

Mr. Morris Hoffman of De Aar Passes

Death of Noted Literary Figure

THE death occurred on Monday in Cape Town of Mr. Morris D. Hoffman, of De Aar. He had been ill for several months.

The passing of Morris Hoffman will be deeply regretted by a large circle of friends and admirers and also by Zionist workers throughout the country. The deceased came to South Africa some thirty years ago. He was already in those days known as a valuable contributor to the *Hatzefirah*, the foremost Hebrew paper of that period, and to a number of the then existing Yiddish newspapers. There was no scope in South Africa for his particular literary talents, and for many years he devoted himself to business and built up for himself a name in the commercial world. He always took a keen interest in the communities in which he resided and there can be no doubt that he will be deeply missed in De Aar, where he had lived for a long time.

From the early days of the Zionist movement, Morris Hoffman threw himself heart and soul into the work and was one of the keenest pioneer Zionists in this country.

His chief claim to fame, however, was undoubtedly his literary work, for he was well known as a poet of talent, many of his verses appearing in publications in South Africa and many other countries.

In 1935 he published his first book entitled "Wolgungs Klängen" (Wandering Echoes), a collection of his Yiddish essays and verses. The volume was highly welcomed in literary circles and received eulogistic reviews. The volume also called for a letter of praise from Nahum Sokolow, who declared that Morris Hoffman had revealed himself as a poet of merit. Mr. Sokolow also entrusted Mr. Hoffman with the translation of one of his own long Hebrew poems into the Yiddish vernacular.

From time to time, the late Mr. Hoffman used to issue Yiddish publications of a humorous character and throughout his life he was known to encourage every form of Jewish literary endeavour. All struggling poets, writers and artists had in him a friend whose sympathy was not only of a verbal character but also of a practical nature.



The late Mr. M. D. Hoffman.

In the passing of Morris Hoffman the Jewish community of South Africa has lost one of its most lovable personalities. He was a man of kindly disposition, popular and beloved by all who came in contact with him. Although he lived in a small place, he was in touch mentally with the whole of the Jewish world. His home in De Aar—presided over by his wife, Sonia—was indeed an ideal Jewish centre in which all were made thoroughly welcome.

Morris Hoffman was a man who loved and served his own people. His memory will be kept green for many a year by those who had the privilege of knowing him.

D.

Memorial Meeting in Johannesburg.

Arrangements are being made for the holding of a Memorial meeting for the late Mr. Morris D. Hoffman. This will be held at the Coronation Hall on Sunday, April 7, at 8.15 p.m. Addresses will be given by Messrs. B. Padowich, I. S. Yudelowitz, and Mr. J. Rubik. Haskarah will be intoned by Cantor I. Alter. The Jewish public is cordially invited to attend.

S.A. FRIENDS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY

Farewell to Dr. W. J. Fischel

On Thursday, April 11, at 5 p.m. a function will be held at the Langham Hotel in Johannesburg, to bid farewell to Dr. W. J. Fischel on his departure from South Africa, after his arduous activities on behalf of the Hebrew University.

The function will coincide with the fifteenth anniversary of the opening of the Hebrew University, and the Hon. Mr. Justice L. Greenberg, Judge-President of the Transvaal, will preside, and a number of appropriate addresses on the significance of the occasion will be made.

HUBERMAN'S FIRST CONCERT ON 21st APRIL

Bronislaw Huberman, the famous Polish violinist, who is now on a tour of the Union, will give his first recital in Johannesburg at the Colosseum Theatre, on Sunday, April 21.

Huberman never emphasises individual parts at the expense of the whole. His playing is the playing of a man who has no longer any need to assert himself. His tone has a rare intensity and his audiences are never conscious of the appeal of the great virtuoso. His technique is placed at the disposal of the composer and critics have expressed the opinion that no other violinist of the present day shares his musical instinct, his feeling for the logic of a great composer's argument.

Huberman does not set out merely to allure impressionable senses, but he plays with a depth of feeling which temporarily elevates merely charming strains to a meditation of nobility. Doris Roubakine, a well-known European concert pianist, will be Huberman's accompanist.

A COMPETITION

The competition organised by the Benoni Women's Zionist League has been won by Mr. M. E. Lurie, of Benoni. The prize is a washing machine.

A PART-TIME JEWISH CHAPLAIN

Appointment of Rabbi W. Hirsch, B.A.

We understand that the Jewish Board of Deputies has received an official intimation from the Voortrekker Hoogte Transvaal Command that Rabbi Wolf Hirsch, B.A., is to be appointed a part-time Jewish Chaplain to the forces and that the necessary arrangements have been made for Jewish members of the forces to be exempted from services over the 23rd and 24th instant.

SHIRLEY TEMPLE AT NEW CENTURY THEATRE

Shirley Temple appears in technicolour for the first time in 20th Century Fox's super, "The Little Princess" which commences at the "20th Century" Theatre to-day, Friday. Of special interest to South Africa is the fact that two of our own stars appear in the film, which in itself has a strong South African flavour.

The two stars are Sybil Jason, the little Cape Town girl, and Ian Hunter. Shirley and Sybil became close friends as a result of "The Little Princess," and they played together frequently off the set.

Shirley Temple is cast as a little girl whose father goes to Mafeking, and is reported dead before the town is relieved. Actually he survives and her efforts to trace him, handicapped as she is by a hardened school headmistress, gives Shirley a fine vehicle for her great acting.

Sybil Jason plays the part of Becky, a poor little girl at the same school, who befriends Shirley. The film was produced by Darryl F. Zanuck and is the greatest picture Shirley Temple has ever played in. In the United States, "The Little Princess" broke box-office records.

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