

from NEAR and FAR BY BEN DOR

Invaluable Washington Prints

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S birthday brought the Library of Congress in Washington an angel in the person of L. M. Rabinowitz, of New York.

Not long before the anniversary "like a bolt from the blue," according to the library, Mr. Rabinowitz offered them an extensive collection of 1,750 prints relating to George Washington. Unacquainted with the unknown donor, but eager for the collection, the library sent a special emissary to New York to see him. Over the lunch table it came out that Rabinowitz was a business man who, for a number of years, had been acquiring valuable collections of incunabula (books printed before 1501) and Italian paintings, which he bestowed upon Yale University. The Washington collection of engravings, lithographs and etchings was also to be given to Yale. Since the University does not have facilities for print collections, they suggested that the Library of Congress might be interested.

Who Has The Smallest Bible?

A COLUMNIST in a London newspaper writes of the finding in South Africa by Rev. Shalom Coleman of what he claimed to be the smallest Hebrew Bible

in the world (reported recently in these columns). He says that Mr. Sol Hertzberg, of London, hearing of this discovery came to see him and from his watch-chain he unbuckled a miniature silver case, with a magnifying glass in the centre, and from it he took out a little book, saying: "This contains the whole of the Old Testament in Hebrew."

Its measurements are smaller than the Bible discovered by Rev. Coleman, being 13/16th inches long, 13/16th of an inch broad and 5/16th of an inch thick.

All the books of the Old Testament are contained in the 605 pages of this Bible and with the use of the magnifying glass it is quite easy to read the script. Mr. Hertzberg has carried the book attached to his watch-chain ever since it was given to him 45 years ago in Poland, but it is wonderfully well preserved. The book was published by Mr. M. Scholtz in Warsaw. The columnist asks if it is possible that someone has an even smaller Bible.

Foregoes Party



NATHAN BENYISHAI, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Benyishai, who are well-known members of the Bulawayo community, has decided to forego his barmitzvah party and to offer the cost to the Palestine Special Emergency Fund. The barmitzvah will take place on March 26.

"Composers In America"

"Composers in America" by Claire R. Reis, published by Mac-Millan, is a who's who of American music, giving complete data on the compositions, published and in manuscript by each of the 350 composers listed in the volume.

Biographies of Joseph Achron, Abraham Wolfe Binder (known for his Jewish liturgical music), Ernest Bloch, Leonard Bernstein and Efrem Zimbalist are included. Mrs. Reis emphasises the contribution made by foreign-born composers living in the U.S.A. to the growth of musical activity. American cultural life has been enriched by these Europeans and therefore a record of the works of foreign-born composers is included in the book in order to give an accurate picture of music in the U.S.A.

First Non-Sectarian Medical School

NEW YORK, Tuesday.—The first non-sectarian medical school under Jewish auspices will be established by Yeshiva University, it was announced here at a dinner of the Society for the Advancement of Pre-Medical Sciences at Yeshiva University, attended by some 450 persons.

Dr. Elihu Katz, chairman of the Society, said that the first objective of the organisation was to enroll 100,000 members to raise 7,500,000 dollars for the University's academic and physical expansion programme. When sufficient funds are available a medical school will be established. Speakers at the dinner included Under-Secretary of State David A. Morse, Judge Jonah Goldstein, and Dr. Horace Kallen, of the New School for Social Research.

Jorda's Success

The new conductor of the Cape Town Municipal Orchestra, Mr. Enrique Jorda, has been acclaimed by music-lovers in the Cape Peninsula as inspiring and sensational.

Although Mr. Jorda has only recently arrived in the Mother City, three young women, well known in the Jewish community there, have already appeared under his baton. They are all pianistes.

Miss Rachel Rabinowitz, who is a regular performer for concerts in aid of charity and Zionist funds, played with the Orchestra at a special concert in aid of the St. John Ambulance Association, and gave a very satisfying performance, which won her tribute in the Cape Town press.

Miss Sylvia Schulman was the soloist under the conductorship of Mr. Jorda at one of the popular Sunday evening concerts, and her performance was described by the "Cape Times" music critic as "sincere and thoughtful". He also referred to her "unaffected simplicity and straightforward approach".

The third pianiste, Miss Joyce Kadish, played with the Orchestra in a programme broadcast from the Cape Town studio of the S.A.B.C.

Mr. Jorda's advent has been greeted with such enthusiasm that long queues have been forming to book for each performance of the Orchestra, and it will be some time before all those who wish to hear him will have the opportunity to do so.

Wedding Anniversaries

Two wedding anniversaries were celebrated in Port Elizabeth recently, the names of the happy couples being inscribed in the Golden Book by friends and relatives in recognition of their work for Zionism.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Zartz celebrated their 25th anniversary and Mr. and Mrs. J. Schewitz their 20th anniversary.

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Levi, whose given name translated as Marcus and collapsed into Marx became the family name.
The name Markovitz enjoys fabulous popularity among non-Jews in the Balkans. There are dozens of villages in Yugoslavia, where every inhabitant's family name is Markovitz. To distinguish between them the Government has to number them from Markovitz 1 to Markovitz 500. But their name is, of course, not derived from any ancestor named Mordechai. They are all named after the legendary king of Serbia, whose name was Marko and whom folksong and fable have exalted to fabulous heroism. The Serbs believe that Marko lived to the age of 300.