

First Film Of Palestine (1911)



One hundred years ago, on Passover Eve 1911, Murray Rosenberg, a British Jew and staunch Zionist arrived in Ottoman Palestine together with his film equipment. During his visit, he shot scenes of the developing country: Jewish farmers in the Galilee, a festive procession to the grave of Rabbi Meir Baal Hanes in Tiberias, the experimental agricultural farm of Aaron Aaronsohn in Atlit, Turkish soldiers guarding the Old City in Jerusalem, and the Western Wall during Passover. Prominent personalities of the period were also photographed, including David Yellin and Boris Schatz, founder of Bezalel art school. Currently, the film *The First Film Of Palestine* is preserved in the Spielberg Archive. In honor of the film's centenary, this important restored film was shown at a festive screening at the Jerusalem Cinematheque, in cooperation

with the Spielberg Archive and the Bialik Publishing House. Deborah Steinmetz, Director of the Spielberg Archive, spoke about two early Zionist film promoters - Adolf Neufeld and Murray Rosenberg. Film researcher Yaakov Gross spoke about the work of pioneer filmmaker Yaakov Ben Dov and presented segments from his productions. The Archive has produced a special edition of *The First Film Of Palestine* which is available for sale to the general public.



Ayin Lezion Zofia

The evening was also dedicated to the launching of the book *Ayin Lezion Zofia*, the Hebrew edition of *Israel Before Israel* by Hillel Tryster, former director of the Spielberg Archive. The book examines the first steps of the film industry in Eretz Yisrael, starting from the end of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century and concentrates on several central personalities of the period - Yaakov Ben Dov, Baruch Agadati, Fred Dunkel and Yerushalayim Segal. The book was published jointly by the Spielberg Archive and the Bialik Publishing House.

THE ANCIENT PORT OF JAFFA

THE picture opens with a scene on a steamship, showing the Kalem players ready to depart for the ancient port of Jaffa, referred to in the Bible as Joppa. A successful landing is made after navigating the danger-

ous, rocky passage. A splendid view of Jaffa from the sea greets our eyes and, going ashore, we marvel at the wonderful street scene near the Custom House. We journey on to the auction market and then visit the public fountain on the Jaffa road.



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