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LESSER URY GREAT JEWISH PAINTER DIES WITHIN FEW WEEKS OF HIS SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY: FRIENDS WERE ARRANGING TO CELEBRATE OCCASION AND BERLIN NATIONAL GALLERY WAS ORGANISING BIG LESSER URY EXHIBITION TO OPEN ON BIRTHDAY.

Berlin, Oct. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The death took place at his home here to-day of Lesser Ury, one of the greatest painters of the day and of modern Germany, regarded by many as second only to the doyen of German art, himself a Jew, Professor Max Liebermann, the President of the Berlin Academy of Art, who celebrated his 84th. birthday in July.

Lesser Ury was within a couple of weeks of his 70th. birthday, which would have occurred on Saturday, November 7th. Preparations were started several months back by a number of his friends and admirers to celebrate the occasion in a suitable manner, and the Director of the National Gallery in Berlin, Privy Councillor Dr. Ludwig Justi, early in July announced that he was arranging a big one-man exhibition of Lesser Ury's works in the National Gallery to open on his 70th. birthday. In addition to a number of his paintings which are in the possession of the National Gallery, Dr. Justi was negotiating for the loan of his most important works which are in private collections, so that the exhibition would be, as he said, "representative of the great painter who has played a notable part in the history of the development of modern German painting".

Lesser Ury, who was born in 1861, in the town of Birnbaum, in the Province of Posen, when it was still part of Germany, had a long struggle with poverty before he won recognition, and even after he had become famous he was a poor man. His father, a small trader in Birnbaum, died while Lesser Ury was a boy, leaving him and his mother totally unprovided for. At first Lesser Ury was put by his mother into a shop, with the intention of becoming a trader, but he was a bad businessman and he wanted to become a painter. He went to Duesseldorf, Munich, Berlin and Paris, and despite much material hardship he slowly won recognition. Nevertheless, though a success from the artistic and the press point of view, his first exhibition held in 1889 brought him very little money. It was soon after, however, that he won the Michael Beer prize of the Berlin Academy of Art, which sent him to Italy. His first retrospective exhibition held in Berlin in 1916 established his fame as one of the great artists of Germany. Like Liebermann, an impressionist, his works are among the earliest and best examples of impressionism in Germany. The National Gallery in Berlin acquired three of his paintings in 1923, and the number has been added to since. His colour has been described as masterly and he has been called the most important pastel artist of the twentieth century.

His Jewish And Biblical Subjects.

He made his name chiefly by his paintings of city life and scenes, and in this regard he was called the discoverer of Berlin. He devoted himself, one of his admirers, Dr. Israel Auerbach has written, to painting the animation in the streets, the people rushing backwards and forwards, the endlessness of the lines of trees and houses, the street-cars, the wheels moving, the sparkle of the cafes, the shining pearl chains formed by the electric arc lamps, the mirror-like rainy streets, the dimness of night lights and shadows, the entire wild, shrill and yet rhythmic swing of the life of the big city, pounding, breathing and rotating in his pictures.

At the same time, he was devoted also to his Judaism, and he was constantly painting pictures of Jewish life and Biblical themes. Lesser Ury is a Jewish artist, Dr. Auerbach wrote, not only because he sometimes paints Jewish types, scenes, legends, but also because he is a great artist in whom Judaism lives. The Judaism in him makes itself known by the fact that we can read him more clearly in his creations of Jewish characters than in anything else. It is no accident that Ury chose Biblical motives to express his innermost thoughts. He is devoted to the Book of Books and to the breath of God that is in it, as well as to the mighty moving throng that live in that breath. He has painted Moses at least half a dozen times: drunk with vision before the shining mountain; in repose, with wise fingers pointing to the Words; in divine scorn, breaking the first tablets before the sinners surrounding the golden calf; as the outstretched arm of God punishing the corrupt world of Egypt. Again and again Moses, the Bible, and scenes showing the fate of his people appear in Ury's work. His most famous work perhaps is his triptych "Man", which represents first a dreaming youth, whose heaven and life are full of music, whose body and soul are filled with expectations and certainty, next a titanic man of granite, erect, lifting the whole burden of humanity to the heaven that calls and again rejects him, and finally a broken old man waiting for the end to come. So he portrays himself - Lesser Ury, the man and the artist.

His "Jerusalem" has become the property of the State Museum in Vienna, Dr. Auerbach went on, and the Temple of the B'nai B'rith House in Berlin is adorned with his "Jacob and Esau", and his "Rebecca and Eliezer". But gigantic paintings such as "Adam and Eve", "The Deluge", "Man", even the exalted "Jeremiah", that should belong to the world, he complained, are still in his studio.

Despite his fame, buyers have not been many, particularly in recent years, with the economic conditions in Germany so extremely difficult. He was once forced, Dr. Auerbach relates, to destroy one of his paintings, "Benjamin", because it was too big for his poor studio, and he was too poverty-stricken to place it anywhere. He lives, dreams and talks with his pictures, which are his very flesh and blood, he continued, but material poverty often makes him grieve. It is a disgrace for us Jews, his own people, he wrote to allow his pictures to remain in his studio. In the meantime, he concluded, picturing Lesser Ury in the last few years before his death, "a lonely man, embittered, and often in the mood of his "Samson" -- "Tamuth Nafshi in Pelishim", sits surrounded by his enormous treasure. And on the other hand, the Jewish people, whom he would like to enrich, but who prefer not to recognise his treasure, remain poor".

ADOLF STERN PIONEER AND CHAMPION OF JEWISH EMANCIPATION IN  
ROUMANIA DIES WITHIN MONTH OF HIS 83RD. BIRTHDAY:  
REPRESENTED JEWS AT HISTORIC BERLIN CONGRESS WHERE JEWISH  
RIGHTS WERE RECOGNISED: WAS FOUNDER AND FIRST PRESIDENT  
OF UNION OF ROUMANIAN JEWS: WAS DESCRIBED BY LUCIEN WOLF  
AS EXAMPLE AND INSPIRATION TO JEWS THROUGHOUT WORLD.

Bucharest, Oct. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The death took place here to-day of Dr. Adolf Stern, former member of the Roumanian Parliament and founder and first President of the Union of Roumanian Jews, of which he was Honorary President since his retirement on account of age, in favour of ex-Deputy Filderman, the present President.

Born in Bucharest on November 17th., 1848, he was within less than a month of his 83rd. birthday. At the age of 18, after graduating from the Bucharest Lyceum, he entered Berlin University, proceeding afterwards to Leipzig, where he took his doctorate of law, when he was 21. On returning to Roumania he was refused admission to the bar because as a Jew he was classed as an "alien". He decided to leave Roumania and live abroad, but Benjamin Franklin Peixotto, an American Jew, who had come to Roumania as American Consul, offered him the post of secretary, and Dr. Stern entered the Consulate, as Peixotto's Councillor, and was later appointed Vice-Consul of the United States. When Peixotto left Roumania in 1875, Dr. Stern became the Consular Agent for America.

Together with Peixotto Dr. Stern founded the Zion Brotherhood, on the lines of the Independent Order B'nai B'rith, and later the Brotherhood developed into the Roumanian B'nai B'rith, of which he was for many years Grand President. He was awarded the Gold Medal of the Order B'nai B'rith for eminent services on behalf of the Roumanian Jews, being the second recipient of the medal, the first being ex-President Taft of the United States.

Dr. Stern was from the beginning an active fighter for the cause of Jewish emancipation in Roumania, and when the historic Berlin Congress was held in 1878, with Disraeli and Bismarck as its dominating figures, he was present as the representative of Roumanian Jewry, and did a great deal to influence Disraeli, M. Waddington, the French representative, and other delegates, to take up the cause of the Roumanian Jews and to secure the adoption of the Berlin Settlement, which states that "hereafter in Roumania difference of faith shall keep no one from acquiring civil and public rights". The question of the emancipation of the Roumanian Jews was thought to be settled with that, and one effect of the provision was the naturalisation of Jews. Dr. Stern himself was naturalised in 1880, and opened a law office in Bucharest. He encountered great difficulties, however, as the first Jewish lawyer in Bucharest, and he describes these in his memoirs. Nevertheless, he made a big reputation as a lawyer, and he also published a number of annotated law books, which became known as "The Code Stern".

He continued his efforts to obtain complete emancipation for the Jews of Roumania, not only on paper, and he conducted a campaign against the Jewish persecution in the country, on account of which he had to leave Roumania in 1894 to escape an attack organised against him by the Roumanian students. A proposition was made to exclude him from the practice of the law, but this was defeated in Parliament by a small majority. As the antisemitic laws increased and made life unbearable for the Jews, Dr. Stern saw the need for a purely political organisation, and in 1909 he founded the Union of Roumanian Jews. In 1915 he secured the interest of

the late Luigi Luzzatti, the Jewish Prime Minister of Italy, for the protection of the Roumanian Jews, and in 1916 he went to Italy at Luzzatti's invitation, and stayed there until the signing of the peace. On returning to Roumania he was elected a member of Parliament.

Dr. Stern also made a big reputation for himself as an author. In addition to his memoirs, he published a number of books, and he translated Shakespeare into Roumanian and he also translated some of the Roumanian writers into German.

The late Mr. Lucien Wolf, who was in Bucharest in 1924, speaking at a gathering arranged in honour of Dr. Stern by the Roumanian B'nai B'rith, at which a marble bust of him was unveiled, said, in conveying the greetings of the Anglo-Jewish Community, that Dr. Stern had been an example and an inspiration to the Jews throughout the world.

In recent years, Dr. Stern, who continued, despite his advanced age, to follow political and Jewish developments with close interest, became attached to the Zionist movement, and when the Jewish National Party of Roumania was formed he became its Honorary President. His son, Dr. Stern, is the Secretary of the Party and was one of its candidates at the last Parliamentary elections in May.

DEATH OF GEORG ENGELS JEWISH NOVELIST WHO WAS PRESIDENT OF  
GERMAN ASSOCIATION OF AUTHORS: WAS PRAISED BY PRESIDENT  
HINDENBURG FOR HIS ENRICHMENT OF GERMAN LITERATURE.

Berlin, Oct. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The death occurred here to-day of the famous novelist, Georg Engel. He would have reached his 65th. birthday on Thursday, the 29th. inst.

Georg Engel was born at Greifswald, and when he came to Berlin he joined the staff of the "Berliner Tageblatt" as literary critic. He wrote a great many plays, novels, and short stories describing chiefly the life of the fisherfolk of Pomerania. One of his plays, "Across the Waters", which was produced in 1901, was the success of the season, and his novel "Fann Klueth, the Philosopher" has run into more than 50 editions. His novels, the "Folk of Moorluke", and his sea novel "Klaus Stortebecker" have also been very successful. He wrote, too, a number of Jewish books, and notably a Biblical drama "Hadassah".

He was President for many years of the Association of German Authors.

When he celebrated his 60th. birthday five years ago, the President of the Republic, Field-Marshal von Hindenburg sent him a telegram of congratulation, expressing "the gratitude of the German people for the many works of art rooted in German soil and culture with which you have enriched German literature."

He also received messages from the German Federal Government, the Prussian Government, the President of the Reichstag, the Lord Mayor of Berlin and from the representatives of many organisations. The Association of German Authors gave a banquet in honour of their President, and the chief speaker was the Minister of Education, Professor Dr. Becker. The Lord Mayor of Berlin also spoke, and the Lord Mayor of Greifswald, where Engel was born, announced at the banquet that the Town Council of Greifswald had placed a marble slab on the front of the house in which Engel was born.

DEATH OF 82 YEAR OLD POLISH RABBI.

Warsaw, Oct. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Rabbi Leib Walfisch, the founder and for 63 years the head of the Warsaw Chevra Shass, died here to-day at the age of 82. He was the author of many Talmudic works.

SAVE THE JEWISH WELFARE INSTITUTIONS OF POLAND: MEETING OF SELF-HELP COMMITTEE IN WARSAW HEARS REPORT OF SLOW-GOING IN AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION FUND CAMPAIGN AND RESOLVES TO MAKE EFFORTS TO RAISE MORE FUNDS AMONG POLISH JEWRY.

Warsaw, Oct. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Save the Jewish social and welfare institutions, was the motto of a big gathering of Jewish social workers held here to-day in the headquarters of the B'nai B'rith, under the auspices of the United Jewish Committee for Upbuilding and Self-Help, comprising the O.R.T., the Toz, the Jewish Emigration Society and other Jewish Welfare Organisations.

Professor Rabbi Dr. Schorr, the Chairman of the Committee, presided, and Dr. L. Neustadt, the representative of the Joint Distribution Committee of America, presented a report showing on the basis of the figures that the campaign for funds now being conducted in America by the Joint Distribution Committee is making very slow progress, and urged that the Jews of Poland should therefore adopt a more intensive self-help policy to try to raise the funds required among Polish Jewry itself.

After Dr. Gershon Levin, the Chairman of the Toz, Mr. J. Baumberg, representative of the Polish O.R.T., and others had spoken, the meeting adopted a resolution to intensify the self-help activity among all sections of the Jewish population in order to save the important Jewish organisations affiliated to the Rescue Committee.

POOL OF WORK: DISCUSSION ON BEST METHOD OF PROVIDING RELIEF FOR STRICKEN JEWISH POPULATION OF WARSAW.

Warsaw, Oct. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Rabbi Professor Schorr presided yesterday at an urgent meeting of the Jewish Rescue Committee held here to consider what action to take in connection with the Government scheme for providing relief for the unemployed and starving population, in so far as it affects the Jewish section of the population. The President of the Rescue Committee, M. Denbrun, reported on the negotiations with the Government Commissariat, explaining that before the Government decides what part of the relief funds are to go for the Jewish relief work, it wants the Jewish Rescue Committee to supply complete figures giving the numbers of the distressed Jews in Warsaw.

M. Giterman objected that issuing food parcels, or providing meals for the hungry Jews would not solve the problem. The Jewish merchant or artisan who had lost his means of livelihood was anxious not to let the whole world know of his plight and he would not easily be persuaded to show himself in public kitchens to receive public charity. Nor was it the best way to provide meals for the children in the schools. The poorer children would be humiliated in the presence of the other children. He urged that the relief activity among the Jews should be rather of a productive character. The money received from the Government should go to providing credits for the victims of the crisis to help them to become again self-supporting.

M. Apenshiak objected that there was no time now for such wide-reaching constructive work, at a time when people were starving. Dr. Bychowski objected to food parcels, suggesting that some people would be found who would sell the parcels and start a regular trade in them. The only way was to feed the needy in the food kitchens. The Rescue Committee finally decided to ask the Jewish Community and the Jewish Merchants' Federation to collaborate with it in the work.

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