

# HERMAN WALD EXHIBITION WAS MAJOR CULTURAL EVENT

## REMINISCENCES

The second evening was devoted to films on the plastic arts, with a commentary by Mr. Ulie Resnick, and some warm personal reminiscences of Herman Wald in a talk by Mr. Alec Gorshel, a former Mayor of Johannesburg. Mrs. Pearl Mandelstam, acting chairman of the Board's Communal Relations Committee, presided.

The third evening was sponsored by the S.A. Yiddish Cultural Federation, whose general secretary, Mr. Zalman Levy, presided and spoke appreciatively of the late Herman Wald's contribution to Jewish life. Cantor S. Mandel sang songs specially chosen for the occasion, accompanied by Mrs. Minnie Cassen at the piano, and Mr. Reuben Glasser presented a paper, illustrated by slides, on Jewish work in the plastic arts.

The next evening was sponsored by the Bnai Brith, and featured the lecture delivered by Prof. Rappaport. Mr. D.K. Mann, chairman of the Board of Deputies who presided, expressed the Board's appreciation to Prof. Rappaport and Bnai Brith.

## SECOND COMMANDMENT

Rabbi Rappaport dealt enthrallingly with the manner in which art was interwoven with Jewish life, despite the Second Commandment prohibition against graven images, which especially affected sculptural work. The Bible, however, provided for the adornment of the Temple and religious objects, and the Rabbis generally upheld the concept of "Hiddur Mitzvah" — the aesthetic embellishment of religious duties — by urging the making of beautiful religious objects — beautiful Scrolls, a beautiful Parochet Menorah, Mezzuzah, etc.

With the Emancipation, said Rabbi Rappaport, the Jewish artist came more fully into his own and through a Joseph Israels, a Jacob Epstein, a Marc Chagall, a Herman Struck, a Mané Katz, made his contribution to the world's art. It was the tradition that Herman Wald worked. Prof. Rappaport also drew attention to the rich art of Israel today.