

A. GAMES.
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Designs for Jewry

BEN URI ART SOCIETY

ABRAM GAMES

DESIGNS FOR JEWRY

15 April - 12 May 1991

Private View

Sunday 14 April at 3pm

The exhibition will be opened by

Chaim Bermant

Ben Uri Art Society
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FOREWORD

For over half a century Abram Games' arresting designs on hoardings, public buildings, catalogues and guides have influenced and illuminated the urban landscape. The signature of his style creates an expectation of excellence and precision.

This exhibition of his work for Jewry is, in a sense, a reflection of Games' involvement with the Jewish community. The elegance of his design for a Ketubah (marriage contract), the solemnity of a memorial synagogue window, the zip and wit of his Israeli stamp designs illustrate not only the richness, diversity of form and content of the artist's work, but also the commitment of a fiercely loyal, yet fiercely individualistic member of that community. Games can be a stern moralist through his images. In the **Displaced Persons** poster, two haunted eyes stare despairingly through the initials DP, and compel the conscience. In a different mood, he can free you for a joyous encounter with Isaiah. In his ingenious cover for the **Encyclopaedia Judaica**, the Hebrew letters dance and flutter across the book jacket to balance delicately in the shape of a Menorah. "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the House of the God of Jacob..." As if by magic, the key Hebrew letter, symbol of God's name, settles on the spine of the book, above the precise spot in the English translation.

His latest posters with their sparse, incisive line and their strong, primary colours appeal instantly; they have an air of inevitable logic about them. Yet the seeming simplicity veils the sophistication of the method. To gain the full impact and decode the double entendre demands involvement, curiosity and concentration from the viewer. Look carefully, for no line of colour is accidentally placed. Each has its meaning. In the striking **Conquest of the Desert** poster, for example, a green fist clutches a blossoming rose; nothing surely could be simpler. Yet the stem of the flower, on examination, turns out to be in the colours and shape of a surveyor's rod. Abram Games' work too is measured, careful. To suit the occasion, however, his mood can become playful or festive. The poster marking the Anglo-Jewish Tercentenary of 1956, blends the tent of Jacob with two Tudor roses springing gracefully from each flap. Games' work transcends secular and national boundaries and has been widely exhibited abroad. The strength in this exhibition lies in its concentrated theme. Here is a record of the community's concerns from the earnestness of the very early poster of the young Halutz, to the power of the Holocaust memorial with its stark list of names, the richness of the Valley of the Biblical Coppermines poster, the handsome and distinctive covers of the Jewish Chronicle's New Year issues. The exhibits will evoke memories and visual pleasure in a community fortunate in its designer.

June Rose

As a close friend of the family for many years, June Rose often had the opportunity to watch Abram Games at work in his studio. In Israel, she was on the staff of The Jerusalem Post and in this country wrote regularly for The Jewish Chronicle and freelanced for The Times and for Radio 4. In recent years June Rose has written a number of biographies. Her latest, **"Modigliani, The Pure Bohemian"** was published by Constable in 1990.

EMBLEMS

1	Israel 10th Anniversary	1957
2	Mizrachi Women Children's Aid	1959
3	Jewish Museum, London	1958
4	Plant a Tree (JNF-Israel)	1963
5	The Winston Churchill Forest (JNF-Israel)	1965
6	United Synagogue Centenary	1969
7	Jewish Disabled	1977
8	Ben Uri Art Society	1977
9	Jewish Social Service	1980
10	British Israel Society	1981
11	CBF World Jewish Relief 50th Anniversary	1981
12	Anglo-Jewry 225th Anniversary	1984
13	World Jewish Congress, Europe	1984
14	Institute of Jewish Affairs	1990
15	Jewish Relief Unit	1944
16	Rosh Pinah School	1955
17	Jewish Lads' & Girls' Brigade	
18	Ravenswood Schools	1957
19	Jews' Free School	1958
20	Jewish Childs Day	1944
21	Technion Friends (UK-Israel)	1953
22	Conquest of the Desert	1952
23	Queen Elizabeth Coronation Forest (JNF-Israel)	1952
24	The Tercentenary of Anglo-Jewry	1955
25	Independence Forest (JNF-Israel)	1952
26	Israel-Potash	1956
27	Bar Ilan University	1957

STAMPS

28	First Prize Winner for Israel Philatelic Services (Unpublished)	1949
29	3rd maccabiah Games	1950
30	Independence Bonds Campaign	1951
31	Test Stamp for Course for Israeli Designers	1956
32	Conquest of the Desert	1953
33	Maccabiah Games 25th Anniversary	1958
34	Holocaust Memorial (Persecution of European Jews 1933-45)	1973
35	Festival of British Jewry Cover & Label	1985
36	Encyclopaedia Judaica Label	1969
37	Muswell Hill Synagogue Hebrew Classes Attendance stamps	1954
38	JNF Guest Plan Fund Raising Stamp	1954

EX LIBRIS

39	Lewis Epstein	1956
40	Alfred Rubens	1956
41	Reform Synagogues of Great Britain Machzor page	1984
42	A selection of headed notepaper using emblems designed by Games	

BOOK & MAGAZINE COVERS

43	Clouds of Glory over Soho Rooftops by Chaim Lewis	1991
44	A History of Jewish Costume by Alfred Rubens	1965
45	Part of the Keter Monograph Series	1974
46	CBF Annual Report	
47	Joint Palestine Appeal 1951 Year Book	1951
48	Joint Palestine Appeal 1952 Year Book	1952
49	Joint Palestine Appeal 1955 Year Book	1955
50	Joint Palestine Appeal 1956 Year Book	1956
51	The Egyptian Mining Temple at Timna by Beno Rothenberg	1988
52	The Ancient Metallurgy of Copper by Beno Rothenberg	1990
53	Catalogue of the Jewish Museum London. Edited by R.D.Barnett	1974
54	The World Calendar & Sabbath Observance	1954
55	The Jewish Travel Guide	1956
56	Muswell Hill Synagogue Annual Ball	1956
57	The Sharon Hagadah	1967
58	Ben Uri 50th Anniversary Commemorative Volume	1965
59	Medical Aid Committee for Israel Commemorative Concert in Aid of the Wounded	1974
60	Kindertransporte '38-'39 Commemoration	1989
61	Encyclopaedia Judaica Print **Copies of this limited edition print are available for sale priced £150**	1969
62	Encyclopaedia Judaica Cover	1969
63	Jewish Chronicle New Year Issue 5726	1965
64	Jewish Chronicle New Year Issue 5727	1966
65	Jewish Chronicle Magazine Israel's 25th Anniversary Commemorative Issue	1972
66	Jewish Chronicle New Year Issue 5728	1967
67	Jewish Chronicle New Year Issue 5733	1972
68	Jewish Chronicle New Year Issue 5729	1968
69	Jewish Chronicle New Year Issue 5730	1969
70	Jewish Chronicle Masthead	1970
71	Jewish Chronicle New Year Issue 5736	1975
72	Jewish Chronicle New Year Issue 5731	1970
73	Jewish Chronicle New Year Issue 5732	1971

74	Judaica Collector - The Journal of the Judaica Philatelic Society Abram Games is the President of the Society	
75	Ashkelon Children's Home	1957
76	Jewish Observer and Middle East Review	1956
77	Achievement of British Jewry Exhibition Programme	1985
78	Advertisement for Magen David Adom	1956
79	New London Synagogue Ketubah	1972

PRINTS

80	North Western Reform Synagogue 50th Jubilee Print	1983
81	Reform Synagogues of Great Britain Prayerbook Print	1977

Copies of both these limited edition prints are available for sale priced £40 each.

MEMORIAL WINDOWS

82	Muswell Hill Synagogue	1965
83	AJEX House	1987

POSTERS

84	Displaced Persons	1946
85	United Palestine Appeal	1945
86	Clothing for Liberated Jewry CBF	1945
87	25th Anniversary of the Holocaust	1970
88	CBF Hungarian/Egyptian Refugees	1957

MEMORIAL PANEL

89	Hillel House	1972

POSTERS

90	Palestine Marketing	1945
91	CBF Refugees	1974
92	La Israel Leve (Norway-Israel)	1956
93	Jewish Museum, London	1984
94	80 Posters and other works by Abram Games Ben Uri Art Society Exhibition	1952
95	Victoria & Albert Museum Exhibition of Anglo-Jewish Art & History for the Tercentenary of Anglo-Jewry 1955	1955
96	La Conquete du Desert	1952
97	10th Anniversary Israel Exhibition	1957
98	Holiday in Israel	1956
99	El Al	1957
100	CBF Help Jewish Refugees from Arab Countries	1965
101	Stampbooks	1956

102	Achievement of British Jewry	1985
103	AJEX Remembrance Parade	1956
104	Abram Games - Graphic Designer Exhibition at the Bezalel National Museum	
105	Hazor Exhibition, British Museum	1957
106	Midianite Timna Exhibition, British Museum	1971
107	JLB Summer Camp	1969

GREETINGS CARDS

108	Youth Aliyah New Year Card	1958
109	Assorted Jewish Chronicle cover adaptations for New Year	

MEDALS AND BADGES

110	Jewish Relief Unit	1944
111	Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade Medal	1980
112	Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade Badge	1975

DEVELOPMENTAL DRAWINGS

113	For emblems for Jewish Disabled and United Synagogue Centenary
114	For emblem of Anglo-Jewry 225th Anniversary
115	For posters of Midianite Timna and El Al
116	For Israel 10th Anniversary emblem

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Mrs Dorothy Stone