

## THE HOUSE OF SHALOM ASZ IN BAT YAM

*translated from the Yiddish by Carole Turkeltaub Borowitz*

Although, in the year 1955 Shalom Asz was determined to settle in Israel, he had not decided which place he would live in. The current mayor of the amazingly growing town, Bat Yam, David Ben-Ari, invited him. The great author was invited to this fine town, with its splendid Mediterranean coast, to build, as he wished, the most up to date and best home. After the death of Shalom Asz this house, with its entire contents, pictures and antique



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collections, was given by Mrs. Asz to the municipality of Bat-Yam, to be used as an Asz museum and cultural center – Shalom Asz's House. A collection of personalities stands at the head of the initiators of Shalom Asz's House and Shalom Asz in Bat-Yam, with David Ben-Ari, as director.

In the house, all has remained unchanged – the salon with the valuable paintings' collection by famous artists; Chanukah lamps and other Jewish antiquities, also a bust of Shalom Asz, created by Yaakov Epsztajn; Shalom Asz's work room with his famous work table, pens, glasses, pictures and diplomas. There the collected works of Shalom Asz can be found, note books, documents, photographs, books from his library and various works in several languages, press cuttings (about Shalom Asz and his works), antiques from Shalom Asz's collection which were recent gifts to the house. Shalom Asz's Scroll of the Law, childhood works by him, books from a collection "Shalom Asz in the Theater", and so on.

Friends of Shalom Asz's House from all over the world constantly send material to enrich the house. The most valuable items were sent by YIVO [Yiddish Research Organization] in New York, YKUF [Yiddish Cultural Association] in New York, "Congress for Jewish Culture" in New York, Mark Turkow from Argentina, Melech

Rawicz (from Montreal, Canada), Nachman Majzel (of blessed memory).

People come often to Shalom Asz's House for courses, cultural events held together with the municipality, which often is the real cultural center for Bat-Yam and an art center for visitors from all over and tourists. In the visitor's book you can find many thousand signatures and also dedications in many languages from tourists from the four corners of the world, from all continents.

Shalom Asz's house, serving as a town museum, requires a larger building next door, for concerts, lectures, cultural events and exhibitions. The corner stone was already laid years ago. The plans were completed but the building work has not yet happened. There is no money.

The program of school children's outings to Shalom Asz's House developed very well, which was very important for increasing the popularity of the name of the famous writer Shalom Asz and his work. The visitor receives an education about Shalom Asz and his life and creativity from the director of Shalom Asz's House, Yitzhak Turkow.