

For close on half a century, the much-loved husband and wife team of **Elias** and **Hennie Kopelowitz** was at the heart of Jewish communal, religious and cultural life in Livingstone. Born in the Kurland area of modern-day Latvia in 1892, Elias arrived in Livingstone at the age of 21 and established a successful wholesale business, supplying goods to independent white and Asian traders and African hawkers throughout Barotseland and the Southern Province. On a return visit to Latvia, he met and married Henne (Hennie) Ilion, who came from a rabbinical family in Libau and who was to play an important role in the development of the Livingstone Hebrew Congregation.

The Kopelowitz home was a hub of intellectual and cultural activity, and over the years received a string of visitors of international renown, including Chaim Weizmann, Golda Meir, Field-Marshal Edmund Allenby, Nahum Sokolow and Ze'ev Jabotinsky. Elias was a leading figure in the Zionist movement in Zambia, and at various times served as president of the Herzl Zionist Society, as well as of the Congregation. Together with Hennie, he worked tirelessly to help ensure the continued viability of Jewish communal institutions throughout the country.

In addition to his Jewish communal activities, Elias was much involved in the economic growth of Livingstone and surrounding districts, including serving for many years on the Chamber of Commerce. He was a generous supporter of local charities and included within his circle of friends future Prime Minister Kenneth Kaunda.



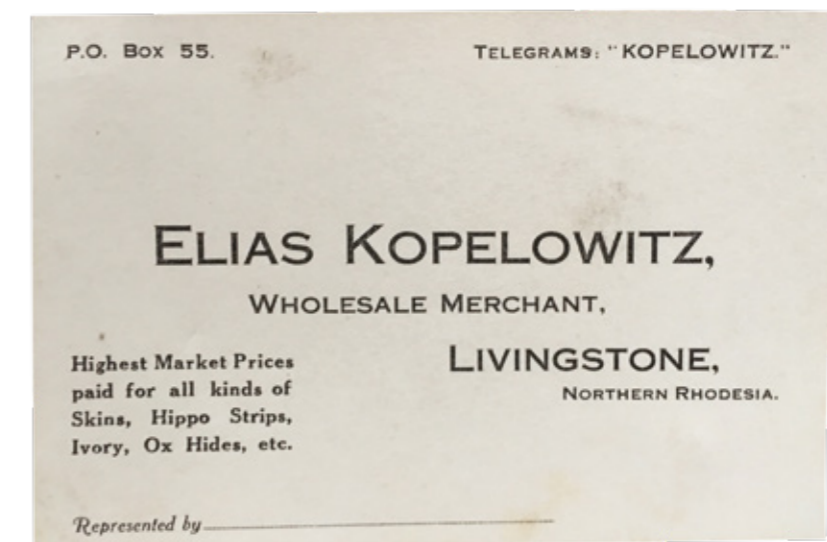
Kopelowitz Shop



Elias Kopelowitz Hardware Store



Kopelowitz family



Business Card of Elias Kopelowitz