in detail later in this article.

The principle problem with the Soviet birth certificates stemmed from a different source. Based on The Law of Return, any person of the Jewish faith can claim immediate citizenship in The State of Israel. According to orthodox Jewish precepts, a "Jew" is a person born of a Jewish mother (whether from birth or by orthodox conversion).

In the birth certificates issued by the former Soviet Union, the nationality of the mother has been featured since the Second World War, and in most of the forged birth certificates encountered in the QD Lab, it is this entry that is more often than not altered in order to conform with the aforementioned requirement.

Birth certificates are also used, naturally, to confirm one's true age, when this is disputed. Indeed, some of the forgeries that have been encountered in the laboratory were certificates that had been altered in order to show a falsified date of birth (Brown and Gerber, 1998).

The third group of documents most often submitted for verification of authenticity is nursing diplomas. In order to practice nursing in Israel, one has to show proof of graduation from a nursing school and then pass an examination, as the level of medical practice was found to differ somewhat between the local standards and those that had been acceptable in other countries. On examination of the USSR nursing diplomas submitted, certain forgeries were repeatedly encountered.

Methods and Materials

Before examination of any official document, it is of paramount importance to obtain specimens for comparison so that one knows which type and standard of printing are used in the authentic document. When this is not possible, one has to rely on one's own resources in building a reference collection.

This was the case here, especially with regard to the driving licenses and nursing diplomas. (The driving licenses were submitted at an early stage of the immigrants' absorption process, as the benefits to be gained were of immediate advantage. At that time the QD Lab did not have either actual specimen documents, or information regarding their security features, etc. There were also no official samples of nursing diplomas. By the time the birth certificates were submitted for ex-

amination, channels of communication between the two countries were much more open which enabled a freer exchange of information, although actual specimens of birth certificates were never received.)

When these documents were received for inspection, they were quite easily categorized as being either authentic or fraudulent due to the high standard of printing of the genuine documents.

At a later stage, both Interpol and a former deputy director of the Soviet Government Printing Press related that the printing of all official documents issued in the Soviet Union was centralized (a 1991 personal communication with the Ministry of the Interior of the USSR through Interpol and a 1997 personal communication with Igor A. Mochalov, the deputy general director of the "gosznak"). This

ВРЕМЕННОЕ ВОДИТЕЛЬСКОЕ УДОСТОВЕРЕНИЕ
PERMIS DE CONDUIRE

Фамилия Абрамов
Имя Абрамовна
Отчество Абрамовна
Дата и место рождения 31.03.1953
г. Викича
Место жительства г. Викича

АВУ
№ 026837
Валюта ГАИ МВД - УВД
Визитный бланк
18.02.1989 г.
(дата выдачи)
Действительно до 1.02.1991 г.
Председатель комиссии М. П.

СССР (SU) USSR

Категории транспортных средств, на управление которыми выдано удостоверение	Место печати
A Мотоциклы	
B Автомобили (за исключением упомянутых в категории А), разрешенный максимальный вес которых не превышает 3500 кг (7700 фунтов) и число сидячих мест которых, помимо сиденья водителя, не превышает восьми.	Разрешено
C Автомобили, предназначенные для перевозки грузов, разрешенный максимальный вес которых превышает 3500 кг (7700 фунтов).	
D Автомобили, предназначенные для перевозки пассажиров и имеющие более 8 сидячих мест, помимо сиденья водителя.	
E Составы транспортных средств с тягачом, относящиеся к категориям В, С или D, которыми водитель имеет право управлять, но которые не входят сами в одну из этих категорий или в эти категории.	

Для особых отметок
ABC-075982 от 1.02.89 г.
Палон АВУ № 115837
ППФ Госзнака. 1987.

Figure 1. USSR driving license - new format (post-1987).

means that they all conformed to a central standard. At this later stage, specimen driving licenses and nursing diplomas were also received.

The Russian word "gosznak," which is usually printed on the back cover of these documents or on the bottom of the inside right hand page, is apparently an abbreviation for The Government Printing Press, and almost exclusively appears beside the year in which that particular document was printed (Figure 1). In most cases, the initials "MT" are printed next to the word gosznak; these stand for "Moscow Typography," i.e., the government printing press of Moscow.

Printing and Security Printing

In general, the standard of printing is very high for all three types of documents. The standard background print in driving licenses, birth cer-

tificates, and nursing diplomas is letterpress, with clear and intricate designs printed in different colors.

Driving Licenses

The driving licenses were issued in two principal formats: as a double-paged booklet with a red synthetic hard cover, with a photograph pasted on the lower right side of the left page (Figure 2) and as a two-sided card with the photograph on the lower right of the front side.

These licenses were used in all the republics, the only difference being the round cachet stamp of various sizes that is imprinted partly on the photograph. These stamps bear the name of the specific republic issuing the driving license plus other inscriptions, and different automobile-related symbols.

ВОДИТЕЛЬСКОЕ УДОСТОВЕРЕНИЕ
PERMIS DE CONDUIRE

Фамилия _____
Имя *Елизавета*
Отчество *Александровна*
Дата и место рождения *31.11.51*
Место жительства *г. Москва*
(подпись владельца) _____
АВТ
№ **144483**
Выдано
ГAI МВД - УВД
Сергиевский
25.08.1980 г.
(дата выдачи)
Действительно до
Председатель
комиссии _____
(подпись)

СССР **SU** **USSR**

Категории транспортных средств, на управление которыми выдано удостоверение	Место печати
A Мотоцикл ☒	
B Автомобили (за исключением упомянутых в категории А), разрешенный максимальный вес которых не превышает 3500 кг (7700 фунтов) и число сидячих мест которых, помимо сиденья водителя, не превышает восьми.	Разрешено
C Автомобили, предназначенные для перевозки грузов, разрешенный максимальный вес которых превышает 3500 кг (7700 фунтов).	
D Автомобили, предназначенные для перевозки пассажиров и имеющие более 8 сидячих мест, помимо сиденья водителя.	
E Составы транспортных средств с тягачом, относящимся к категориям В, С или D, которыми водитель имеет право управлять, но которые не входят сами в одну из этих категорий или в эти категории.	

Для особых отметок *т.п. АВА 406483*

ППФГ. 1972.

Figure 2. USSR driving license - old format (pre-1987).

On the outside cover of the bound licenses, there is an imprinted symbol of the USSR in black with the words "driving license" in Russian and in French (Perelman, 1984). These formats were also used for the newer driving licenses issued after 1987.

Until 1987, the background design of the driving licenses was of an intricate pattern, printed in letterpress, in red. The printed entries were in black letterpress. Each segment of the "dotted lines" had a rectangular shape and had the typical dark outline that is the trademark of letterpress printing, as did the background design.

The paper contained a security feature, basically a watermark, consisting of the letters "СССР" within a geometric design, which was visible principally under infrared light, as absorbance (but not via transmitted light, as the driving licenses were

backed with a sheet of cardboard). This watermark security feature is also seen in the paper used for birth certificates (Figure 5).

After 1987, the background print was improved to include printing with several colors; as in rainbow printing, the different colors are produced on one plate and in one printing stage (Figure 1). A new security feature was introduced, namely an ultraviolet fluorescent geometric print on both pages and an ultraviolet fluorescent print placed vertically on the right page with the Russian equivalent of the letters GAI – (Government Automobile Inspection) (Figure 3). The UV dye is incorporated into certain areas of the visible green print.

The printed text is always in the Russian language, regardless of the republic where it was to be used. The details were mostly handwritten in

ВРЕМЕННОЕ
ВОДИТЕЛЬСКОЕ УДОСТОВЕРЕНИЕ
PERMIS DE CONDUIRE

Фамилия: [redacted]
 Имя: *Алисия*
 Отчество: *Абрамовна*
 Дата и место рождения: *31.03.1953*
г. Виккича
 Место жительства: *г. Виккича*

АВУ
 № **026837**
 Выдано
 ГАИ МВД - УВД
 Влнн 02.02.89 г.
 Действительно до *1.02.1991* г.
 Председатель комиссии *[signature]* М. П.

СССР (SU) USSR

Категории транспортных средств, на управление которыми выдано удостоверение	Место печати
A Мотоцикл	
B Автомобили (за исключением упомянутых в категории А), разрешенный максимальный вес которых не превышает 3500 кг (7700 фунтов) и число сидячих мест которых, помимо сиденья водителя, не превышает восьми.	Разрешено
C Автомобили, предназначенные для перевозки грузов, разрешенный максимальный вес которых превышает 3500 кг (7700 фунтов).	
D Автомобили, предназначенные для перевозки пассажиров и имеющие более 8 сидячих мест, помимо сиденья водителя.	
E Составы транспортных средств с тягачом, относящиеся к категориям В, С или D, которыми водитель имеет право управлять, но которые не входят сами в одну из этих категорий или в эти категории.	

Для особых отметок
ABC-075982 от 1.02.89 г.
Малон АБЦ 1145837
 ИИФ Гознака. 1987.

Figure 3. USSR driving license - new format - showing UV fluorescent printing.

Russian in black fountain pen ink, although licenses have been encountered with ballpoint ink, typewritten entries, and also with English translations, presumably for use abroad.

An interesting observation is that the typical black fountain pen ink does not lie homogeneously but is seemingly repelled by the red lines of the background print (Figure 4).

The photograph of the driver is glued to the bottom of the left page as seen in Figures 1 and 2. The bottom right corner of the photograph is often left white, so that the rubber stamp is more easily visible.

Birth Certificates

The format of the birth certificates has changed several times since the beginning of the soviet

regime; certificates issued after World War II are of main interest here.

Between the years 1949-1969, the birth certificates were double-paged with a colored background print, no hardcover binding and a watermark consisting of the letters CCCP in a geometric design (Figure 5). (One of the birth certificates in the reference collection was printed in 1964 and had a hard cover made of a red synthetic material. It has the letters "CCCP" as part of the colored background print.)

At least since 1970, birth certificates had a hard cover made of a green synthetic material, imprinted on the front with the symbol of the USSR and the words "birth certificate" in Russian. The background print was still colored, but it also included a color print of the letters CCCP on both pages (Figure 6).

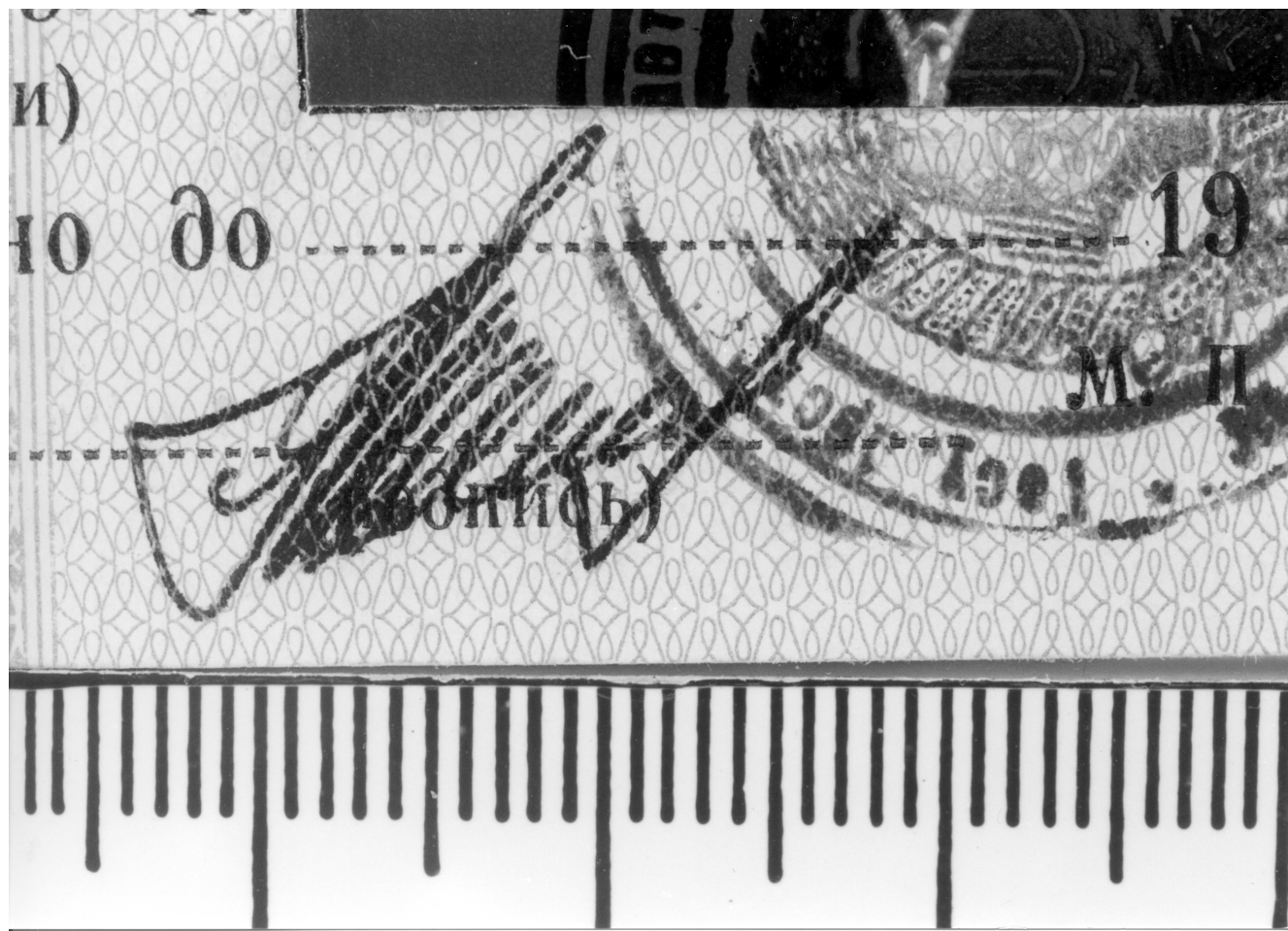


Figure 4. The black fountain pen ink is rejected by the red lines of the background printing.

This format was in use at least until the disbandment of the USSR, but at the same time previous versions of birth certificates were also being issued in the same format as described above (i.e., with a watermark and no hard cover binding, or with a creamy yellow cardboard cover).

Since 1953, each birth certificate has a serial number composed of a Roman numeral, two letters of the Cyrillic alphabet, "№", and six digits. From 1940-1953 Roman numerals were apparently not used.

At least since 1978, birth certificates have also been issued with lilac colored covers and in a slightly different format; the right page is loose-leaf, and it has the same CCCP watermark in geometric design as mentioned above. These documents were presumably issued for use abroad, as on the reverse side of the right page, there is a stamp of the foreign department of the republic that issued the birth certificate. These birth cer-

tificates have extra letters of the Cyrillic alphabet printed before the regular serial number. The printed text is always in Russian, and for birth certificates issued in the other republics; the local language is printed beneath each Russian line.

Since 1969, the dotted lines are comprised of black rectangles printed by letterpress, but pre-1969, the lines are comprised of less well-defined green oval shapes (Figure 7).

On the bottom of the right page, close to the binding, there is usually a number printed in small digits. Each number is representative of the specific republic where the birth certificate was issued. For birth certificates issued in the Russian republic, there is no printed number. A list was compiled from birth certificates received from The Ministry of the Interior and is constantly being updated as birth certificates from as yet unlisted Republics are received for examination at the lab (Table 1). The abbreviation ASSR in the

Number	Republic
blank	Russia
2	Ukraine
3	Byelorussia
4	Georgia
5	Armenia
6	Azerbaijan
7	Uzbekistan
8	Turkmanistan
9	Tadzhikistan
13	Bashkir ASSR
14	Kirgizia
16	Udmurt ASSR
23 55	Kabardino-Balkar ASSR
24	Yakut ASSR
30	Dagestan
31	Kazakhstan
33	Moldavia
41	Abkhaz ASSR
79	Lithuania

Table 1
A List of Numbers on USSR Birth Certificates Representing the Different Republics

table refers to an autonomic Soviet Socialist Republic, an area within one of the larger Soviet Socialist Republics.

The personalia in the various different formats of birth certificates are handwritten, mostly in Russian, and although rare, they have also been found in the language of the issuing republic. The ink used is mostly a purple fountain pen ink.

Nursing Diplomas

The nursing diplomas have the same format regardless of the state in which they were issued. (The diplomas are in fact certificates issued for general use; our experience focuses principally on diplomas issued for the nursing profession.)

They consist of a double-paged blue, brown or red synthetic material hard cover booklet with an imprinted symbol of the Soviet Union and the word "diploma" in Russian on the front cover.

The diplomas that were issued in republics other than Russia have the Russian language printed text on the right page, and the local language of that republic on the left page. The name of the republic is printed vertically along the left hand margin of the left page (Figure 8).

In diplomas issued for use in the Russian republic, the left page contains only the background print with no format for personalia.

Since 1989, this "empty" left page has a background print of vertical lines, which is different from the right hand page in Russian that has a horizontal, geometric oval-like print.

Prior to 1989, both the Russian right page and the "empty" left page had the same horizontal print described above.

The entries are always handwritten in the appropriate language for that republic on the left page, and in Russian on the right page, mostly in a black fountain pen ink.

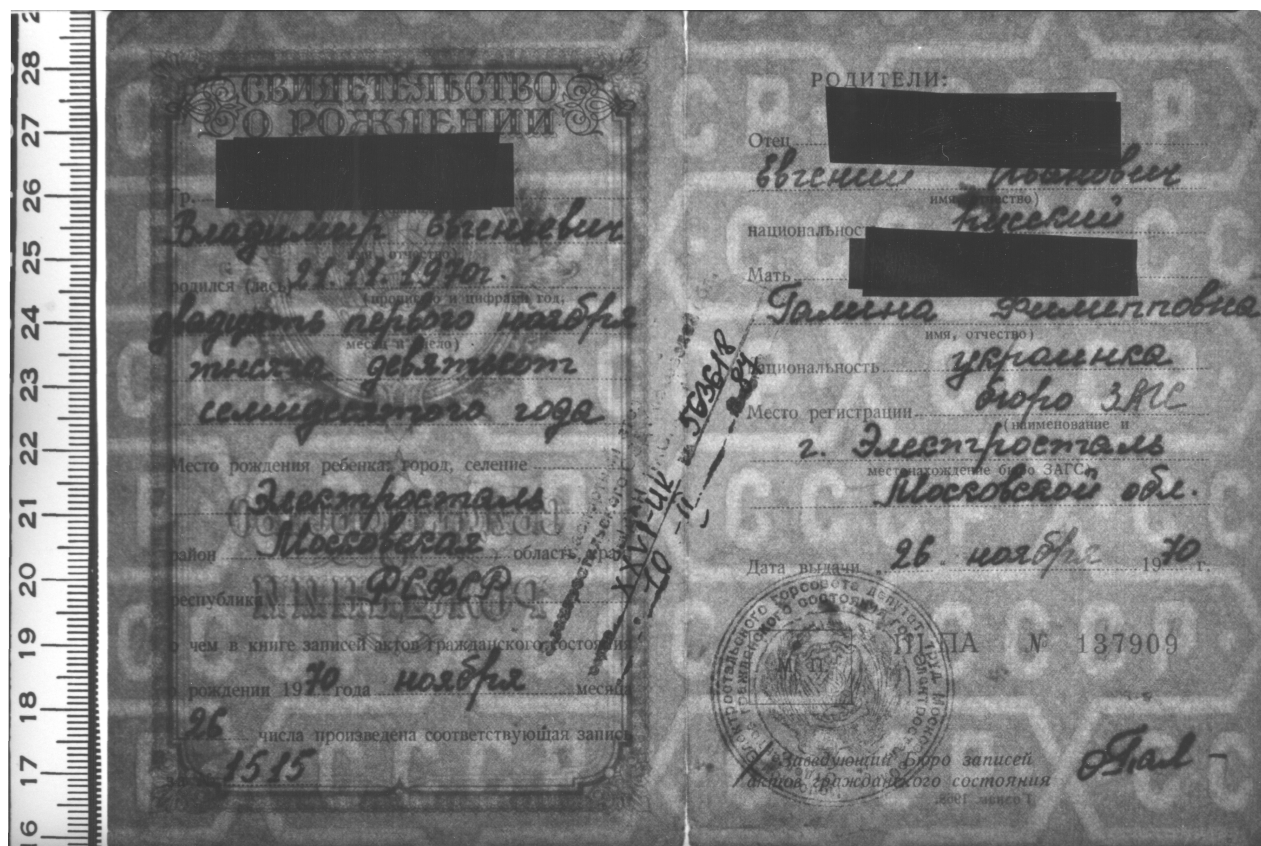


Figure 5. Watermark on the birth certificate paper showing the letters "СССР" in a geometric design.

Most Common Forgeries Encountered

There are three principal types of forgery of documents that also apply to the three types discussed here:

- Forgery of the entire document, including the paper, the background print, printed text and the supposed issuance by the Soviet authorities.
- Alteration of part of the document, including a mechanical or chemical erasure of all or part of the entries, and/or photograph substitution in the driving licenses.
- Acquisition of an authentic document by illegal means.

The latter type of forgery poses an almost insurmountable problem to the document examiner. If it is possible to acquire authentic documents, either through bribery or by theft, then there is little that the document examiner can do to prove that the document is fraudulent. Other formal channels have to be used in these cases to check the local registries and see whether those documents had indeed been issued to that person.

Even when the document is found to be a forgery, there have been cases in court where the defendant has claimed that the document in question was given to him as is, in its non-authentic format. In this case, the document examiner can only show the court why the document is a forgery; it is up to the court to decide if the claims of the defendant as to its acquisition are reasonable or not.

**СВИДЕТЕЛЬСТВО О РОЖДЕНИИ
АДЕВЕРИНЦЗ ДЕ НАШТЕРЕ**

Гражданин (ка)
Четэцанул (а) *Алексей Александрович*

родился (лась) *08 мая 1985*
с'а наскут *нижегородской области*
(цифраи и прописью — ку цифре ши ку антере)

Место рождения: город, селение
Докул наشتهер: орашул, сатул *Нижегородской области*

район *Нижегородский*
районул *МССР*
область, край
режиуна, динулул
республика
республика

о чем в книге регистрации актов о рождении
каре фат а фот ынксрис ын карта де ынрежистаре
а актелор де наشتهер ын

1985 года *мая* *08* числа
анул *1526*
произведена запись за № *1526*
суб

**РОДИТЕЛИ
ПЭРИНЦИЙ**

Отец
Тата *Юрий Леонидович*
фамилия — пронумеле,
имя, отчество — нумеле, нумеле дунэ тата

национальность *русская*
националитатя

Мать
Мама *Виктория Владимировна*
фамилия — пронумеле,
имя, отчество — нумеле, нумеле дунэ тата

национальность *русская*
националитатя

Место регистрации *Нижегородской области*
Докул ынрежистарий наименование и место рождения органа
ЗАГС — нумира ши докул де акте де ынрежистаре а актелор стэрий чивиле

Дата выдачи *03 мая 1989* года
анул

Заведующий отделом (отдел)
Л. П. *Иванов*
подпись актов гражданского состояния
Место секции (отдел) *ЗАГС*
де ынрежистаре а актелор стэрий чивиле

33

Figure 6. USSR birth certificate.

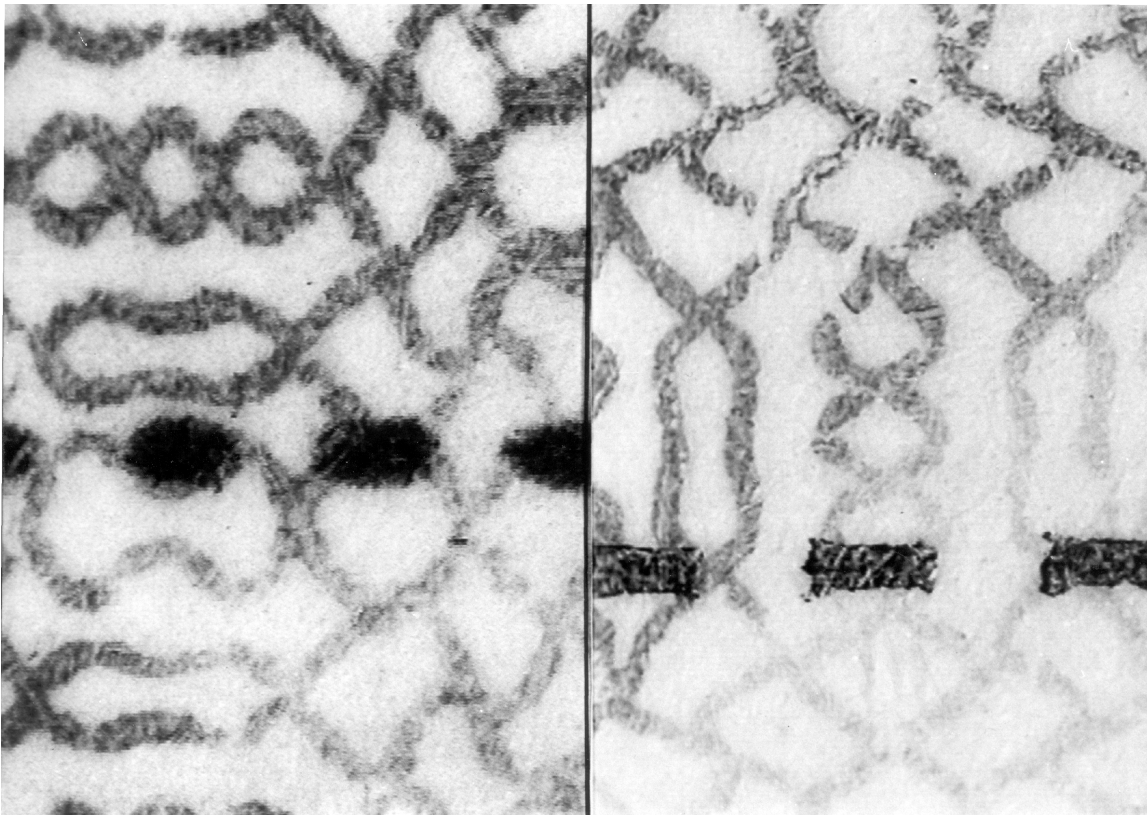


Figure 7. Magnification showing "dotted line" and background print on birth certificates; pre-1969 on left hand side and post-1969 on right hand side.

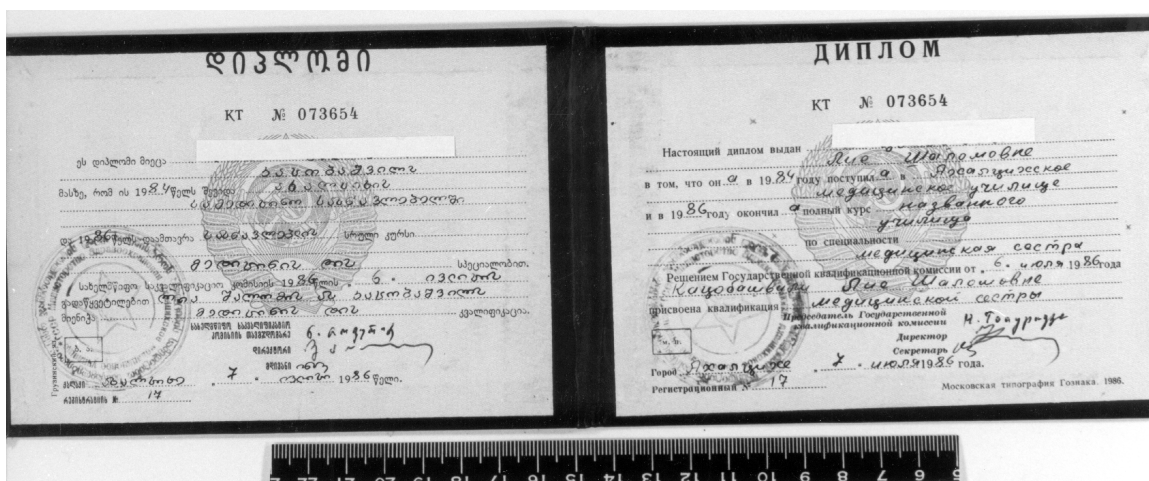


Figure 8. USSR nursing diploma issued for use in Georgia.

Driving Licenses

Photo substitution in driving licenses is no different from that generally found in other documents. This topic is well covered in the available literature and will therefore not be discussed here.

Forgery of driving licenses has included falsification of the entire document including the binding, paper, security features, printed text, cachet stamps and the personal details.

The printed text and background print which are done in letterpress in an authentic license are most often prepared by offset printing in the forged licenses with a lower printing quality.

The security feature of the letters CCCP in a geometric design, which in an authentic driving license is visible as infrared absorbance, has been found in forged licenses as either printing which is faintly visible in regular light, as fluorescence in ultraviolet light, or as slightly raised print visible under oblique light (Figure 9).

In other cases, authentic documents have been

used with photograph substitution and alterations of the personal details, usually by a very fine mechanical erasure of the handwritten lines only. This can be detected under the microscope as disturbance of the paper fibers and background print; sometimes, small ink deposits remain where the original writing was not completely erased (Figure 10).

On the right hand page of the driving licenses, there are five categories of vehicles; with a rectangular stamp with the word "permitted" in Russian signifying which category the driver is authorized to drive. Another rectangular stamp with a diagonal line through it signifies that the driver is not authorized to drive that category of vehicle (Figures 1 and 2). These stamps are sometimes erased and forged to increase the range of vehicles that the license holder may drive.

Attempts by potential forgers to forge the new version of driving licenses were unsuccessful in replicating the quality of the colored and UV printing.



Figure 9. Complete forgery of a USSR driving license. The "СССР" security feature in a geometric design is visible to the naked eye.



Figure 10. Fine mechanical erasure of handwritten entries on a USSR document.

Birth Certificates

For birth certificates the actual form is usually authentic, although several have been examined that were prepared by color photocopier or by off-set printing. The authentic forms that have been altered show signs of a chemical erasure of either all the entries or just those of the parents, particularly the mother's nationality. The parents' names are sometimes altered to more Jewish sounding names.

It should be noted that the round rubber stamp is usually preserved (Figure 11). (The rubber stamps have not been examined in detail due to both the lack of sufficient information on what features they should contain and due to the vast number of stamps in use in the various localities. This holds also for the driving licenses and nursing diplomas.)

In the case of chemical erasures, the background print (especially the light green areas) is usually faded, the solvent front is sometimes visible as

brown staining, the paper fibers may be raised and the new handwriting has a feathery appearance. For the non-bound certificates the ink of the new writing often transfers through to the reverse side of the paper.

Under UV or infrared luminescence, even invisible chemical erasures most often show up as a strong stain, either as fluorescence or absorbance. This is probably a result of one of the erasure processes used, where the ink is oxidized using a potassium permanganate/acetic acid mixture and then treated with hydrogen peroxide.

The erased writing is often visible as infrared luminescence or under UV, as seen in Figures 12 and 13.

There have been other cases where authentic birth certificates showing no signs of alteration or obliteration were found to be forged, as the language used did not match the republic to which it was issued (according to the number printed near the central binding as mentioned in Table 1).

СВІДОЦТВО ПРО НАРОДЖЕННЯ
СВИДЕТЕЛЬСТВО О РОЖДЕНИИ

Гр. _____
Гр. _____ (прізвище — фамилия,
(ім'я та по батькові — имя и отчество)
народився (лась)
родилась (лась) _____ (прізвище і цифрами рік, місяць та число)
(прізвище і цифрами рік, місяць та число)

Місце народження _____
Место рождения _____
район _____
район _____
область _____
область _____
про що в книзі записів актів громадянського стану
о чем в книге записей актов гражданского состояния
о народженні _____
року _____ місяця _____ числа _____
зроблено відповідний запис за _____
пронесена відповідуюча запис за _____

Батьки:
РОДИТЕЛИ:
Батько _____
Отец _____ (прізвище — фамилия,
(ім'я та по батькові — имя и отчество)
національність _____
национальность _____
Мати _____
Мать _____ (прізвище — фамилия,
(ім'я та по батькові — имя и отчество)
національність _____
национальность _____
Місце реєстрації _____
Место регистрации _____
біля та місцезнаходження бюро ЗАГС —
наименование и местонахождение бюро ЗАГС)

Дата видачі _____ 19 _____ р.
Дата выдачи _____ г.
М. П. _____
ЯЗ № 977389

Завідуючий бюро записів актів громадянського стану
Заведующий бюро записей актов гражданского состояния

Figure 11. USSR birth certificate; at this stage the stains of the chemical erasure are evident (before cleansing), while the round stamp remains untouched.

СВІДОЦТВО ПРО НАРОДЖЕННЯ
СВИДЕТЕЛЬСТВО О РОЖДЕНИИ

Гр. _____
Гр. _____ (прізвище — фамилия,
(ім'я та по батькові — имя и отчество)
народився (лась)
родилась (лась) _____ (прізвище і цифрами рік, місяць та число)
(прізвище і цифрами рік, місяць та число)

Місце народження _____
Место рождения _____
район _____
район _____
область _____
область _____
про що в книзі записів актів громадянського стану
о чем в книге записей актов гражданского состояния
о народженні _____
року _____ місяця _____ числа _____
зроблено відповідний запис за _____
пронесена відповідуюча запис за _____

Батьки:
РОДИТЕЛИ:
Батько _____
Отец _____ (прізвище — фамилия,
(ім'я та по батькові — имя и отчество)
національність _____
национальность _____
Мати _____
Мать _____ (прізвище — фамилия,
(ім'я та по батькові — имя и отчество)
національність _____
национальность _____
Місце реєстрації _____
Место регистрации _____
біля та місцезнаходження бюро ЗАГС —
наименование и местонахождение бюро ЗАГС)

Дата видачі _____ 19 _____ р.
Дата выдачи _____ г.
М. П. _____
ЯЗ № 977389

Завідуючий бюро записів актів громадянського стану
Заведующий бюро записей актов гражданского состояния

Figure 12. USSR birth certificate (shown in Figure 11) with the erased entries showing strong infrared luminescence.

Nursing Diplomas

On some of the nursing diplomas, the year in which the diploma had been printed was altered, usually by a mechanical erasure, so that it matched the year in which the candidate had supposedly graduated. The rest of the diploma was an authentic document with no further altering of the entries.

There have been cases where the entire document had been forged as seen by the background print, which was prepared by low quality offset printing instead of the letterpress print found in authentic diplomas. In other cases, the form for the diploma had been prepared using a color photocopier.

Discussion

There are many lessons to be learned when attempting to absorb a large number of immigrants

into any country, particularly a relatively small one. From the point of view of the immigrant, arriving into a new culture, learning a new language and adapting to a different climate and lifestyle is never easy, even when the emigration is by choice. To be faced with a criminal file almost as one descends from the plane obviously does not improve matters and it was for this reason that it was decided not to press charges against the holders of the forged driving licenses.

However, the law regarding the issuing of Israeli driving licenses to all immigrants was amended as a result of the vast number of forgeries encountered, such that each immigrant is required to pass a driving test in order to get an Israeli license. Furthermore, experts of the Ministry of Transportation examine each foreign driving license, with guidance from the QD Lab, for its authenticity.

With regard to birth certificates, they are still presented as evidence of an immigrant's Jewish

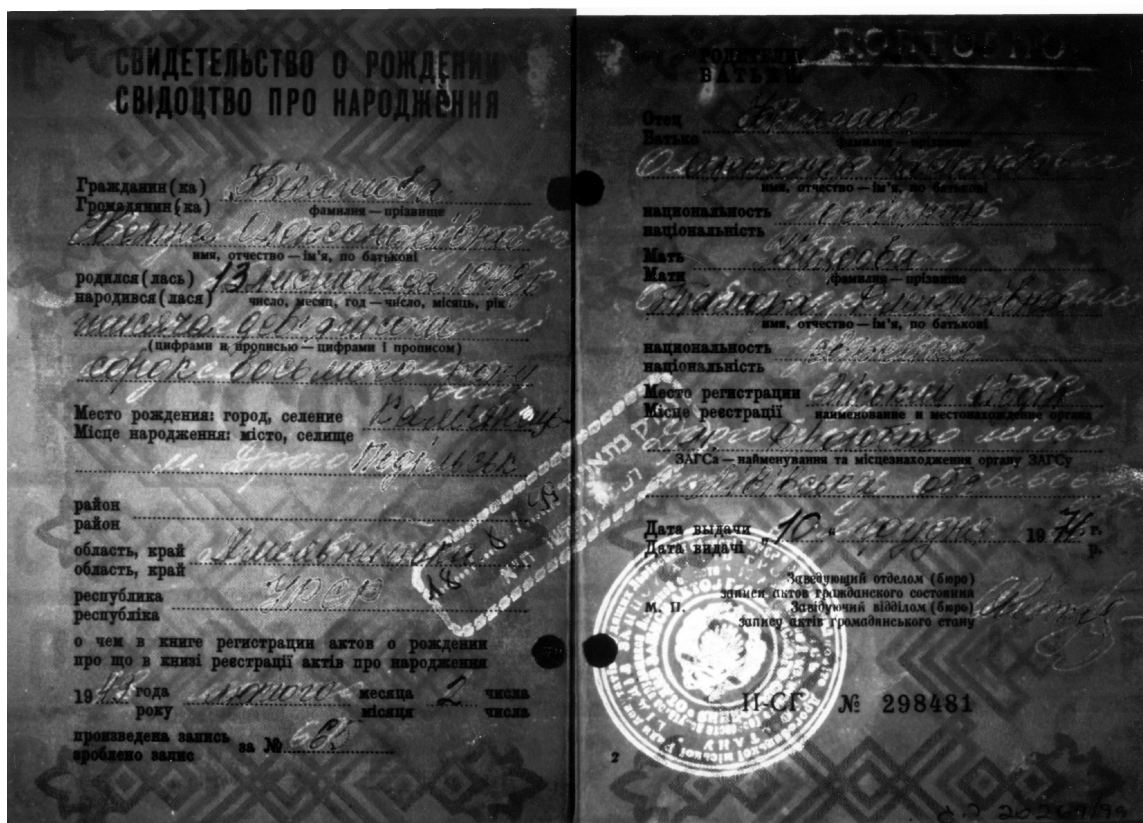


Figure 13. USSR birth certificate under infrared luminescence showing visible writing in black and original writing that had been erased as fluorescence.

identity at the Ministry of Interior. They are examined there by an official of the Ministry who relays the suspect certificates to the QD Lab for verification. If it is found that the contents of the birth certificate have been even partly forged, the holder is usually deported back to his country. The case is taken to court if the deportation order is appealed.

If the birth certificate was submitted to verify the authenticity of the entry of the date of birth and this was found to be altered, the case is treated as any other case of its kind, i.e., the claim is contested by the district attorney's office.

As for nursing diplomas, at present, in order to be able to work as a nurse, proof of graduation from a nursing school has to be shown, and in any case the nursing candidate has to pass a local examination to ensure that medical standards are met. The nursing diplomas are submitted to the laboratory by the Health Ministry. Cases are brought to court when the findings of the laboratory show that the diploma is forged and these findings are contested.

Fortunately, to date, the documents that have been submitted for examination had all been issued by the former Soviet Union, before its disbandment. This means that there is a level of uniformity in the printing standards of the various documents, which facilitates their examination, regardless of where they were issued in the vast expanse of what was the Soviet Union.

Today the situation is much more complicated, as there is no central printing press standard to which all states must conform. Instead, each republic has the independence to choose both the format of its documents and the level of printing and security features that it wishes to include to safeguard them. Furthermore, the collection of samples is obviously easier when centralized. Today, it is necessary to establish contact with each and every republic in order to receive authentic documents for comparison with those that are disputed, a process that takes time but has been already set in motion.

References

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