

B. Mink, Russia 2/15/1985

EEL Biographical Note - 1

A thoroughly researched biog. of EEL is long overdue.

EEL ^{reps} ~~is~~ ~~perhaps~~ arguably the most colorful & interesting personality on the (American) Heb. lit. scene. If for no other reason, his spiritual & ~~physical~~ odyssey from orthodoxy of a yeshiva student to a liberal-thinking & poet deserves scrutiny. His physical journey from Slutsk in ^{Russia/White Russia?} ~~Europe~~ to Boston, ¹⁹⁰⁰ from there to N.Y.S., to Canada, Milwaukee, Buffalo & New Orleans would make a fascinating ~~for~~ story.

While my study does not aspire ^{to write a bio.} ~~to do so~~, ~~my~~ ^{my readings} I have encountered many details which appear to shed lt. on some ^{unrevealed} of the mysteries in EEL's later career.

The writing of a bio. must ~~also~~ rely on EEL's own partial autobiography, In the Grip of Crosscurrents, which traces the early stages of his life through to his decision to leave Canada so as to avoid falling in love & marriage to a Christian girl ^{BECKY} ~~ONE?~~ in ^{SPAHMIC} ~~Amherst~~ Harbor.

What EEL appears to skip over after that is his meeting & marriage to his first wife: ONE? and an explanation of what seems to have been the cause of their divorce - and probably his attempted suicide.

- H. Bavli(?) notes EEL's marriage to this cruel woman ?
- It also explains the NYT obituary stating EEL ~~he~~ was survived by 2 daughters

EEG Bio - 2

In a letter to Landman ¹⁹⁴⁶ 1/20/50, Enagin #17835/1, he ^{notes} his daughter's divorce proceedings as ^{keeping} ~~preventing~~ him from taking a trip to "t" [reports in letter to same, 7/22/46, Enagin 17836/1 ^{in file}]

In a letter to 11025 532N, n.d., Enagin #44039/1 EEG ^{still living in Milwaukee 710 10th St.} tells of divorcing his (1st) wife, which he was compelled to do
... 2500 1/20/50 1/20 "n" at 5325 "B"

EEG in Buffalo w. his family

of letter to Abraham Spicehandler, 8/8/1912, Enagin #13045/133 ^{in file}
they live: c/o J. Saper, 88 Walnut St., Buffalo

6/27
In 1955, he writes to A. Spicehandler, including a comment of having a daughter in Freeport [Long Island] to whose home he comes upon arriving in New York (Enagin 3206-1c) ^{in file}:
She is Mrs. B. Sherman, 74 St. Marks Ave., Freeport L.I.
phone FR8-1676

In letter to A. Spicehandler, 1/8/1912, Enagin 3151-1c, EEG still in Milwaukee, notes there's a member of his family [wife? daughter?] named J. Saper
His second wife, Bertha: had a cousin, Dr. Myron Sheppard, 435 ~~60th~~ 60th St., NY, N.Y.
UN 3-1711

EEG's heirs, in contract w. Yisroel Zmora to posthumously publish his ^{1/20/50} ^{1/20/50}
he notes the heirs being: Mr. Lee B. Brown, 1639 S. Jefferson Davis Pkway, N.O.
also a friend: Myron Brill, 4536 S. Rockblane, N.O.
and a sister-in-law for his 2nd wife, Mrs. Sam Becker, 2322 N. 5th St., Milwaukee, WI
He also has brother & sisters in Boston - letter to M. Ribelow, n.d., Enagin 1746/2P

Y.H.
Earliest dates to Brenner, 12/16/1906 = ^{non} Ahmic Harbor stationery, dat. fr. Boston [202 Chamber St] ^{in file} ²⁰¹⁰ ¹⁹⁵⁰⁻¹ ¹⁹⁵⁰⁻¹

EEZ in Milwaukee ^{JAN.?} ^{June 10, 1912} ^{1912?}

Still there in Feb 1912 = F. letters to A. Spicehandler
in bit Granzin 3151-6 & 3254-6

Letter to M. Lipson 1/25/17
in bit In letter September 1917 (Granzin 44037-6
he tells of decision to apply for job announced in "p'le"
(job) which is located in N.O. & no decision was
get made
Detail re his tutoring lessons ^{receiving} in Milwaukee in poem = "p'le" - 1/1/17
304-272 37 p'le

He also thought to invite Brenner to join him in Buffalo = family or job
opening of "p'le" in 37 p'le 1/1/17 p. 204 events there appear to have been traumatic acc. to

Some inner, spirit, reasons for moving to N.Y. in his poem "g'le" (1950) in 189 1/1/17 37 p'le 1/1/17
implies in this poem reason for his move to N.O. as escape his troubles (doesn't specify)

In N.O. - [he himself testifies to reversal as "p'le" in p. 1751]

Took job/position as "Superintendent" of the "Communal Heb. School"

In 189, 1/1/17, titled "p'le" (p'le, pp. 145-47) he describes
his journey south w. blacks, barefooted, on the landscape & a
sheep reminiscent of Uncle Tom's cabin.

[Trans of this by I.M. Lasky, "New Orleans Countryside" in N.O. Ledger c. 1955, p. 15
found in ATA file

Also poem "p'le" p. 104/5 in 1/1/17 1/1/17

EEZ testifies to his summers (maybe alone, w/o family) in North Carolina mts. = in poetry
(271-251) "p'le" in 1/1/17 37 p'le 1/1/17 (250-212) "p'le" 1/1/17

In Buffalo: Poem "p'le" dedicated to Barli when, in 1916, EEZ writes this poem
1/1/17 1/1/17 1/1/17 1/1/17 1/1/17 1/1/17 1/1/17 1/1/17 1/1/17 1/1/17
& says he leaves due to unspecified unpleasant events

Bio-EEY-4 = "O/H" - Annette

Daughter of ^{EEY-4} Bertha (Shepherd)

She is going through divorce
1st in 1946

ⁱⁿ ^{bill} She is divorced = O/H 3 Gnazim 13095-6 ^{reason} p81/100
w. his grandson

9/6/42 - 1st marriage to Solomon Bernards (Chicago)
1/1944 = birth of Son - Ezra

Letter to p81/100
She is remarrying (2nd marriage) = wedding will be "O/H" - Gnazim 13096-6 ⁱⁿ ^{bill}
& to American - she got married = letter of 10/26/50 = Gnazim 13098-6 ⁱⁿ ^{bill}

She is engaged to marry (2nd time) = letter to M. Ribakow, 1/2/50 Gnazim 26900 ⁱⁿ ^{bill}

Education —

Isaac
attended one yr. at R. Elchanan Yeshiva -
graduated in future Y.U.

1903 - Became Schochet & worked in Auburn, N.Y. as Schochet & teacher & rabbi.

1911 - Got Ph.C. (pharmacy) Marquette
[received diploma to be pharmacist & degree as medical chemist] at Marquette, WI, 1911

Honorary ~~PhD~~ = J.T.S.A. — ^{Honorary Cause} D.H.L. = 1949 = Sponsored by Louis H. Rabinowitz & Hillel Bauli

married - Bertha daughter of Jacob Sheprin 9/7/1907 [acc to who's who in
Am. in Jewry, 1938-39
but she's - Child - Annette
from Bertha

Taught in Milwaukee

Buffalo [w. Hillel Bauli; then called "Prince" = accto. S. Adler & T. Connolly,
From Ararat, p. 241
while there, c. 1919, he was member of 1's & 2's to judge on matter of
bakers dispute [cf. Adler/Connolly, p. 250]

F. Milwaukee ^{in bit}
 Wachplatz There, was Socialist
 members of 3rd 1917
 didn't serve since he left for N.O.
 3/8/1917, 3/23/17, 3/23/17, 5/25/17, 6/1/17, 6/15/17, 7/6/17, 7/13/17, 11/23/17

EEZ Bio. - 6

Add'l autobiographical notes:

EEZ writes an ~~afterword~~^{ex} & published separately
source:

Also in his poetry:
אנוכי בן ער ⁽¹⁹³⁸⁾ "אנחנו בן ער" pp 33-48

cf. - a poem telling of his reading plan for his youth:

cf. - EEZ goes to hear talk of Bk minister in הבית = biblic. info.:

Also re loss of his ideals & dreams - cf. poem הבית pp. 30/1 in
1954, הבית אנוכי בן ער אנוכי בן ער - EEZ

Same theme is in same collection, "אנוכי בן ער" (p. 13) re loss of
his ideals

Also: in the poem הבית אנוכי בן ער אנוכי בן ער ⁽¹⁹⁵⁶⁾ in הבית
195-203

Dates in EEL's life

1906 12/16 - (Ahmic Harbor?) Boston

1907 - Jan 23 - in Auburn NY
He still has a "jyfo" now in Glasgow, whom he hasn't
seen ~~for~~ in yrs.

Feb 12 - in Boston - his father still alive 202 Chamber St.

March 19 - in Milwaukee
planning to marry an unnamed woman

9/7/1907 Marriage to daughter of Jacob Shefrin

MILWAUKEE

1911 - January 8 - in Milwaukee

1912 - May 21 - " "

8/8 ~~June 6~~ - in Boston
Dec. 16 - in Boston

1913 - Oct. 6 - in Buffalo

March/April - Tragedies in his life = ~~death~~ divorce?

1914 - May 1 - in Buffalo

Dec. 30 - " " - bef. this date, shortly, a son is born

Sept & Dec. " " - wife ill [he is in Buffalo 2 yrs already]

1915 - Sept. - " "

Nov 26 - " "

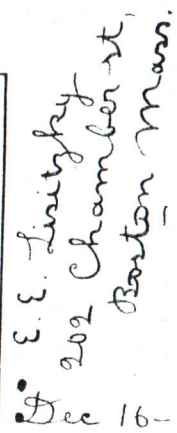
BUFFALO

1916 - 26/July-Aug. - in Buffalo [w. Barbi, who also taught at Canisius]

1917 - IN MILWAUKEE

1918 - 6/18 - in Milwaukee

1927 - April } considers moving from N.O. to L.A. - conflict w. Rabbi Gold in
June } N.O.



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