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World's Fair, Palestine pavilion, 1939-1940.



AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR JEWISH PALESTINE PARTICIPATION
AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR - 1940
225 WEST 34th STREET • NEW YORK CITY • CHICKERING 4-7361 • CABLE ADDRESS: PALEXHIBIT

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November 28, 1939

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Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I am taking the liberty of sending you here a copy of the letter addressed to Mr. Joseph M. Berne, President of the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Federation together with his reply.

As you may perhaps know a similar request was made of the Cleveland Federation last year but no action was taken thereon. As a result no contribution for the Palestine Pavilion came from Cleveland except a few hundred dollars through the sale of booklets by Hadassah.

The letter to the Welfare Federation is self-explanatory. It is therefore unnecessary to reiterate the statements contained in that letter.

I am sure you, like all of us here, appreciate the importance of continuing the Pavilion in 1940. May I therefore urge upon you to please use your influence to see to it that the appropriation requested is granted.

Cordially yours,

George Backer
President

GB:nz

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- ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
Dr. Solomon Goldman

November 10, 1939

Mr. Joseph M. Berne, President
Jewish Welfare Fund
Chester Twelfth Building
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Berne:

In a proclamation issued in Washington on September 8th, the President of the United States called upon all Pavilions to participate in the second year of the New York World's Fair in 1940. In this proclamation, the President stresses the significance of the Fair at this time as a powerful instrument toward progress, peace and improved relationships between peoples.

This is an appeal to your organization to help make it possible for the Jewish Palestine Pavilion to accept the invitation of the President of the United States and to continue participation in the World's Fair of 1940.

The continued participation of the Palestine Pavilion as a symbol of Jewish cultural and spiritual values at a time when our country is making a supreme effort to achieve unity in order to grapple with the problems of a world in conflict is of an importance that cannot be exaggerated. This is perhaps best expressed in the utterance of Dr. Thomas Mann, the world's greatest literary figure, made at the concluding function of the 1939 season of the Palestine Pavilion on October 31st. Speaking of the extraordinary large attendance at the Pavilion, he said:

"I hope that these three millions of Christians and Jews have understood the moral message proclaimed by the mute, though tangible symbols that compose the Palestine Pavilion -- the message of the undaunted will of a people to resist the torrents of hate, panic and despair which a cruel world has unloosed on the Jews, of their resolute will to go on building - building for a better day that must dawn."

Mr. Joseph M. Berne
November 10, 1939

Similarly, after a visit to the Palestine Pavilion in October, Governor Herbert H. Lehman wrote to us:

".....I very sincerely hope that there will be continued participation by the Palestine Pavilion in the World's Fair of 1940. I say this not only because I have been greatly impressed with the Palestine exhibit but also because I have heard very excellent comments from many other visitors, both Gentile and Jewish. The exhibit gives a very graphic picture of what has been accomplished economically and socially in Palestine in the short period of less than twenty-five years. I hope that participation may be continued for another year."

At this critical period in modern Jewish history when virulent anti-Semitic propaganda is being disseminated throughout the world, American Jewry must rally all its moral and material forces, not only to bring physical succor to our unfortunate brethren, but also to provide a conclusive and irrefutable answer to the slanderous accusations that are being flung at the Jews.

The Palestine Pavilion at the World's Fair is such an answer. That answer was given in 1939 to well nigh three million visitors who passed through the portals of the Pavilion, many of whom were enabled, perhaps for the first time, to see and understand Jewish aims and aspirations, Jewish courage and ability as pioneers and trail-blazers. These millions of Americans, Jews and non-Jews alike, have seen with their own eyes a compelling manifestation of the Jewish ideals of social progress, peace and human brotherhood. The Pavilion portrayed not only Jewish achievements in Palestine -- it became the symbol of the creative urge and constructive force of Jewish life everywhere.

The following note from a Christian woman in the Middle West is typical of the many thousands of letters and comments which have been received by the Pavilion from non-Jews throughout the country:

"After visiting your marvelous Pavilion and after realizing the wonders which your people have done in transforming the Holy Land into the place that it is today. I feel that I owe those in charge a note of thanks. Your Pavilion has served, for me at least, to create

Mr. Joseph M. Berne
November 10, 1939

a solid bond of understanding between me, a non-Jew, and your people. Keep up your fine work at the Fair and in Palestine."

Thus, universally acclaimed as one of the most potent instruments for a finer and deeper understanding of Jewish aims and achievements, the success of the Palestine Pavilion at the World's Fair in 1939 has by far exceeded the expectations of its sponsors.

It is not without some satisfaction that we are able to record here the fact that unlike most Pavilions and exhibits, whose budgets were exceeded in some cases by one-hundred percent, our Pavilion, unsurpassed in beauty and dignity, was built and maintained at a cost less than the original budget.

To continue our participation in 1940 and meet our remaining 1939 obligations we need \$230,000. This includes administration, maintenance, repairs, reconditioning, and the introduction of new features essential for the 1940 exposition as well as the repayment of all accrued debts and advances made for the building of the Pavilion.

It is our earnest hope that your organization will assume its proper share of responsibility toward the continuation of the Pavilion in 1940 by contributing the sum of \$5,000.00. We hope you will make this allocation so as to make unnecessary a separate campaign in your community which we would otherwise reluctantly be compelled to undertake.

Because of the imperative necessity to inform the authorities of the World's Fair regarding our intentions for 1940, may we ask you to please call a special meeting of your Allocations Committee to consider this matter and inform us at the earliest possible moment of your decision.

Sincerely yours,

George Backer
President

GB:nz

COPY -

THE JEWISH WELFARE FEDERATION
and
THE JEWISH WELFARE FUND
of CLEVELAND

MR. George Backer, President
Jewish Palestine Pavilion
225 West 34th St.
New York City

Dear Mr. Backer:

You r communication to myself and other officers of the Welfare Fund with reference to the Palestine Pavilion at the Fair in 1940 will be brought to the attention of our Budget Committee and Board in due course; there is not, of course, at this time any money for allocation from the current year's Welfare Fund.



Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J.M. Berne
The Jewish Welfare Federation

November 16, 1939



AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR JEWISH PALESTINE PARTICIPATION

AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR - 1940

225 WEST 34th STREET • NEW YORK CITY • CHICKERING 4-7361 • CABLE ADDRESS: PALEXHIBIT

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Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I would appreciate greatly a
reply to my letter of November 28th, in reference to
the Palestine Pavilion.

Please let me hear from you.

Cordially yours,

George Backer
George Backer
President

GB:gh

Temple of Religion, Inc.

NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR

WORLD'S FAIR POSTOFFICE, N. Y.

May 3, 1940.

Dear Dr. Silver:

By far the best attended programs at the Temple of Religion during the 1939 season of the World's Fair--the enclosure provides salient information--was the Twilight Hour program at 6:00 P. M. This feature consisted of sacred music sung by a volunteer choir and a ten to fifteen minute address by a Priest, Minister or Rabbi.

We are now arranging our programmatic schedule for the 1940 season which begins May 11th and ends October 27th and cordially invite you and your choir, if you would like to participate, to send us information about your organization and the type of program you would be interested to present.

We extend this invitation at this time so that you will have an opportunity to plan a program and arrange a mutually agreeable date.

There has been great enthusiasm shown by other out of town choirs, which sang last year, in appearing again. Hence, our program is filling faster than we anticipated. We no longer have open dates in May, June or July, but we have a number of available dates in August, September and October. The week end dates throughout the Fair have all been assigned.

We mention this to aid you in any plans you wish to make and to point to the mutual helpfulness of an early reply. We, in our turn, will be happy to send you any further information you require.

Very sincerely yours,

John Hillel Silver
Executive Director.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th Street & Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

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JEWISH PALESTINE PAVILION
at the
NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

NEW YORK OFFICE
225 West 34th Street

September 27, 1940

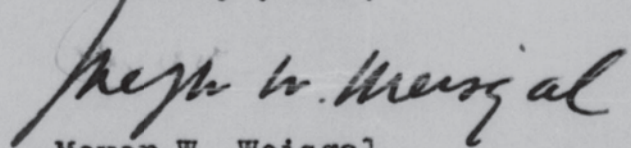
Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am dropping you this note because I believe you might have some interest in this matter.

The Palestine Pavilion closes on October 27th. Between September 27th and the closing day, all objects listed in the enclosed Catalogue will be for sale at the Pavilion. Among the items listed there may be some which you might want to acquire for your Synagogue.

If you are interested or desire any further information, please let me know immediately.

Cordially yours,



Meyer W. Weisgal
Director

MWW:nz

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio

Elias Newman

December 24, 1940

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I will arrive in Cleveland on the 26th of December to arrange the Palestine Pavilion Section in the Foreign Fairs Exposition at the Cleveland Auditorium. I am planning to remain about 10 days. The exhibition will consist of the architectural exhibit and the fine arts section of the Pavilion.

While there I would like to make an effort to find a few homes for the works of the Palestine Artists. May I look forward to your cooperation in this matter?

I will also be available during my stay in your City for lectures on "Renaissance in Palestine", which surveys the development of art, architecture and the theater in Palestine during the last thirty years.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Elias Newman
Elias Newman

Art

Elias Newman's Water Colors Hold Center Of Interest At Maryland Institute

By A. D. EMMART
TUNGADY

Cultural Gains In Holy Land, Lecture Topic

Elias Newman, Young American Artist, Writer, Speaker At Museum

Glowing accounts of cultural progress by Jews in Palestine were given by Elias Newman, young American artist and writer, in a lecture-exhibit last night at the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences. Mr. Newman spoke on "Contemporary Art in Palestine," and was presented under the joint sponsorship of the Norfolk Museum and the Norfolk Zionist District. He exhibited his water-color landscapes of various sections of Palestine, and illustrated his lecture with lantern slides.

Sis talk dealt with contemporary art in Palestine; a survey of development during a period of 25 years. The exhibition consisted of 36 diversified water-color paintings, which will remain on exhibition throughout the week-end in Gallery C of the museum.

Mr. Newman has been invited by the Townsman Club to address its members this afternoon at 1 o'clock at the Albany Restaurant.

"While the Jews in Palestine are now working hard to re-establish themselves on the soil," declared Mr. Newman, "they are taking a very deep interest in artistic endeavors. The country actually is experiencing a renaissance in the theatre, art and literature."

"To meet the growing demand for literature, our publishers are translating many of the world's classics for consumption both in the cities and in the farm collectives. Favorites range from Shakespeare to Shaw, and there is even a great deal of interest in the works of men like Jack London. In addition we are producing our own crop of young writers."

Air Amazingly Clear
In answer to questions advanced during the forum period, Mr. Newman stated: "The artist who wishes to do justice to Palestine on canvas must remain in the country for a few years and become part of it. The atmosphere is so clear in the Holy Land that one can see for 40 or 50 miles."

Mr. Newman arrived in Norfolk yesterday from Baltimore. Dr. [unclear] introduced him.

Palestine Painting Presented Museum Of Art



RABBI EDWARD L. ISRAEL

ELIAS NEWMAN

R. J. McKINNEY

Indianapolis News Feb 15/36

Elias Newman Will Speak on Palestinian Art

In conjunction with a five-day exhibition of his work, Elias Newman, one of the foremost Palestinian artists, will speak on "Modern Art in Palestine" at 8:15 p. m. Monday at the Kirshbaum Community Center. Wilbus Peat, director of the John Herron Art Institute, will preside at the lecture.

Newman's work will be exhibited at the Kirshbaum Center for five days, beginning Sunday. Both exhibition and lecture will be open to the public and are under the auspices of the Jewish Community Center Association, the Beth-El Men's Club and the Indianapolis District Zionist Organization of America.

The artist exhibited his work in many countries, and has contributed articles on art to a number of publications. He is a member of the governing body of the Palestine Artists and Sculptors Association, and is associated with the Tel-Aviv Museum, for which he is making a study of American art.

The exhibition will consist of water color paintings, mostly landscapes of Palestine. The lecture will deal exclusively with contemporary art in Palestine.

day 9 A. M. to 4 P. M.

Painting Of Palestine, By Jewish Artist, Is Presented To Museum

Elias Newman's painting, "The View of Athlit Valley from Mount Carmel," is representative of a culture that has been the heritage of the Jewish race, R. J. McKinney, director of the Baltimore Museum of Art, said last night in accepting the picture presented by local Zionist organizations.

Mr. Newman, who has spent the last ten years in Palestine, explained that the picture is symbolic of the cultural revival being fostered there by Jewish artists from every part of the world.

Rabbi Edward L. Israel, who presided at the ceremony, emphasized that by learning to appreciate their own culture, the Jews will gain a clearer insight into the culture of others.

The benefit from the [unclear] will be hung to [unclear] 4 P. M.—[unclear] "Colonial" C. Kingsbury tour for high

10.30 A. M. to You Know [unclear] visiting hours Armistice Day

First Floor—Works of

Palestine Making Strides in Culture, Artist Declares

BY LOUIS MARIANO.

Glowing accounts of cultural progress by Jews in Palestine were related in Chicago today by Elias Newman, young Jewish artist and writer.



ELIAS NEWMAN, display this week in the ninth floor

Mr. Newman is here to exhibit watercolors of the Palestinian scene and to interest American artists in the Tel-Aviv museum, whose American section he heads. His works, which are being exhibited in key cities of the country, are on

galleries of Mandel Brothers' store. "While the Jews in Palestine are now working hard to re-establish themselves on the soil, they are making a very deep interest in endeavors," he said today. "country actually is experiencing a renaissance in the theater, literature."

Pointing to one of his o

ART SHOW IN TEL AVIV

ELIAS NEWMAN'S EXHIBITION

By DR. KARL SCHWARZ

(Director Of The Tel Aviv Museum)

After a three year pause Elias Newman has again arranged an exhibition in the Museum Tel Aviv of his work, and is showing about [unclear] of his last

there is a special charm in placing the various tree composition together and comparing one with the other. In No. 5 we cannot speak anymore of composition, as here everything is an expression of nature. In the painting No. [unclear] to the ab

Elias Newman Finds Art, Too, Born Anew By Resurgent Pioneers In Old Palestine

Elias Newman, Russian by birth, American by education, and artist of Palestine by choice, is displaying one of the water-colors he has brought from Palestine. He is showing approximately 50 of these pictures at Wise Center.

BY JAMES T. GOLDEN, JR.

Elias Newman comes from a country far older in civilization than Europe, yet that lately has become the scene of a pioneering, a frontier making, a modernization that reminds one just a bit of America's pioneering days. He comes from a country that has become a little melting pot, not for many races, but for one race which, scattered over the world for centuries, is bringing back to its homeland a diversity of cultural and temperamental characteristics.

An artist of the brush, Newman comes from a country of such bright suns and clear skies that mountains 50 miles away appear to be but a few miles distant. That coun-

try to Palestine, hours tomorrow, is almost entirely of water colors—two or three lithographs are the exceptions—of the hills, valleys, and seas of Palestine, the streets and buildings of old and new Jerusalem, Haifa, and flourishing Tel-Aviv, Jewish metropolis and largest city in the country. Admission to the exhibit is free of charge.

Newman does not talk about himself, except as an artist. He does admit that he is so fond of the cinema, "even slapstick comedies, if they are well done," that he cannot pass a moving picture theater without feeling an urge to go in.

Yet, talking to Newman as he sits among his pictures, one realizes that even a love of the movies is a characteristic of the artist, rather than just of the man. As an artist he is intensely interested in anything that may serve as a medium for depicting an interest

and Gentile tourists come from over all the world to see the decorated cities and to take part in the parades and carnivals.

"The Arabs know how to let themselves go! They join in the merrymaking too," Newman says. Tel-Aviv has a colony of writers and several large publishing houses with a varied output, including Hebrew classics, modern Hebrew works, and translations into Hebrew.

When in Palestine, Newman is Treasurer of the Palestine Artists and Sculptors Group, comprising about 100 members, of which he was one of the organizers. The group, representing all factions in art, was organized for purely economic and professional reasons, Newman says.

Mayor Meier Dizengoff of Tel-Aviv has presented to the city a museum which is well provided with not only Hebrew art of other countries.

talked last night at Wise the three periods in the of contemporary art in the first, which was little than pleasing arts and the second, in which the puzzled, dissatisfied quite able to interpret went to Europe for a their problems and re- more confused, and the present, in which they ing to see their way to- tion of their problems.

Chil- ion of their problems.

8

Modern Art Trends in Palestine in Elias Newman's Lecture

Says Present Period Seeks to Springs from the S



ELIAS NEWMAN—ARTIST

Jewish art, like any other true art, must spring from the soil, Elias Newman, Palestinian painter, told an audience at the YMHA, where he lectured on "Modern Art Trends in Palestine," during his recent visit to this city. Therefore Jewish artists painting in the Homeland are seeking to get close to the soil, are traveling through the country, mingling with the workers, taking as their subject, the land. An exhibit of landscapes in water colors by Mr. Newman was shown at the Studio Club, February 3-6.

Until 25 or 30 years ago the only art produced in Palestine was that done by the tourist artist who paint places

portrayal of when cultur teristics of have develo melting pot. "Water co dium for 1 and brillian Lantern work of lea revealing through the rying temp rhythm of sharp cont dynamic p ermen," j fantastic by Bialik, mann, str from that mysticism ghetto po man Stru sculptors and Ch shown.

SIX qu Pa Aviv visit try. man work for city gro New mu wo get An m

Announcing a Lecture Tour by

ELIAS NEWMAN

Prominent Palestinian artist, Art Director of the Palestine Pavilion at the New York World's Fair and author of "Art in Palestine."

Mr. Newman's subjects include:

Renaissance in Palestine

Modern Art in Palestine

Cultural Aspects of Building a Homeland

These lectures review the growth of art, the theater and architecture in Palestine and survey developments over a period of a quarter of a century. The lectures are illustrated by lantern slides.

Exhibitions of Paintings by Mr. Newman may also be arranged in connection with his lectures

Palestine Feb 2 1936