

Interviewee: Manuel Bronstein

1983

Interviewer: E. Gurevich

(Disjointed statements on various subjects)

Manuel Bronstein worked in the practice of Leopoldo Melo Inde, and had the opportunity to meet the political leaders of the time (at the end of Victorino de la Plaza's presidency.)

Bronstein insists that, despite Avni's position to the contrary, Tomas Le Breton was not anti-Semitic, and that as a Secretary of Agriculture, he favored the immigration of the Jews. Bronstein maintains that, excluding the Church's positions, Argentina aided the Jewish immigration with the help of the Masons and that, if there was some negativity in respect to that immigration, it was due to the fact that Jews were not farmers, and was not the best group to work the land. (Mention of Peralta Ramos, an anti-Semite, who prohibited the Jewish immigration during WWII)

The ICA (Jewish Colonization Association) founded by the Baron de Hirsch, wanted to bring only Jews to the colonies. Juan B. Justo was opposed to that because of "discrimination" against other groups. When there were lawsuits against the colonies organization, those were defended by the law firm of Satanovsky-Bronstein, starting in 1924.

Why the colonies failed.

Opinions on the political parties in Argentina, during the "Tragic Week" and more.

Mention of the writers who were sympathetic to the Jews: Jose Ingenieros, Leopoldo Lugones, Alfonsina Storni, Alberto Gerchunoff.

The founding of the Sociedad Hebraica Argentina (SHA). Guest speakers were, among others, Stefan Zweig (who refused to talk about Jewish subjects) Shaul Tchernikhovsky, from Palestine, Leivick, and more. Einstein was given an honorary membership by the Society and also came to talk.

Anti-Semitism was fought in Argentina through the Molot Treaty, initiated in the ranks of the community. The founding of the Committee Against Anti-Semitism with the help of France. Its bulletin attacked France's and England's allies, keeping in mind only the Soviet interests and not the Jewish issues. Bronstein was opposed to that. The general idea was that, if the Jews were being annihilated, there must be a reason.

The uprising of the Warsaw ghetto was lived in Argentina no differently than a dog fight in the streets.

The IAPI (Instituto Argentino de Periodismo Intelectual) managed to find funds to support the Spanish Civil War.

The changing political leanings of the SHA under different presidents. The new building, started during the war.

Simon Mirelman, coming from Switzerland, arrived prior to WWII. He was a Friend of the Hebrew University. The fundraising to donate a library to the Hebrew University.

Mention of the following political leaders, and their interactions with the Jewish community: Saenz Pena, Hipolito Irigoyen, president Alvear.

Avni's visit.

The tragic week. An anecdote about Mauricio Nirenstein, first president of the SHA, professor of Economics and Spanish Literature at the University of Buenos Aires (UBA)