



# Canadian Jewish Heritage Network



## M. Hassin Arnoni fonds

<https://www.cjhn.ca/en/permalink/cjhn80320>

Collection: M. Hassin Arnoni fonds  
Description Level: Fonds  
Physical Description: B&W photographs, 3 mm textual material

### Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of a photograph, a Piano Recital program, 1945 and a copy of an article "The First Jewish Settlers of Ottawa" by M. H. Arnoni written around 1945. It gives accounts of Moses Bilsky and Rev. Mirsky and mentions a farmer Mayer Held.

Date: 1945

Fonds No.: I0155

### History Biographical:

M. Hassin Arnoni ("Dr.") had many European associations. He was Russian by birth. As a young man he went to Palestine to be a chalutz. Then he attended law school in Brussels, Belgium and received his Doctor of Law. Then he worked in London, met his future wife Orah and followed her to New York, and moved on to Montreal where the eldest son was born. It has always been stated that Dr. Arnoni came to Ottawa through a meeting with Archibald and Lillian Freiman. He became the principal of the Jewish People's School Ottawa. With his sound education and excellent oratorical skills, he travelled across Canada with Mrs Lillian Freiman on behalf of the Zionist cause. Arnoni was the founder of the Young Poale Zion Organization of Ottawa. In 1929,1930 he commenced translations for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as he spoke 27 languages, including Russian, Polish, the Romance languages, Arabic, Hebrew, Yiddish but no Asian languages. He worked on an English-Hebrew dictionary based on the Jerusalem Post but it was never published. He also wrote speeches for Zionist causes. In the late 1930s and early 1940s he was an active and influential member of the Histadrut League, later the Labour Zionist Council of Ottawa. He went to Israel in 1949 and died there at the age of 58. He was married to Orah and they had two sons, one settling in Israel and Ariel in Ottawa. They were later divorced.

### Notes:

1. Chalutz is defined as a young man or woman who went to Palestine to settle the land. Many chalutzim were well educated Europeans. 2. Dr. Arnoni was considered too liberal in his bare headed walks with his wife. Not a religious man, he was criticized in the community for his unorthodox behaviour. He greatly influenced the youth of Ottawa. The Herzl Group (Young Judea) named their group in honour of him. 3. Sources include Shirley Berman's notes (card files) taken from Hugo Levendel, 1989 and a telephone conversation with Ariel Arnoni, December, 2006. 4. Other notes on Dr. Arnoni. He was President of the RA Chess Club "There were few people who could beat him". 5. He wrote speeches for Louis Achbar, A. J. Freiman, anyone who need a speech, Zionism and other topics as well. 6. Orah has been described as a "woman ahead of her time" She was founding member of Pioneer Women in Ottawa, a music teacher, played the piano, very artistic and skilled with her hands in sculpture, knitting. She originally was from Russia.

Related Material: Related material in the Jewish Peoples School Ottawa fonds and the Hashomer Hatzair fonds. See also Hugo Levendel fonds photos

Archival /  
Genealogical: Archival Descriptions

Repository: Ottawa Jewish Archives