

## Samples of Ashkenazi Cursive

These charts are taken from:

Birnbaum, S. 1971. *The Hebrew Scripts*. London: Brill. 2 vols.

As the charts show the letters can vary greatly from one sample to another and from the more modern versions. Sometimes one can guess the Hebrew name from the civil name. Men's names tend to be "standard", but the women's Hebrew names can be diminutives, e.g. "Bümel" or the transcription of a civil name which does not correspond to the civil name on the document.

Note also that in writing no distinction is made between the dotted and undotted forms, i.e., between ך and ך.

Some of the letters which may cause even more difficulty than the others are:

ך: Sometimes the vertical part is separated from the curved part.

The ך sometimes is very similar to the ך.

ך: Curve faces, in part, the "wrong" way.

ך: This is often no more than a dot, barely visible or seeming to be just ink that dripped.

The ך may look like an elongated "3".

א א כ כ ה ו  
 ז ח ט י ב א ו  
 ד ה מ נ ר ע ע  
 פ פ ל ו ג ד ה  
 ש ת ק מ 359

א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח  
 ט י כ ל מ נ  
 ר א ס ע פ ו  
 ש ט א י ב ג ד  
 ה ו ז ח ט י כ 360

א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח  
 ט י כ ל מ נ  
 ר א ס ע פ ו  
 ש ט א י ב ג ד 361

א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ  
 ל מ נ ר ע ע פ פ  
 ל ו ג ד ה ש ת  
 ק מ 363

א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח  
 ט י כ ל מ נ  
 ר א ס ע פ ו  
 ש ט א י ב ג ד 364

א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח  
 ט י כ ל מ נ  
 ר א ס ע פ ו  
 ש ט א י ב ג ד