

THE KASPE FILE

# 卡斯普事件

1932-1945年发生在哈尔滨的文化与种族冲突

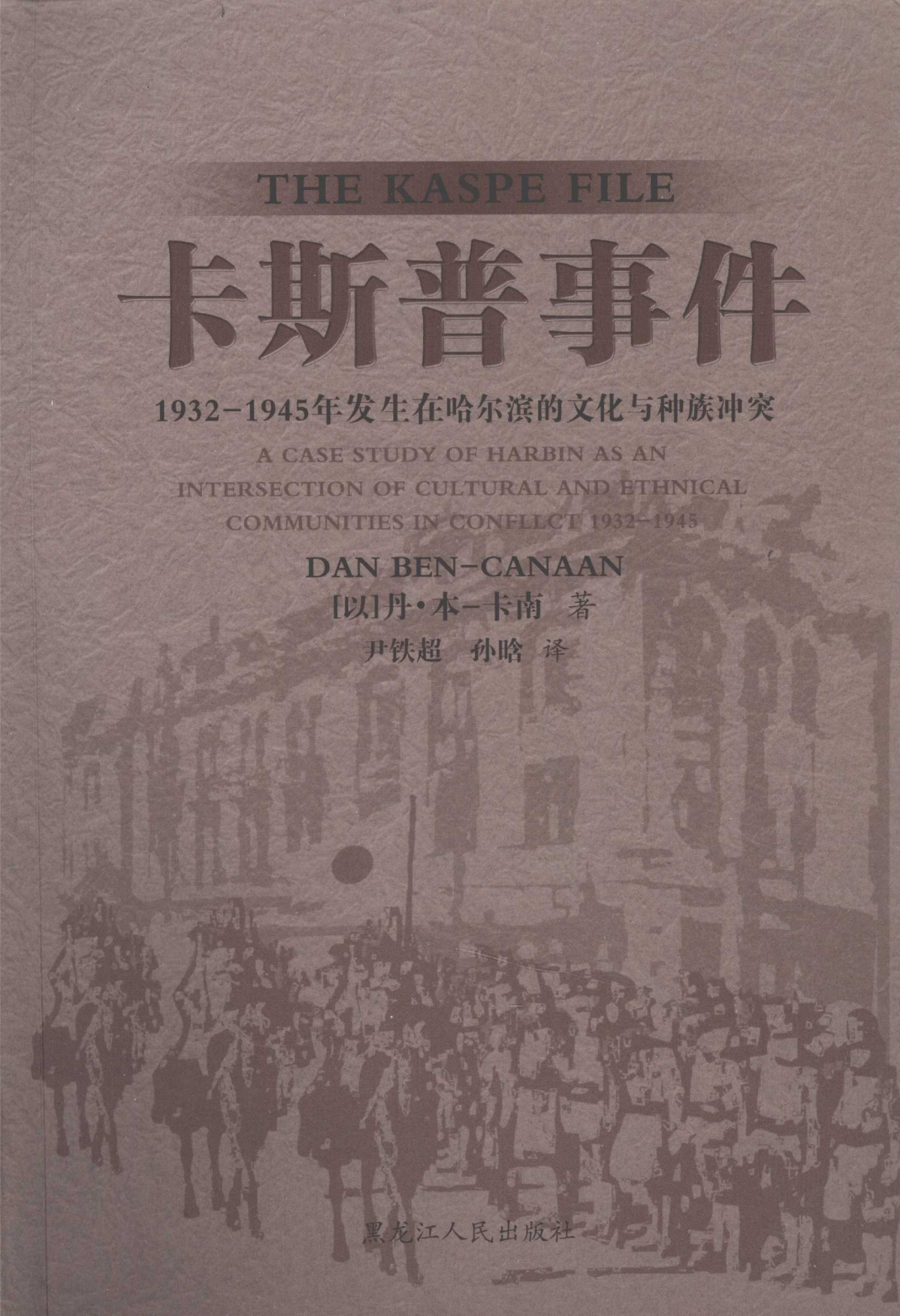
A CASE STUDY OF HARBIN AS AN  
INTERSECTION OF CULTURAL AND ETHNICAL  
COMMUNITIES IN CONFLICT 1932-1945

DAN BEN-CANAAN

[以]丹·本-卡南 著

尹铁超 孙晗 译

黑龙江人民出版社



THE FILE

# 卡斯普事件

1932-1945年发生在哈尔滨的文化与种族冲突

A CASE STUDY OF HARBIN AS AN  
INTERSECTION OF CULTURAL AND ETHNICAL  
COMMUNITIES IN CONFLICT 1932-1945

DAN BEN-CANAAN

[以丹·本-卡南 著]

尹铁超 孙晗 译



黑龙江人民出版社

黑版贸审字 08 - 2009 - 049 号

---

**图书在版编目(CIP)数据**

卡斯普事件:1932—1945 年发生在哈尔滨的文化与种族冲突/(以)丹·本-卡南著;尹铁超,孙晗译. —哈尔滨:黑龙江人民出版社,2009. 6  
ISBN 978 - 7 - 207 - 08234 - 3

I. 卡… II. ①本…②尹…③孙… III. 犹太人—社会生活—史料—哈尔滨市—1932~1945 IV. K18 K293.51

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2009)第 091891 号

---

**责任编辑:姜海霞**  
**封面设计:韩冰**

**卡斯普事件:**

1932—1945 年发生在哈尔滨的文化与种族冲突  
[以]丹·本-卡南 著  
尹铁超 孙晗 译

---

出版发行 黑龙江人民出版社  
通讯地址 哈尔滨市南岗区宣庆小区 1 号楼  
邮 编 150008  
网 址 www.longpress.com  
电子邮箱 hljrmcbs@yead.net  
印 刷 黑龙江神龙联合制版印务有限公司  
开 本 880 × 1230 毫米 1/32  
印 张 15.25  
字 数 370 000  
版 次 2009 年 8 月第 1 版 2009 年 8 月第 1 次印刷  
书 号 ISBN 978 - 7 - 207 - 08234 - 3/K · 976  
定 价: 50.00 元

---

(如发现本书有印制质量问题,印刷厂负责调换)  
本社常年法律顾问:北京市大成律师事务所哈尔滨分所律师赵学利、赵景波

## Contents

---

Acknowledgements/4
Forewords/22
Historical Maps/32
Preface/37
Introduction/78
Chapter 1: Historical Background to the Conflict/87
Chapter 2: Manchukuo under the Japanese Rising Sun/139
Chapter 3: Japanese Racism and Anti-Semitism/184
Chapter 4: The Case of Semion Kaspé/198
Chapter 5: The Legal System in Manchukuo and Harbin/224
Chapter 6: The Local Courts and their Findings/232
Chapter 7: An Analysis of the Case: Was the Kidnapping an Anti-Semitic Crime? /239
Chapter 8: The Letters/258
Chapter 9: "Political Ends Justify All Means" The Crime and its Beneficiaries/288
Epilogue/292
Appendixes/298
Appendix A—Chinese Eastern Railway. 1897 New York Times article/298
Appendix B—Germany Supports Chinese Policy. 1908 New York Times article/299
Appendix C—Appendix to the preface: Official Documents in the Ease of Isak Grigori Clurman/300
Appendix D—Dossiers' Documents in the Quaid'Orsay, Paris/303

## 2 The Kasper File

---

Appendix E—Japan Policy, Illustrations and Guidance Principles for  
North China/330

Historical Photographs, Illustrations, and Documents/341

References, Notes and Bibliography/347

## 目 录

致 谢/15

序 /28

历史地图/32

前 言/63

导 言/83

第一章 历史背景概述/364

第二章 太阳旗统治下的“满洲国”/374

第三章 日本的反犹主义和种族歧视/399

第四章 西蒙·卡斯普事件/407

第五章 满洲国和哈尔滨的法律体系/423

第六章 法庭上的发现/430

第七章 对事件的一种分析:它是反犹太人的犯罪行为吗? /435

第八章 信 件/441

第九章 犯罪的受益者/450

结 语/453

附 录/455

*To China my  
love who has  
been my Yisha  
all along*

## Acknowledgements

---

The task of expressing my gratitude to all those who helped in formatting and adding to my narrow understanding of the various parts of Harbin's history should be rather a pleasant one. Never the less, at least two major problems exist which make such a mission difficult. The first has to do with the limited space that make it almost impossible to fit the large number of people who helped shape my knowledge of the subjects into. And the later, with the ambiguity of memory—mine, in this case, that may, I am afraid, leave important contributors out.

I therefore would like to express my deep apology to those whom I left out and were not included in this assembly. It was not my intention nor purpose or design.

I have first heard of Harbin some 40 years ago. It was Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations in the late 1960s, who told me about the place in China that was his home for a while. I must admit that at that time the word 'Harbin' did not mean much to me. It just kindled my natural curiosity and made me wonder about the lost tribes of ancient Israel that may have found their way to

China.

It was in the autumn of 2000 when I visited Harbin for the first time. I came to Heilongjiang as a member of a group of journalists who were invited by their Chinese counterparts to learn about the northeastern province previously known as Manchuria. We stayed at the Press Plaza Hotel overlooking the Songhua River. It was a drought year and boats were lying on their side in the almost dried out wide river.

Coming from a place that has abundant of sun and where buildings are painted with white, Harbin looked dusty and very gray. Never the less, being introduced to her past the city came to reveal parts of a history that gave her a brighter and more familiar look. Among our guides were Dr. Wang Song He, a linguistics professor at Heilongjiang University and editor of its Foreign Language Research Journal, who presented herself as Witty and introduced me to her institute and colleagues, as well as to those at the Harbin Institute of Technology. Another was Li Shuxiao, of the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences. Known by his Russian name 'Grisha' he received his academic degree in Russian history at the Moscow University and thus is considered here to be well informed in the Jewish past of the city.

The trip I took to Harbin in the autumn of 2000 was to be a turning point in my life. One and a half years later, in the summer of 2002, I arrived here again. This time it was for good. China, Harbin and Heilongjiang University became my home.

I owe my greatest debt to Professor Yin Tiechao, Dean of the School of Western Studies at Heilongjiang University, who greeted me at the Harbin Airport and was the first to show what personal and academic



## 6 The Kaspé File

---

Chinese hospitality is all about. Prof. Yin became my friend and guide, and above all, my mentor, adviser and counselor, and confidant. With his wisdom and comforting manners, he has encouraged me to take a deeper look at the fertile Chinese culture and thoughts and its ways of conduct. Under his constant guide and scholarship I was able to become more productive and resultful, examining all matters with care and caution and bringing new ideas into life and a reality. It was he who gave great support to and encouraged the establishment of the Sino-Israel Research and Study Center at the School of Western Studies, and has been an important drive behind its activities. Professor Yin Tiechao undertook the difficult task of overseeing the translation this book into Chinese.

My profound gratitude goes to Professor Xu Wenpei, Associated Dean of Heilongjiang University's School of Western Studies then and its Party Secretary now, who was the first to contact and invite me to teach at the university. In his unassuming and almost shy manner Prof. Xu has been showing me the way of reaching a result through a complicated and unfamiliar Chinese labyrinth.

My gratitude goes to Professor Lin Weijie, Dean of the English Department at the School of Western Studies, who with her provocative thoughts and ideas has been keeping me constantly on my toes.

There is no question that these three colleagues and mentors have influenced me deeply. With their brace and encouragement we were able to expend our academic and research activities beyond the necessary curriculum and thus give new opportunities to our students and faculty.

Such observation, I should note, applies also to all my colleagues at the School of Western Studies in particular and at the university in gener-

al.

I offer my special thanks to Mr. Qu Wei, President of the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences, and to Mr. Li Shuxiao and Mrs. Fu Mingjing of the Academy's Jewish Center. Under Qu's leadership, along with their research fellows, they embraced me into their institution, opened a window to a past that should be studied and preserved, and deepened my understanding of the intricate socio-political maneuvers one has to undergo in order to achieve a certain goal.

My deepest thanks and gratitude to Mr. Teddy Kaufman, President of the Israel-China Friendship Society and the Association of Former Residents in China, for adding and clarifying many needed pieces of information. Teddy was born in Harbin, and his father, Abraham Kaufman, served as the president of the Jewish community of the city for many years. Under such circumstances, Teddy was a personal witness to many of the events that shaped the life of the Harbin Jewish community. Since the establishment of the Israeli association, Teddy Kaufman has been its pillar, and under his leadership, its archives became one of the most valuable sources of information about the history of Harbin. For his monumental work in preserving and organizing this chapter in the history of the Jewish people he surely deserves a national recognition by the State and the People of Israel.

This form of gratitude goes as well to Mr. Yossi Klein, Vice President of the Association of Former Residents in China, and to Teddy Pias-tunovich who manage its communication. Their comments and help were most valuable.

In early July of 2006 I received a letter from Nurit Eshtein of Israel,

## 8 The Kaspé File

---

asking for assistance in locating a “large apartment building built in 1936 by my grandfather on 83 Yamskaya Street, [ now Daan Jie ] in Harbin. . . The Japanese who were occupying Manchuria moved into most of the apartments and it was known as the ‘Japanese Hotel’ . . . ” This letter, followed by her visit to the city shortly after, was catalysis to one of my most important contacts. In late July 2006 , after returning home from their trip to Harbin, Nurit and her husband Itzik Eshtein, linked me with her cousin Mrs. Irene Clurman of Colorado USA, who “has documents in Russian and maybe in Chinese which indicate that my grandfather was murdered in Harbin. ”

My continuous contact with Irene Clurman and her husband Vince Prichard has proved to be one of the most rewarding and fruitful relationships ever established. Irene was the first person to provide tangible documents, transcripts, and other evidences to the life of Jewish families in Harbin, and to the life (and death) of members of the community under the Japanese cruel occupation of the city in particular. Being a journalist herself, Irene Clurman understands perfectly well the difference between historical reality and nostalgic memories. Her donation of family documents and photographs has enriched the archives of the Sino-Israel Research and Study Center at the Heilongjiang University’s School of Western Studies. Her many letters, documentations and interpretations have been proven to be most valuable indeed. Irene Clurman and Vince Prichard undertook also a painstaking task of creating a special web site commemorating her family experience as well as that of the Jewish community of Harbin. The web site, <http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/harbin/index.htm>, opened a new window to the past and a host of op-

portunities for contacts with Harbiners or their descendants from around the globe. I owe her my greatest debt.

That “window of opportunities” gave rise to my continuing relationship with Paul E. Kerson and his wife Marleen Kassel, of New York. In an April 2007 letter from Paul he wrote: “Sixteen productive American citizens now exist because the Harbin Jewish Community and Chinese City of Harbin took my grandfather Sol under its wing in 1915, and somehow helped him into a rowboat and on to Japan and the USA.”

In July of 2007 Paul and Marleen Kerson came to Harbin, bringing original documents and donating them to the Research Center. While in Harbin, they visited every Jewish site while offering their learned observations. One of the highlights of their journey was their meeting with my students and faculty research fellows in our Research Center at the university. In Paul’s words; “. . . I stood before the students at Heilongjiang University. . . thanking their great-grandparents for getting Sol into that rowboat in the Sea of Japan in 1916. I gave them my five minute summary of Jewish history. . . and I thanked them again for that unknown Chinese man in the rowboat with the salami, black bread and bottle of vodka who got Sol and three of his friends across the Sea of Japan in 1916. . . you should have heard the carrying-on. There were questions. There was a standing ovation. There were dozens of photographs. There was a dinner with Dean Yin Tiechao. . . and the President of the University, Zhang Zheng Wen. . . and representatives of the students who work on research at the Center. Shortly after Paul and Marleen Kerson returned to New York, they established a fund raising organization on behalf of “The American Friends of the Sino-Israel Research and Study Center at Hei-

longjiang University, School of Western Studies.”

Paul E. Kerson is a lawyer and as such he has an extremely creative mind and a sense of direction. His knowledge and observations, provocative questions, as well as his guide and course of pursue, have proved invaluable to me. I must thank his friend, Mark Cohen, of the American Embassy in Beijing, who gave him my e-mail address.

I owe many thanks and profound gratitude to Sabine Breuillard of Paris, France. With her endless sense of duty and persistence she was able to get original documents and shade a new light on the Kasper Affair.

Special thanks to Dr. Jonathan Goldstein, a professor of history at the State University of West Georgia, USA, whose research and knowledge of the Jews of Harbin is of the most extensive ones. His constant questionings and ever growing hunger for facts have helped form my own course.

Special thanks to Mara Moustafine who lives in Australia. She was born in Harbin to the Zaretzki family. Mara's pursue of her family fate in Harbin and later in the USSR, resulted in the publication of 'Secrets and Spies: The Harbin Files', an invaluable factual account of her family life in Harbin under anti-Semitism of the White Russians, Japanese occupation, and Soviet purges.

My gratitude to Dr. David Wolff, author of the important study 'To the Harbin Station: The Liberal Alternative in Russian Manchuria, 1898 - 1914', who brought illuminating light to Harbin's birth and development. David was the last person to enter the Jewish Archives of Harbin years ago. His book as well as his personal testimony were invaluable to

me.

My thanks to Mrs. Su Ling, an investigative reporter for Southern Metropolis Magazine in Guangzhou, China. She proved that Chinese journalists are in par with those in the “Western world”.

There are many persons whom I must recognize for offering information: Mr. Theodore (Ted) Orosz of Valley Stream, New York, USA, whose curiosity of the past brought him to Harbin. Mr. Michael Bloom of San Francisco USA, whose wife’s father was Prof. Boris Bresler. Boris was born in Harbin and immigrated to the US in 1937 to attend UC Berkeley. Boris’s parents, as well as his father’s parents, were born and raised in Odessa. The Breslers and Irene Clurman’s parents were good friends post-Harbin. Mrs. Shirley Fish of Chicago USA. Mrs. Bonnie Galat of Washington DC. Dorik and Tamara Rozanski of New Jersey USA. Mr. Yale Strom—American film director, composer, musician, writer and photographer, who speaks fluent Yiddish and who produced and directed a film on the Jewish community of Birobijian, and has shown interest in Harbin’s Jewish musicians. Mr. Archie Ossin of Florida USA, a member of the Ossinovsky/Berdakin/Skidelsky family who offered his family-tree and other documents. Mr. Wayne Mellon, of the USA who has been looking for resources regarding the Jewish community of Harbin. His mother (maiden name Polansky), grandmother (maiden name Cantor), and great grandmother were all born in or near Harbin. He believe that his “great grandmother was interred in a Japanese concentration camp.” To W. Z. Robinson, who saw Harbin’s past as “A haven in troubled times”. And to Dr. Zvia Bowman of King’s College, University of London, whose paper and observations of the “Fate of Har-

bin Jewish Community under Japanese Occupation, 1931 – 1945” were so helpful.

My profound thanks and gratitude goes to Dr. Frank Gruener and Ines Prodoehl of the University of Heidelberg’s Cluster of Excellence—Zentrum für Europäische Geschichts- und Kulturwissenschaften ( ZEGK )—Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Seminar für Osteuropäische Geschichte. Together with Prof. Dr. Heinze-Dietrich Lowe, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Director of the Institute of East European History at the University of Heidelberg in Germany, they provided a most important academic voyage into Harbin’s history by creating an international group of scholars who participate in a research program titled “Ethnic Ghettos and Transcultural Processes in a Globalized City—New Research on Harbin”.

The Heidelberg Conference that took place in April 2008 was devoted to what was described as “communities in conflict; The Harbin Case”. It assembled international group of scholars whose works concern Harbin. Each and every person who participated in the April 2008 workshop contributed to my better understanding of the complexity of Harbin as an international city, and to intricate relations between her cultural and ethnic communities. Their papers and fresh observations gave rise to revisions in my original writing. Among the scholars present there were: Professor Dr. Heinz-Dietrich Lowe, Dr. Frank Gruener; and Ines Prodoehl of the Department of History, Centre for European History and Culture—University of Heidelberg, Germany; Professor Dr. Mariko Asano Tamanoi, Department of Anthropology, The University of California, Los Angeles, USA; Cornelia Knab, University of Heidelberg, Germany;

Manja Altenburg, University of Heidelberg, Germany; Dr. Mark Gamsa, Department of East Asian Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Tel Aviv University, Israel; Professor James Carter, Department of History, Saint Joseph University, Philadelphia, USA; Dr. Elena Aurilene, Far-Eastern University of Humanities, Chabarovsk, Russia; Kilian P. Schultes, Research Fellow, University of Heidelberg, Germany; Professor Olga Bakich, University of Toronto, Canada; Kerstin Isaak, Sinologin, University of Heidelberg/Leipzig, Germany; Dr. Irena Vladimirska, Achva College, Tel Aviv, Israel; Professor Victoria V. Romanova, Vice-Rector, Far-Eastern University of Humanities, Chabarovsk, Russia; Professor Maria Krotova, St. Petersburg State University of Economic and Finance, Russia; Professor Gerhard Krebs, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany; Professor Dr. Rudolf G. Wagner, Acting Director Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe".

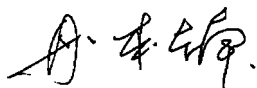
I extend special thanks to Mr. Sun Han, my former student and now a teacher at the university, who first translated the writing into Chinese, and to the following postgraduate students: Zhang Li, Sun Jin, Huo Ran, Tang Jiannan, Wang Yanzi, Huang Lida, Song Lili, Xu Hongting of the School of Western Studies who continued and refined the translation under the guide and expertise of Prof. Yin Tiechao. My appreciation and gratitude goes also to my students and research assistants Liu Haibo, Long Min, He Yiqiu, and Qiao Lulu, who have contributed their precious personal time and spent many hours in searching for information, translating documents, arranging interviews with officials, sending letters, and organizing volumes of materials. They, along with all of my past and present students, have been my true teachers.



My utmost appreciation to the late Israel Epstein and to his surviving wife Wanbi Huang Epstein. I befriended Eppy, a Chinese intellectual, journalist and author, in his later years and came to appreciate his tremendous contributions to China in her different stages. I once complained to him of my poor holding of the Chinese language. He replied by saying: "Do not worry about it. . . I know many Westerners who speak almost perfect Chinese but know nothing about China." Wanbi Huang Epstein has remained a dear friend until this very day.

The work on this book, the search for and the explanation of evidences, giving meaning to the daily life, and to the understanding of Harbin as a cluster of communities, were not possible without the important contribution made by every person mentioned here.

Finally, I owe my greatest, immeasurable and preeminent debt to Liang Yisha, my friend, companion, teacher, guide, counselor and critic, who is my wife and whole. A brilliant woman of all seasons, and China in all her senses and ways.



*DBC*

*June 2008. Harbin,*

*China.*