

Mira Mayer

**WOMEN AND JEW TRADITIONS IN THE ARIE FAMILY FROM 1768
TILL NOWADAYS**

(Summary)

The chronicle of Arie family was completed by Chelebi Moshe Avraam Arie the second up to year 1900. It describes the life of one of the richest Jewish families in the Ottoman Empire. However, Arie are a family-symbol not for their money, but for their contribution for the advance in many fields - they founded the first “saraf” (money-changer) and banker houses, developed industry - they started to obtain metals (iron) from ores around Samokov, traded extensively with foreign lands. In Jewish tradition business is a men affair. Women need not be even literate. What did the tender half of the Arie family do during XVIII and XIX century and even today? Did they conform to the rules that didn't allow them to read prayers at services in the synagogues and or even count them for the necessary quorum? If they became widows did they limit themselves only to the dowries they brought to the marriage or did they try to earn even with hard work - like scrubbing wooden floors with brushes? Did their wealth make them enterprising or irresolute? Support and adornment in the family, Arie's women accept their fate without grumble and despair. Whatever their fate, their life-mission was to live for the family, to be educated, not to conform, but to fight the habits that impede them.