



Mr. Moshe Menuhin and his famous son, Yehudi. A photograph taken upon their arrival in Johannesburg in October of 1935. It will be remembered that Yehudi Menuhin electrified his audiences by his flawless violin playing. His father, Moshe Menuhin, was for many years a "melamed" in America.

# WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE MENUHIN FAMILY?

## A Striking Commentary

S. ZIROLSOHN, who is described in an editorial note in the *Morning Journal* (New York) as a former friend of the Menuhin family, publishes a violent attack against the parents of the great violin virtuoso, who in recent years have done everything in their power to keep their gifted children at a distance from Jewish tradition and from the humble circle of friends who stood by them in their early days of struggle. The writer says:

Moshe Menuhin, the father, was born in Jerusalem, in the Orthodox quarter of Meah Shearim. He studied at the famous Herzliah Gymnasium in Tel-Aviv. As a young man he emigrated to San Francisco where he worked as a Hebrew teacher. His wife Maruta was born in Yalta, Crimea, but she has spent several years in Jerusalem and was taught Hebrew by Nissan Yerushalmi, of the Hebrew Teachers' Seminary. Her father and mother are old fashioned orthodox people. The former was and perhaps still is acting in America as a Meshulach for a Jerusalem Yeshivah.

When Moshe Menuhin established his home in New York he modelled his personal life on the lines of strict Palestinian nationalism. He and his wife gave their children characteristic Hebrew names such as "Yehudi" and "Hefziba." Hebrew was the language spoken in the house and the father was proud of the fact that when his son was acknowledged as a genius he never denied his nationality. But as they grew more and more successful in life it was evident that the Menuhins were doing everything they could to keep the children away from their old friends. The father no longer maintained his friendship with the Hebrew teachers who had helped him with publicity at the beginning.

There is a lady, well-known in Jewish social circles in New York, who befriended Yehudi when he was a child. It was she who persuaded Mr. Goldman to buy him a violin worth 45,000 dollars. To-day the Menuhins do not even correspond with their two benefactors. Mrs. Menuhin, the daughter of a *meshulach*, had the audacity to publish an article in the March number of the "Women's Home Companion," over her own name, in which she states that her father was a Tartar, born in Crimea, and that her mother was Italian. She admitted that her husband was a Jew, but boasted of the fact that the combination of two old traditions in the blood of her childer had given rise to their great talent. She does not, of course, mention that her maiden name was Sher, which is certainly not a Tartar name.

The marriage which has now been contracted between the two Menuhin children and the children of George Richard Nicholas, the Australian millionaire aspirin manufacturer is a natural outcome of the parents' change of skin in recent years. Their attitude towards their past traditions was particularly evident during Yehudi's visit to Egypt. Although he was only a six hours' journey from Palestine Moshe Menuhin, who managed the tour, refused an invitation to give concerts in his birthplace. Palestine audiences were good enough for Heifetz, for Elman, for Szigetti, for Osip Gabrilowitz and for Toscanini, but not for the child whose father hailed from Meah Shearim. In fact Moshe Menuhin, who is a millionaire, did not take the trouble to visit Palestine, and as far as is known he has not contributed a penny to Palestine funds.

## The Tailor Who Roams the World

By  
EDWIN BROOKS

Jewish tailors are no novelty and as such are of no special news value. Their former status in certain eastern-European communities was the subject of much public banter. Therefore, if one finds a tailor and a Jewish tailor at that, who has made museum collections his life hobby, it is news of great import.

When one finds a Jew who is a tailor, that is not news. It is on a par with the old wag about a dog biting a man. But when this Jewish tailor is a world traveller and lecturer, that is news!

He is none other than Sam Bornstein, the one-man museum. He has recently installed his findings of various lands in twelve cases in a special room at the Jewish People's Institute, one of the largest Jewish community centres in America. A few objects hang from the walls, some from the ceiling. Here we find sea fans and sea shells; finished and unfinished precious and semi-precious stones; petrified wood and fossilized eggs; shrunken heads and other gruesome objects. From Fiji, Maori, Europe, East Africa, Australia, the South Seas, Japan and other parts of the globe, one sees objects of interest, curiosity, horror and amusement, all gathered by this tailor of the old country.

Called the Jewish Globe Trotter, for fifteen years he has hiked through various parts of the world, getting together the materials for his museum which has finally been given a home. Bornstein was a tailor and still is one, but there resides in him a great love of the out-of-doors,

of nature and of the marvels that nature has wrought.

Most of his travels were made on foot, many of them with his friend, C. Wexler, with whom he has spent days and nights of common joy and danger. Bornstein relates the story of what happened to him a few years ago when he was in South Africa. He was at that time in Rhodesia and had determined to visit the famous Solomon's Gold Mine, which according to legend furnished the gold which the Queen of Sheba presented to King Solomon for the building of the Temple in Jerusalem. He was standing at the edge of Victoria Falls one night, when suddenly he heard a rustling in the bush. He carried no weapons, for it is part of his philosophy not to kill. He had only two flashlights. Turning one on, he noticed an exceptionally large lion. The flashlights saved his life; with them he was able to blind the lion and so make his get-away.

An account of some of his experiences has appeared in two books. One "The World and Its Natural Wonders" was published in London in 1931 in Yiddish, the other, "Hiking Through the Wonders of the World," in English, was written with C. Wexler, and describes a trip taken by the two men through the national parks of the United States. A series of stories for children dealing with primitive life of the South Seas and Australia, has been appearing in the *Kinder Journal*, a magazine published in Yiddish, in New York. He has also lectured extensively in America, England, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Poland, Egypt, Palestine and other countries.

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