

On the third floor lived the Freudenheims, a plain well-to-do merchant family, and above us, covering only part of the house, was Hermann Struck's studio. During the war, Struck acted as adviser for the German government on questions relating to Polish-Russian Jews - there was no Poland yet and the Jews were politically considered Russian while they lived in areas formerly - 100 years ago - and again after the war considered Poland.

With the pre-war pogroms continuing throughout Eastern Europe, many Jews emigrated and on their way to Hamburg or Bremen, stopped in Berlin. Many of them came to Struck and served as his models for the wonderful etchings he created; they also came for a helping hand to see them through to their destinations.

*nasade belief*

While our fathers were German patriots and members of the Reichsverbans deutscher taatsbütiger Jüdischen Glaubens - (German citizens' association of Jewish religion) - BOTH your immigrant ancestors came to zionistic ideas from outside our parental influence.

I came under the influence of Struck both becoming interested in graphic art and zionism. While recalling the refugees from persecution as Jews, it never entered my mind that 20 years later I would be one of them. During my preparation for barmitzvah I became very observant and quite conscious of events in the world concerning Jews. And so I recall the issuance of the Balfour Declaration on November 2nd, 1917 - 7 weeks before my barmitzvah when "His Majesty's Government views with favor the establishment of a National Home for the Jews" was the first step leading 30 years later, on November 29th, 1947 to the United Nations Palestine Partition - one part for the Jews, the other for the Arabs; the Jews accepted, the Arabs didn't - and, hopefully, later in this personal history I will be able to write about both the ups and downs of zionist and Jewish history.

Grandma Margot, ~~raise~~ born and raised in a German border-town, Beuthen in Upper-Silesia, was not only a German patriot but an active anti-Polish participant in the post-war defense and politics of these years; yes, she threw bombs at the Poles - today, she would be considered a terrorist; and today, we often look at the pictures of youngsters in other countries who take up arms in defense of what they think is right. At a little older age, grandma Margot, became a counsellor in an orthodox and zionist youth camp in Bavaria - and while our influences shaped both our lives in zionism, it didn't work for orthodoxy in Judaism - probably our survival as Jews was more important than study of Judaism, practical action visavis theoretical ~~theoretical~~ acceptance of Jewish fate.