

Abraham Ostrzega — sculptor, born in 1889 in Okuniew. Studied under Henryk Kuna, made his debut in 1910 during the exhibition at the Society for the Encouragement of Fine Arts in Warsaw. He created sculptures, busts, designed tombstones; he is recognised mainly for his sepulchral sculptures. He was the initiator and co-organiser of the Jewish Society for Fostering Fine Arts, together with Władysław Weintraub he ran the Atelier of Decorative Art. He was taken to concentration camp in Treblinka in August 1942. He died there together with many other Jewish artists. Famous for his tombstones, he himself became one of the thousands of victims without a grave.

Only a very small part of Abraham Ostrzega's work survived till our times. Apart from a few smaller sculptures dispersed over museums and private collections in Poland and abroad, the biggest set of his works can be found at the Jewish Cemetery at Okopowa street in Warsaw, although several objects are also missing as a result of devastation and theft.

The attempt to create a typology of Ostrzega's tombstones points at three main trends in his sepulchral work: architectural forms, e.g. his most famous work — the Mausoleum of the Three Writers, 'Biblical' tombstones, with the use of floral and animal motifs; modernist tombstones; traditional tombstones with figurative motifs and commemorative figural tombs which made him most recognisable.

In the autumn of 2016 The Cultural Heritage Foundation conducted the restoration of 24 tombstones by Ostrzega at the Jewish Cemetery, financed by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Capital Monument Conservation Officer.

The exhibition of modern artists: Hubert Czerepok, Małgorzata Niedzielko, Katarzyna Rotkiewicz-Szumaska, Krzysztof Wojciechowski, presented at Zachęta — National Gallery of Art, closing 5 March 2017, is a unique appendix to these activities: The artist's name is also the title of the exhibition.

curators:
Hanna Wróblewska (Zachęta),
Michał Laszczkowski (The Cultural Heritage Foundation)

visual identification:
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The 75th anniversary of Aktion Reinhardt and the Extermination of Polish Jews perpetrated by the German Third Reich during the Second World War.



20.01–5.03.2017

Zachęta — National Gallery of Art
pl. Małachowskiego 3, Warsaw

Jewish Cemetery at Okopowa
ul. Okopowa 49/51, Warsaw

ABRAHAM OSTRZEGA

Section 2

- A. **Tomb of Helena Kranc nee Weingold (date 1926)**

Section 6

- **Tomb of Zofia Mandel nee Szmidt (1937)**

Section 8

- A. **Tomb of Frajda Freudenberg nee Apfelbaum (1933)**
- **Tomb of Gitia Prywes (1933)**

Section 10

- A. **Tomb of Wacław Wiślicki (1936)**
Wacław Wiślicki, politician, social and economic activist, industrialist, member of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th term Polish Sejm, i.a. President of the Central Office of the Trade Association.
- **Tomb of Zygmunt Bychowski (1935)**
Zygmunt Bychowski, physician, neurologist, social and political activist.
- **Tomb of Horacy Heller (1930)**
Horacy Heller, organiser of the wood economy, owner of the Industry and Trade Association 'Horacy Heller', which owned the tenement at 14/16 Karowa street.
- **Tomb of Eliasz Tenenbaum (1935)**
Eliasz Tenenbaum, merchant and industrialist, organiser of the import of tobacco to Poland, co-founder of tobacco factories 'Syrena' and 'Bracia Polakiewicz'.
- **Tomb of Rojza Siwak (1936)**
- **Tomb of Noe Dawidson (1929)**
Noe Dawidson, ophthalmologist, Zionist activist.

Section 12

- A. **Tomb of Fejga Elterman (1928)**
- B. **Tomb of Olek Hirszfild (1927)**
Olek Hirszfild, eleven-year-old.
- C. **Tomb of Sara Perle (1927)**
- D. **Tomb of Aleksander Grosswirth (1927)**
- E. **Tomb of Rita Gorielow (1926)**

Section 15

- A. **Tomb of Berta Dembina (1934)**
- **Tomb of Anna Kinsin (1933–1934)**

Section 19

- A. **Tomb of Malwina Koenigstein nee Hirsberg (1928)**
- B. **Tomb of Karol Himmelfarb (1927)**
Karol Himmelfarb, owner of the 'Słoń' shoe factory, committed suicide.
- C. **Tomb of Felicja Kon nee Korngold and Fryderyka Korngold nee Czlenow (1929)**
- D. **Tomb of Samuel Wolman (1929)**
- E. **Tomb of Jana Sierota (1928)**
Jan Sierota, co-owner of the 'Extrans' shipping and resale house.
- F. **Tomb of Helena Arciszewska nee Amsterdamska (1927)**
- G. **Tomb of Zofia Pave (1930)**
- **Tomb of Ludwik and Róża Neuman (1933)**

Section 24

- A. **Tomb of Witold and Regina Simchowicz nee Rosenbaum (1932)**
- B. **Tomb of Róża Orzech nee Sz wajcer (1933)**
- C. **Tomb of Aleksander Hochgemain-Homański (1931)**
Aleksander Hochgemain-Homański, lawyer.
- D. **Tomb of Benjamin and Hendla Rykwert nee Helfer (1936)**
Benjamin Rykwert, president of the Nożyk Synagogue Foundation in Warsaw.
- **Tomb of Henryk Ettinger (1931)**
Henryk Ettinger, lawyer, defender of participants of the Revolution of 1905, member of the Codification Committee which worked on the penal code introduced in 1932, later referred to as Code of Makarewicz.
- **Tomb of Władysław and Irena Pinczewski nee Jezierska(1932)**
- **Tomb of Stefania Giterman nee Feigenbau (1932)**
- **Tomb of Sara Gutwein (1932)**
- **Tomb of Bala Potok nee Meitlis (1932)**
- **Tomb of Natalia Steinberg nee Fogelson (1932)**
- **Tomb of Otylia Grauberg-Rosental (1931)**
Otylia Grauberg-Rosental, physician, neurologist, i.a. municipal doctor at the St. Stanislav hospital.

Section 31

- A. **Tomb of Bejnisz Michalewicz (1929)**
Bejnisz Michalewicz (pen name Józef Izbicki), activist, member of the Bund, educator, and writer. Exiled to Połtawa for his illegal activity, and later, as recidivist, to Arkhangelsk. Founder and president of the Central Council for Jewish Education, collaborator

Section 31 continued

of *Lebens-Fragen* and *Folks-Cajtung* magazines.

- B. **Tomb of Leon Koprowski-Leski (1936)**
Leon Koprowski-Leski, writer, editor of *Der Moment* daily.
- C. **Tomb of Teresa Rosenbaum (1934)**
- **Tomb of Maurycy and Franciszka Fuks family (1927)**
Maurycy Fuks, lawyer.
- **Tomb of Abraham Goldberg (1934)**
Abraham Goldberg, journalist. Initially cooperated with Russian magazines, in 1908 he began to work at *Hajnt*, where he was i.a. editor in chief. He belonged to the Central Committee of the Zionist Organisation.
- **Tomb of Hirsz Dawid Nomberg (1932)**
Hirsz Dawid Nomberg, writer, journalist, social and political activist. Initially, he wrote in Hebrew, later under Perec's influence in Yiddish. Member of the 1919 Legislative Sejm. Co-founder of the Association of Jewish Writers and Journalists in Poland.
- **Tomb of Aleksander Berkenheim (1933)**
Aleksander Berkenheim, co-operative and local government activist, after the February Revolution of 1917, elected deputy mayor of Moscow. Negotiated with Great Britain and France on behalf of Alexander Kerensky's government. After the victory of the October Revolution, he moved to Poland where he organised the Jewish cooperative movement, i.a. was head of the Jewish Association of Cooperatives.

Section 32

- A. **Tomb of Wincenty Raabe (1928)**
Wincenty Raabe, industrialist, publisher, merchant. Socialist. Member of the Social Democracy of the Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania, participant of the 1905 Revolution.

Section 33

- **Tomb of Samuel Goldflam (1933)**
Samuel Goldflam, physician, neurologist, author of analysis of myasthenia gravis (Erb-Goldflam syndrome). Activist, art collector and patron. Owner of clinic delivering free services to poor patients, co-owner and director of the 'Sophia' clinic for mental patients in Otwock. Author of ca. 100 scientific papers.

Section 35

- **Tomb of the Bolesław, Bronisław, and Zdzisław Eiger family (1925)**
Bolesław, industrialist, councillor at the city of Warsaw; Bronisław, Bolesław's brother; Zdzisław, Bolesław's son, committed suicide.
- **Tomb of Herman and Franciszka Fuks nee Lichtenbaum (1930)**
Herman Fuks, graduate of the Technical University of Riga, member of Welecja fraternity (Studentenverbindung), board member of the Warsaw Production Company of Yeast and Spirit.

Section 39

- A. **Tomb of Rozalia Wiesenfeld (1934)**
- B. **Tomb of Ita Gitla Turkow (1930)**

Section 44

- A. **Mausoleum of I.L. Perec, J. Dinezon, S. An-ski (1924)**
Icchok Lejb Perec, writer, one of the most prominent representatives of Yiddish literature, lawyer and activist, literary and theatre critic; Jakub Dinezon, writer publishing in Yiddish, social and educational activist; Szymon An-ski (Szłome Zajnfeld Rapoport), writer, researcher of Jewish folklore, published in Russian and Yiddish. Author of the *Dybuk* legend-drama and *Di Szwue* (Oath) song, which became the hymn of the Bund.
- B. **Tomb of Estera Pave nee Rozenfeld (1924–1925)**
- **Tomb of the Adam and Balbina Eizenbett family (1931)**

Section 45

- A. **Tomb of Uri Nissan Gnessin (1938)**
Uri Nissan Gnessin, writer, one of the pioneers of modern Hebrew literature. He made a debut in 1904 with short stories *Shadows of Life*. His stories are an obligatory school reading in Israel.

Section 64

- A. **Mausoleum of Magnus Kryński (1930)**
Magnus Kryński, writer and educator, he published the first illustrated Jewish magazine devoted to literature and art *Roman Cajtung*. Co-editor of *Der Moment* daily, which existed between 1910–1939. He was the founder of the first Jewish junior high school, with Polish as the language of instruction, and Hebrew and Jewish history lessons.
- B. **Tomb of Józef Hopfenstand (1925)**
Józef Hopfenstand, merchant and industrialist, director of a credit union.
- **Tomb of Jakub and Flora Lichtenbaum nee Kołtyńska (1926–1927)**
Jakub Lichtenbaum, Zionist activist, editor of *Izraelita* magazine, died in the Warsaw ghetto.

The map key includes all tombstones by Abraham Ostrzega, located at the Jewish Cemetery at Okopowa

