



AT THE Cranbrooke Hotel, Johannesburg and under the auspices of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, a memorial exhibition of the work of Herman Wald who died last year, will be opened by the Consul General for Israel, Mr. I. D. Unna on Sunday evening. Mr. Edgar Bernstein will give an address on the artist and his work.

Much of Wald's designs were deeply religious which is not to be wondered at for his family had been Rabbinical for generations and his father was a Rabbi in Cluj in Hungary, where Herman was born.

He studied art in the Academy of Art in Budapest, in Vienna, Berlin and Paris and he came to South Africa in 1937.

A work which will remind us always of Wald is the Oppenheimer Memorial fountain with its arc of impala in the little park behind the Rissik Street Post Office. It is said that the artist was supremely happy about this piece and that he used to sing in his rich baritone voice while he worked at it.

Of course his greatest creation is that which was erected in the West Park Cemetery in Johannesburg in memory of the 6 000 000 Jews who lost their lives in Europe during the last war. This monument comprising six shofars, each grasped in a fist, which rises to a height of 20 feet, was originated by the Club of Polish Jews in South Africa and was spon-

sored by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

So much of his work had a significance for humanity which even if not expressly stated, Wald worked into his sculpture. I remember the artist telling me the message in the massive bronze which he executed for the United Building Society's premises in Eloff

Street. With his rather attractive chuckle he said: "If one person can survive, so may millions providing they club together instead of clubbing each other."

Herman Wald, pictured above with some of his work, died a year ago in Salisbury, Rhodesia, in July 1970. —

H.E.W.

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