

JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL

The preparations for the Book Festival at the Duncan Hall are in hand. Numerous individuals offered their books and manuscripts as a loan to the organiser for the Book Festival.

The Berea Hebrew Congregation allowed the loan of a number of Hebrew books in their possession. It is to be hoped that other Hebrew congregations will follow that fine example set by the Berea Synagogue.

Edgar Bernstein to Lecture at Kultur Hois

Edgar Bernstein will lecture on the writer, Peter Abrahams, under the title, "Johannesburg, as a non-European sees it", on Thursday, March 18, 1948, at 8 p.m., at the Kultur Hois, 45 Upper Meyer Street, Johannesburg. The lecture is under the auspices of the Reading Room and Library Committee of the Kultur

WILL OF MR. W. FUCHS

Under the will of Mr. Wilhelm Fuchs, a stockbroker and farmer of Johannesburg, a fund to be known as the "Fuchs Benevolent Trust" will be set up to assist students in need. Mr. Fuchs also left £1,000 to the Municipal Hospital at Port Elizabeth, £500 to the United Hebrew Institutions there, and £500 each to the Jewish Orphanage and Old Aged Home in Cape Town and Johannes-

CAPE TOWN DOCTORS WIN SCHOLARSHIP

Two young Cape Town doctors have been awarded the Adams Scholarship for this year. They are Dr. Lawrence Merskey and Dr. Markowitz. The scholarships, which are tenable for one year, are worth £500 each and awarded for post-graduate medical study overseas.

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Bonn's Grandfather Wanted Him To Be A Chazan

Famous Comedian Interviewed By "Zionist Record"

If Issy Bonn is a good comedian (and all will agree that he is), then I can say that he is also a good Jew. The brief chat I had with this charming and likeable personality convinced me that he was a true son of his people, and at the same time also an ambassador of goodwill. One of his greatest ambitions, he told me, was to foster a spirit of good fellowship between all men, irrespective of race or religion.



ISSY BONN

Issy Bonn (his real name is Levin) was brought up in a traditional Jewish atmosphere. He is a product of the East End of London where his father, who had come from Russia, was the official butcher of the Machazikai Hadas, one of the oldest Jewish congregations in London. His father was the founder of the Sabbath Employment Observance Bureau and contributed poems and articles to a London Yiddish Journal under the name of "Ish Levi". Bonn's grandfather, who was also Russian born, was a great friend of the well-known London "Tzadik", Rav Abba, and was one of the founders of the London Jewish Hospital.

"My grandfather had his own Beth Hakneseth and I remember well how, as a youngster, I was sent out into the streets to gather a Minyan for the daily services.

"My grandfather had hopes that I would become a chazan, but my urge for comedy was too strong, and after battling through on the amateur stage, I eventually got a break with the B.B.C. in 1935. Since then I have never looked back."

Issy Bonn is a keen Zionist and has an intimate knowledge of his subject. During the war, he had planned to visit Palestine, but this did not materialise. He did, however, visit Italy, where he entertained the Jewish Brigade. "I sang to the boys in Yiddish and they gave me a grand reception. The occasion was one I shall never forget."

Mr. Bonn said he was proud to be the nephew of Mrs. Henrietta Diamond, the well-known Zionist worker of Leeds and the founder and President of the Zebulun Pales-

time Seafaring Society of which he himself is the chairman.

Mr. Bonn is always ready to do his bit for the national cause and in England often appears on Zionist platforms. During his visit here he addressed the Zionist Association Luncheon Club and the Jewish Guild while he was also the guest speaker at the Magen David Adom Fete.

He likes to sing to Jewish audiences in "Mamme Loshen" and never will he omit the great favourite, "My Yiddische Mamme". This song, he told me, had become one of the best sellers in records in England, even in communities where there are only a handful of Jews.

"I came to South Africa on a holiday, but when I landed in Muizenberg I was forced to get back to business. That's how African Consolidated Theatres Ltd. got me to Johannesburg. I like your country and, more so, its people . . .

"And don't forget to tell my customers (he added hastily with a nod of the eye as we parted) I shall be back here again before the end of the year."

M.M.

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Cantor's And Choirmasters Association

The newly-elected committee of the Cantors and Choirmasters' Association is as follows:

President, O. Altshuler, vice-president, S. Kibel; treasurer, I. Badash; secretary, I. Chaitowitz.

Committee members: M. Kamionsky, A. L. Kaplan, L. Siev, I. Lichterman.

The official welcome in honour of Mr. Berlinsky, a well-known Jewish composer and musician, who recently arrived in the Union from Paris, was held under the auspices of the Cantors and Choirmasters' Association, at the Coronation Hall recently. Cantor Altshuler lectured on "The contribution of Yiddish to Hebrew, as a Living Language".

Rev. S. Kibel, who was in the chair, welcomed Mr. Berlinsky as well as Cantor S. Bacon and Cantor P. Breitman, who recently returned from overseas.

Cantor Altshuler paid tribute to the work of Mr. Berlinsky and chief Cantor I. Alter greeted the incoming executive. He paid tribute to the work of Mr. Berlinsky in the fields of Jewish music.

Rev. Chaitowitz replied on behalf of Mr. Berlinsky.

Rev. A. L. Caplan thanked Rev. Altshuler for his address. Rev. A. L. Kaplan thanked Rev. Altshuler for his address. Rev. Goldberg and Cantor I. Mandel both led the evening prayers.

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