



Jewish Historical Museum in Belgrade

Drawings Exhibition by Moša Mevorah  
 „Officers of the Yugoslav Royal Army – Portraits  
 from 1941 German POW Camps“

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## MUSEUMS OF SERBIA TEN DAYS FROM 10 TO 10

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 „Officers of the Yugoslav Royal  
 Army – Portraits from 1941 German  
 POW Camps“



Jewish Historical Museum

May, 2015

Moša (Moshe) Mevorah was born of a reputable Sephardic family in Belgrade in 1890. His grandfather who he was named after was a prominent merchant and royal treasurer, while the father Avram (Abraham) was a businessman and a founder of Serbian State Lottery.

Moša spent his first school days at a famous "Elementary school next to the Cathedral Church". At the same time, he was attending Hebrew classes at local Jewish school twice a week. He continued education at First Belgrade High School and at Universities in Vienna and Belgrade.

Shortly before the First Balkan War broke out, Moša had joined Army as a cavalry private. During the war, thanks to his bravery and patriotism, he got a rank of Cavalry Second Lieutenant. He took part in WWI and together with Serbian Army retreated through Albania during a long march in the winter of 1915. He also participated in the fighting on the Macedonian Front, known as the Salonica Front. Soon after Belgrade was bombed in April 1941, Moša was mobilized into the ranks of Yugoslav Royal Army and sent to Bosnia. After capitulation of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia on March 17, Royal Army soldiers were captured and transported to the PWO camps where Moša spent four years. As a result of the Third Geneva Convention, dealing with the treatment of prisoners of war, he survived and returned to his hometown of Belgrade on March 20, 1945. In 1947 he was promoted to the Reserve Lieutenant Colonel of Household Cavalry by Tito, Yugoslav commander-in-chief.

Two years later Moša made Aliyah and moved to Israel.

From an early age Moša Mevorah was an active member of the Jewish community. He was one of the founders of Chevrat Baruchim, the organization that provides financial assistance to poor students and one of the founders of Gideon, the Zionist organization. He was also appointed secretary of a charitable organization named Potpora (Support). During his stay in Vienna Moša was a secretary of the Sephardi student's society Esperanza and very active member of Bar Giora, the Zionist association of Jewish students from southern Balkan.

He is holder of the highest state awards and decorations.

In Israel Moša Mevorah was a member of Hitachdut Olei Yugoslavia, the Association of Yugoslav Jews in Israel founded in 1935 and a member of the Association of Yugoslav captured officers, and an associate member of the Tel Aviv Museum of Arts.

He spoke Ladino, Hebrew, German, French, Italian and English.

Moša Mevorah passed away in Ramat Gan in 1982.

From the time he was a little boy, Moša Mevorah displayed an interest in drawing and painting, mainly landscapes and natural objects. At the age of fifteen he entered an art school of Mihajlo Petrovic, prominent Serbian painter. In Vienna he was attending drawing classes at University of Technology.

After returning home from German captivity, Moša Mevorah worked for Prosveta Publishing House making portrait paintings and drawings.

His career as professional artist started from the Alyah to Israel, making stereoplates for Israeli newspapers. He also made 14 portraits of the members of the WHO for the Ministry of Health, 15 portraits of the founders of Tel Aviv for the Museum of the History of Tel Aviv, portrait of Yosef Sprinzak, the first Speaker of the Knesset, for the Jewish National Fund, portrait Asher Barash, writer and interpreter, for Bio-Bibliographical Institute the Jewish National Fund, portrait of Leo Kestenberg, one of the most influential music educators, for the Ministry of Education. Moša's book Deyukna'ot sofrim (Portraits of writers), containing 34 portraits of Israeli literary men, has been printed by Masada publishing house.

Particularly significant opus in the art of Moša Mevorah, made in German captivity, presents over 600 portraits of his inmates. Hundreds of these drawings with subtle colors and drawn in detailed realistic style have been sent to the families of prisoners during the WWII. Nowadays, remaining drawings are not only valuable piece of art, they are historical documents of a lasting value.

The Jewish Historical Museum in Belgrade keeps 19 portraits, mainly from Oflag XIII-B. Portrait of Daniel Kampos, made in Osnabruck in 1944, was given by the owner. Other 18 are gifts of Luci Petrović Mevorah, daughter of Moše Mevorah.

