

Before immigrating to Palestine in 1908, in the early years of the twentieth century Arthur Ruppin was director of the Berlin *Verein für jüdische Statistik* (Society for Jewish Statistics). Sent to Palestine by the World Zionist Organization (WZO) in 1907 to investigate settlement possibilities, Ruppin established WZO's Palestine Office in Jaffa in 1908 and the Palestine Land Development Company in 1909. He was an influential member in a number of the Zionist movement's infrastructural organizations during the Mandate, from educational and banking institutions to the Mekorot water company, the Jewish National Fund (*Keren Kayemet l'Israel*, JNF), the kibbutz movement and the *Histadrut* workers' union.²⁰² His importance to the work of Zionist settlement in Palestine cannot be underestimated. "Ruppin's abilities and achievements made him, within a short time, the [Zionist] movement's 'primus inter pares' expert in all matters connected with Palestine Consequently...the frontiers of the Jewish state in the first Partition Proposal of the *Royal (Peel) Commission* in 1937 as well as the subsequent one of the *United Nations Special Commission in Palestine* just a decade later, in 1947, actually followed what Ruppin had prepared when he began his activities in Palestine... ." ²⁰³

Abraham Granott (Granovsky) was born in 1890 in Folesti, today part of Romania. He became head of the (JNF) in 1919 and settled in Jerusalem in 1922, when the JNF head

²⁰² Etan Bloom, *Arthur Ruppin and the Production of Pre-Israeli Culture* (Leiden: Brill, 2012), 1-2; Arieh Tartakower, "Arthur Ruppin (1876-1943)", *Jewish Social Studies*, 5/1 (Jan. 1943), 89-90.

²⁰³ Bloom, 3-4.