



FRAGMENT
POMNIKA
BOHATERÓW GETA

DZIEŁA
NATANA
RAPAPORTA

POCHÓD ŚMIERCI

PŁASKORZEŻBA
W MINIATURZE

THE MONUMENT OF GHETTO

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The begining of 1945 is the date of liberation of Warsaw out of hands of Nazi invaders — the date of numerous refugees' return — the period of smothering remains of the destroyed city — cooling down of the rubbish-heaps of Ghetto: no trace of human being. Only a legend of Ghetto remined in form of 16 feet high ruins covering an area of many acres.

Final destruction of that part of the town begun on the 19-th of April 1943 when German tanks made an attempt to break in to Ghetto through a gate in the sorrounding wall, near a crossing of present Zamenhoff and M. Anielewicz (formerly Gęsia) Streets.

Jewish Combat Organisation, looking forward to the Nazi attack, grouped in front of King Stanislaw's Palace, gave a good repulse to the tanks resulting in their withdrawal.

The place of that Jewish defence group was commemorated by placing a red sandstone in the present flower-bed in front of the Palaces ruins, in 1946. — However, sacrifice and heroism of the act claimed to be commemorated with a monument revealing also martyrology of the oppressed nation.

On the initiative of the Central Commettee of Jews was created a sculpture expressing all the experiences of Ghetto i. e. Heroes of Ghetto Monument.

The work was started in 1947. Mr. Natan Rappaport, a sculptur, was in charge of the sculptural part and Mr. Leon Mark Suzin, an architect — of the architectural one.

To honour the place where the first shots were directed from against Hitler's violence, the monument was been located in the vicinity of Zamenhoff and Anielewicz Streets' crossing. Different ideas of the monument were considered, but won the one to construct a monument of stone gathered by Hitler in Scandinavian countries for his „victory“ memorial. According to the informations of „Morgön Tidnings“, a Stockholm daily, the raw material was collected in Bohuslau.

CONSTRUCTION

In the middle of 1947 the ruins were removed. The work was done by hand because of lack of machanical devices. At the same time Mr. N. Rappaport, a sculptor, was working at the carvings in Paris. Later, some persons left for Scandinavian countries to place there an order for the stone of covering blocks of the monument. The stone was brought from Sweden succesively in March and April 1948. The frontal bronze carvings of about 13 thousand pounds were transported from Paris by waterway. The back carvings were worked out in stone in architect's studio of J. Fedorowicz in Warsaw according to the gypsum design brought from Paris.

On the 28th of November 1947 an Act of Erection of the monument was set in it.

EXCERPT OF AN ACT ERECTION EMBEDED IN THE HEROES OF GHETTO MONUMENT IN WARSAW:

That was on the 28th of Ncvember 1947 in the capital city of Warsaw.

On that day a corner-stone was laid under the Heroes of Ghetto Monument and the date of its unveiling is being fixed for the 5th Anniversary of the Uprising in Warsaw Ghetto, i.e. on the 19th of April 1948.

The design of the Monument is the work of Mr. Natan Rappaport, a sculptor, who has been entrusted with the work by the Central Comitee of Jews in Poland, with the cooperation of Mr. Leon Mark Suzin, an architect.

The Erection Act is being placed as a corner-stone of the Monument situated on the square at the crossing of Dr. L. Zamenhoff and Mordechaj Anielewicz Streets in the very place where at dawn of 19th of April 1943 an unprecedented struggle was started by Jews of the Warsaw, unbroken by anguish, against the criminal enemy of Jewish Nation and the whole humanity — against the Nazi invaders.

The Monument to be erected in this place will be a symbol of homage paid by the whole Jewish Nation to their Fighters and Martyrs. It will be a visible sign of perseverance and strenght of the Nation's Spirit, will be the loftiest pattern and the most striking warning to all generations.

On the 19th of April 1948 there was a solemn unveiling of the monument. The participants were the representatives of Government, institutions, associations, community and the delegates from all parts of the world.

THE IDEA OF THE MONUMENT

In conformity with its idea the 40 feet high monument is an architectural structure with the stress being put on the heroic act of struggle of the tortured nation against his oppressor. The frontal carving represents a group of fighters wrestling away of the burning Ghetto. In that group we can see men, youth as well as women. The expression is magnified by emphasis being put on the kind of fighting equipment in possession of the group. It consists of guns, home-made granades and the street pavement stones. Boundless sacrifice, unsurpressed will for unyielding fight is expressed in a central figure, wounded in his head and right arm, but ready to throw a granade with the left arm. The whole group, coming out of the architectonic wall, is the symbol of a nation trying to win his freedom.

The east side, the bas-relief made to the extermination camps under the hitlerite bayonets. The hopeless situation of old men, women, children and a rabbi is to be seen as well as the resignation and terror in the eyes of mothers holding their children by hand or embracing them.

The group was described as follows by J. Januszkiewicz in an article in „Architektura“, a magazine, in No 6/7 of 1948:

„A row of vertical figures and their bent down heads form rhythmic plane of the relief. Monotony of the repeated directions prolongs the impression of long lasting oppressive cavalcade. Submission of men whom all possibility of action has been taken from his being expressed in a static composition of the figures...“

That is the picture of tragedy of the nation and the explanation of the fight and revolt that broke as shown in the frontal relief.

In 1959 the municipal authorities of Warsaw took a decision to reconstruct the monument by supporting it with iron and concrete. On the 1 st of April 1960 the work was finished.

Mr. L. M. Suzin





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W. S. P. „Odrodzenie”
Warszawa, Lm. P. 9.1
Fragment „Pamiętnik”
Płaskorzeź „Pamiętnik”
Miniatura w d. 1.1
Cena det. zł. 74.-