

tions and psychoanalytic understanding, social implications of mass traumata acted as a catalyzer of the development of the Holocaust research in Israel.

May be the best way to conclude this appreciation paying tribute to Heinrich Zvi Winnik, researcher of the Holocaust, is to quote two statements from him written 27 years ago:

1. "In the early post-war years it was optimistically believed that the mental disturbances in most of the survivors would gradually subside after a period of adaptation, but unfortunately these hopes have not been realized. In daily clinical practice psychiatrists are faced with large numbers of these patients in whom the psychological sequelae have actually deepened with the passage of time". (8)

2. "When we study the literature dealing with the Holocaust it is difficult to cope with the emotions. We often recall the saying: *The most dangerous and cruel enemy of mankind is — the man himself*". (9)

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he became a member of the Shomer Hatzair.

It is clear that Winnik developed a strong Jewish identity in his early development, on the other hand his formal education resulted in his great appreciation felt for the German culture.

Even though he and his family survived the Holocaust (his parents and his siblings reached Palestine in the last moment before the Second World War) he himself experienced the state of being a refugee, to face the threat of being caught, imprisoned and humiliated, to feel the anxiety about the insecure future, to be alert, and to search and hope for the feeling of security.

Winnik's education provided him with the basic elements of how to cope with the demands of a new and often difficult environment: to learn the data, to try to understand their meaning and to be able to apply it in everyday life.

The last thirty years of Winnik's life (1950-1982) reflects the period of consolidation: The return to home, the creativity to establish new systems, to build and develop new treatment facilities.

The years after the establishment of the State of Israel (1948) brought new problems, challenges and opportunities in all areas of the Israeli society. The ingathering of the exiles, the mass immigration in

the early fifties, the survivors of the concentration camps, the refugees arriving from the different Arab countries, the combination of permanent threat of war combined with economic burdens confronted the psychiatric community of the country with multiple tasks and responsibilities.

The trauma of the Holocaust did exist all the time in the individual and group conscience of the nation. At the same time other urgent responsibilities did emerge which did not erase the impact of the Holocaust, but somewhat enhanced the avoidance of confrontation with the recent past. However, when the Eichmann trial opened in Jerusalem in 1960, it reactivated the horrors of the Holocaust, the professional community responded with intensity and competence but rather slowly.

Winnik was one of the first Israeli investigators who established contact with other researchers in other countries. His contact with Eitinger in Norway, with other investigators in Holland served as additional stimulus to local psychiatrists (R. Jaffe, S. Barag, the late H. Klein and Sh. Davidson, T. Nathan et al.).

Winnik's comprehensive and eclectic approach combining principles and practice of clinical psychiatry, psychodynamic formula-

passed away and was buried in Jerusalem ten years ago at the age of 80.

Many of his friends, colleagues and disciples all over the world, in Europe (where he grew up and was educated), in the United States (where he was also well known and respected) and in Israel (where he devoted 40 years of his life to educate generations of psychiatrists, psychoanalysts and physicians) paid homage to him during his life time and after his death. (3, 4, 5, 6)

In the following a modestly cautious attempt will be used in order to review those personal and professional events of his life which might have contributed to his development to become one of the central figures in the Holocaust research in Israel since the sixties.

The following short description of the biographical data of the late Heinrich Zvi Winnik is based on the information he offered in 1972 to the Yearbook of the Hebrew University (7) and in an interview he gave in 1979 three years before his death. (3)

H. Z. Winnik was born in 1902 in Napolokoutz, a small town in Bukovina (which then belonged to the Austro-Hungarian empire, becoming later Rumania, the Soviet Union and today Ukraine). Coming from a multilingual region, he still defined his place of birth as

“born in Austria”. He attended his high school in Czernovitz (in German) and later in Vienna. He started his university studies in philosophy and mathematics in Prague but after one year he switched to medicine and graduated from the University of Breslau (today Wroclaw, Poland) in 1926. He continued his specialization in neuropsychiatry in Breslau and later at the Neurological Clinic in Chemnitz (until very recently belonging to the DDR, East Germany). Between the years 1930-33 he became Senior Physician in the neurological department of the Lankwitz Hospital, Berlin. After the Nazi take over he escaped Germany and landed in Vienna. He remained in Vienna until 1937 where he obtained his psychoanalytic training. Before the Anschluss he returned to Rumania and worked in private practice in Bucharest until 1942. In 1942 he finally succeeded to escape aboard an illegal refugee boat to Palestine.

Winnik received Jewish and Zionist education since his early childhood. His grandparents represented two different orientations: his maternal grandfather was close to the Hassids of Wishnitz, his paternal grandfather was one of the founders of the religious Zionist movement. Therefore, it did not come as a surprise that in his youth

Heinrich Zvi Winnik

Profile of a Pioneer Israeli Researcher of the Holocaust

(Thoughts and reflections on the tenth anniversary of his death)

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In recent years researchers of the Holocaust repeatedly raised the question why did the actual research in Israel on the effects of the Holocaust start only about twenty years after the end of World War II. Different psychological, psychiatric, sociological and even political explanations were put forward but no definite consensus was ever reached on the matter.

It is today even of historical interest that one of the first publications originating from Israel on the persistent effects of internment of survivors of the Nazi concentration camps was written by Shuval (then a young researcher in sociology) in 1957, as a by-product of her study on adjustment problems of new

immigrants in Israel. Her data was not based on clinical techniques. (1)

In 1962 Levinger, an Israeli neuro-psychiatrist, himself a refugee from Nazi Germany before the Holocaust, published a statistical descriptive study on the psychiatric evaluation of 800 "cases" who submitted their claim for compensation (*Wiedergutmachung*) to the German authorities on the basis of different medical conditions related to the persecution (according to the German laws, BEG and 2.DV.BEG). It is worthwhile to mention that his controversial report was published in Germany. (2)

It is not the intention of this author to write a delayed obituary on Heinrich Zvi Winnik, who

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