

# JEWISH POET ENDS ORDEAL IN SOVIET

## Rehabilitated Writer Returns to Warsaw After Five Years of Imprisonment

By SYDNEY GRUSON

Special to The New York Times.

WARSAW, Aug. 5—Moishe Broderzon, renowned Yiddish-language poet and dramatist, has returned to Warsaw after five and a half years in Soviet prisons.

He was freed last September. He carried back to Poland last week a notice from the Soviet Prosecutor General that the "proceedings against you have been terminated and in this matter you are now considered rehabilitated."

Mr. Broderzon was sentenced in 1950 to ten years' imprisonment on charges of "Jewish nationalism." he was swept up in the anti-Semitic drive loosed against writers and theatre artists by Stalin in 1948.

Mr. Broderzon's wife, Miriam, a star of the Yiddish stage in Poland and Russia until 1948, remained in Moscow throughout his imprisonment. Banned from the theatre, she worked in an artists' handicraft cooperative.

She returned with him to Warsaw. They sat together today in a small bedroom in the Hotel Warszawa, where Mr. Broderzon, a spare man of medium height, receding gray hair and soft, deeply set eyes, spoke in Yiddish of what had happened.

### Arrested in 1950

The secret police arrested him on April 21, 1950. Toward the end of 1948, Soviet authorities closed the only Yiddish-language newspaper in Moscow, disbanded the Anti-Fascist Committee headquarters there and shut the Jewish theatre studio where he had worked, Mr. Broderzon said.

"We all knew what was happening," he said. "We knew of the arrests of other Jewish writers and artists and lived in daily fear of our turn."

When it came he was held for nine months in two prisons in Moscow and interrogated nightly for eight of the nine months. His interrogators accused him of having said that anti-Semitism existed in the Soviet Union and he recalled that he told them, "its true—there is anti-Semitism in Russia." At the end of nine months he was sent to a camp in Taishet, Siberia, to serve his ten-year sentence.

Of eighty-five Jewish literary and theatre figures working in Moscow after the war, Mr. Broderzon said he thought at least fifteen "are no longer alive." But he would not discuss how they had died.

He said the following had died: David Bergelson, Peretz Markish, David Hoffstein, Leib Kwitko, Haziiah Dobroshin, Benjamin Zusskind, Itzek Feffer, and a man named Nussinov [believed to be Isaac Nussinov, a writer]. Mr. Feffer and Mr. Zusskind were the first to be arrested, Mr. Broderzon said.

### Others Again in Moscow

All the remaining Jewish writers imprisoned by Stalin have been freed and "rehabilitated," Mr. Broderzon said. The most important of those living again in Moscow, he added, were Shmuel Halkin, Shaike Berman, Rachel Boimwoll, Noah Luria and Note Luria.

The Broderzons fled to the Soviet Union in 1939 when the Nazis invaded Poland. Both worked in the Yiddish theatre in Moscow and in 1940 the Russians made them Soviet citizens.

Mr. Broderzon decided to stay on after the war because, he said, "I did not want to come back to the place where three and a half million members of my family had been lost."

Despite the hardship of life in the Siberian camps, where winter temperatures raged down to 40 degrees below zero, Mr. Broderzon looks more like a man of 50 than 65. He worked in the

camps as a night watchman, he said, but he did no writing.

"Until the death of Stalin, I was not even permitted to have a pencil," he said. "Life was considerably easier after Stalin died."

The Cultural-Social Association of Jews in Poland arranged the Broderzons' repatriation. Mr. Broderzon hopes to resume writing for the Yiddish theatre that still exists here, the only one in the Soviet bloc.

Hirsch Smoller, president of the association, said the repatriation of Israel Emjot, a Polish Jewish poet, also had been arranged.

Mr. and Mrs. Broderzon's daughter, Mrs. Anna Burstyn, lives at 156 Riverdale Avenue, Brooklyn.

### Daughter Overjoyed

Mrs. Burstyn, when informed by telephone yesterday in South Fallsburg, N. Y., where she is visiting, that her parents were in Warsaw and apparently in good health, said:

"I'm just in Heaven. I have two new-born parents. I have not seen them since 1941. I was separated from them in the war and since 1948 I didn't know if they were alive. I wish I could see them again."