

KAROLINA STREET AND THE FAMILY OF A MAGISTRATE COUNSELLOR JULIUS KIESLER

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Abstract. The details of family everyday life and biography of a famous architecture theoretician Friedrich Kiesler have been presented in the article.

Key words: biography, family, Synagogue building.

1. Introduction

Every person has a place where their life begins and where it ends. As for a famous architect Friedrich Kiesler, his life started in Chernivtsi, in Karolina Street. This fact is confirmed by the record in the registry book of Chernivtsi citizens. Wise Jews included to their metric books very good sections where they recorded parents' profession and a house number of a newly-born and all the rest information demanded by Austrian law. Nowadays these poor records make it possible to know precisely the place of birth of a future successful American, a native of Chernivtsi, Friedrich Kiesler.

2. Basic Theory Part

The street was built up poorly in 1890 (Friedrich Kiesler was born on September 22, 1890). The even side started with the building of a Jewish Synagogue and ended with a free area. The odd side started with the house of Amalia Zucker, a wife to a manufacturer Markus Zucker and also ended with a building-free area.

3. Result and Discussion

The history of the main religious house of progressive (reformatory) part of Chernivtsi Jewish religious community started after the division of community into "orthodox" and "progressive" in the 60s of the 19th century. It is interesting that thanks to uncompromising position of Austrian government and holding elections in 1876 both communities re-united into one big town community. For building prayer center "Chernivtsi Jewish Synagogue society" was formed and its statute was approved by Bukovina regional council on December 19, 1872. The society was located in Chernivtsi and consisted of the founders, members and honored members. One could enter the society by filing personally filled application in which an applicant took the obligation of buying a place for praying (male or female) in one of the rows of a built Synagogue.

The Society board was responsible for taking care about the beginning and conducting the construction as well as arranging the Synagogue according to accepted at the general meeting plans and budget. On behalf of the society the board took necessary decisions, concluded agreements and did everything needed for reaching the goal – constructing a new building [1]. The board consisted of the president of Chernivtsi Jewish religious community David Rotenberg, Caesar counsellor Naftali Tittinger, members of the Austrian Chamber of Ambassadors David Tittinger and Heinrich Wagner, repeated president of the chamber of lawyers Dr. Heinrich Kiesler, heads of Amster, Angauh, Barber, Bronstein, Kon, Luttinger, Nadler, Regenstreif, Rosenzweig, Steiner, Wischofer and Zucker families etc.

A wealthy landowner Amalia Zucker gave the area for construction in the city center as a present. After that the money allocated for the construction started in the form of charity donations, however it did not bring

expected results. Then 100 members – founders donated a considerable amount for the needs of building and construction committee announced the selling of 200 male and female places in the future Synagogue to the members of European religious community.

On March 8, 1873 a holiday of putting the foundation stone for the future building took place. The first stone was put by the head rabbi Dr. Igel. A brilliant idea of putting a stone of a Synagogue by an Orthodox bishop Yevgen Hakman may be first spotted in a book dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the Synagogue in the article by Markus Schmelzer. Firstly, at the moment of putting the foundation stone the metropolitan Yevgen was no longer alive (he passed away in March 1873). Secondly, which religion would allow people of a different religion interfere in the most sacred of their religion – putting foundation stones for the main religious buildings?

The plan of a building was designed by a famous Lviv architect of the last third of the 19th century, architecture professor, rector of Lviv Polytechnic University, Caesar counsellor, Julian Oktawian Zachariewicz (1837–1898). He was working in Chernivtsi during 1865-1871. Building work was supervised by Chernivtsi architects Anton Fiala and Johann Gregor, bricklaying work was done under the supervision of Laurence Kukurudza, metallic structures were made in the studios of archduke Albrecht in Ustron in Galicia. The building was conducted for 4 years.

The ceremonial opening and consecration of the Synagogue took place on September 4, 1877. This holiday became a significant event not only for Jewish population but also for the whole city. The first liturgy took place on the following day. Everyone present in the building was mesmerized by its beauty and greatness. In 1937 the building was renovated. It was destroyed during World War II. The construction was rebuilt in the Soviet times [2]. Now it is known to the citizens and city guests as a cinema “Chernivtsi”. At the moment of building the Synagogue new board of Jewish religious community was elected. New board appointed Dr. Julius Kiesler to be a community secretary. He had occupied this position till 1927.

The family of a magistrate counsellor Julius Kiesler during many years lived in Chernivtsi in Karoliny street later (Avram Iancu) in the house No. 5 (old house number 1276). According to the record book on population and domestic animals census in Chernivtsi in the streets Kalichankahasse, Karolinenhasse and Kazernenhasse in the house No. 5 in Karolinenhasse street, apartment 4 during 1890-1891 there lived a magistrate counsellor Dr. Julius Kiesler (born in March 1842 in Kolomyia), his wife Rosa, a housewife (born on March 4, 1852 in Velykyi Kochuriv near Chernivtsi), their daughter Maria (born on December 21, 1873), their son Emil Robert, a student of the national school (born on September 30, 1881), their son Friedrich Jacob (born on September 22, 1890). The family had two servants: a babysitter Kateryna Prodanchuk from Tovtry near Kitsman and Natan Rozental from Tobik near Semygorod. The house, consisting of 5 apartments, was built as a profitable one, was owned by Kremer family and was rented out; Ms Teresia Kremer was its bailiff in 1890. Most population rented the accommodation in Austrian and Romanian Chernivtsi, it is confirmed in the city address books which started to be issued on the initiative of a burgomaster Anton Kokhanovskyi edited by the magistrate employee Dr. Anton Norst. Chernivtsi address books before the surnames of house owners included the letter E what stood for “Eigenthümer” and means “owner”.

People of various nationalities such as the German, Polish and Jewish lived in the house. The family of a university library employee, a German Rudolf Volkan, lived in the flat No. 1. He was born in Bohemia in the family consisted of 5 people. The family of a lawyer, a German from Moravia, Dr. Jacob Fleischer lived in the flat No. 2 and consisted of 6 people. The family of a head of Austrian-Hungarian bank branch, a German from Linz, Heinrich Gnedhoffer, lived in the flat No. 3–7 people. The family of the employee of estate board of Bukovina Orthodox religious fund, Leon Zuckerman originating from Ternopil, lived in the flat No. 5–8 family members. The family of Ignac Ormanchuk lived in the flat No. 3 and consisted of 3 people. As it is seen from the presented facts, the representatives of different nationalities lived even in one house: originating from Germany, Austria, Galicia and Bukovina. From the young age children could communicate in different languages what was common for Chernivtsi.

The question of building up the street at the time of Friedrich Kiesler’s birth is interesting. On both even and odd sides there were 3 houses on each of them.

People with different professions rented the flats here, among them there were: a private engineer Sigmund Chaikel, an organist of a Rome-Catholic cathedral Josef Zukowski, estate agents Wolf Koban and Kalman Grunberg, “Chorny Orel” hotel porter Karl Neubert, a university professor Friedrich Kleinwechter, a practice school teacher Bratina Strelbyska, iron trader Adolf Ivankiewicz, a manufacturer Siegfried Salter, a merchant Joachim Gutman, a tavern keeper Hittel Landberg and others [3].

According to Chernivtsi map created by Ludwig West, two buildings No. 9 and 11 appeared on the odd side of the street in 1897.

The childhood of Friedrich Kiesler was not cloudless. One year after his birth on September 27, 1891 his mother Rosa died at the age of 38. The newspaper “Czernowitzer Zeitung” communicated the following “On the day before yesterday after a difficult illness the wife of a magistrate counsellor Julius Kiesler, Rosa Kiesler (at birth Meisler) passed away. Farewell will take place today at 10 o'clock in the mourning house at 5, Karolinenhasse” [4].

At the Jewish cemetery on the grave of the future architect's mother the following is stated on behalf of her husband Dr. Julius Kiesler, children Maria, Emil and Friedrich “generous spirit, heart overwhelmed with love and faithfulness, so she lived and was sincerely loved and respected. Death caused us deep pain and eternal grief. Let her pure soul rest in peace”.

The father of the family made all the efforts so children grew up successful and got education. Friedrich finished Chernivtsi real school and continued his studies in Vienna; Emil Robert followed his father's footsteps and after graduating from the university worked as a secretary of Chernivtsi council, lived at 5, Karolinenhasse with his father.



Fig. 1. A grave of Kiesler family at the Jewish cemetery in Chernivtsi.

Source: The M. Nykyrsa archive

Dr. Julius Kiesler died on August 18, 1932 at the age of 89 after a short illness (Fig. 1). Before retiring he had worked as a clerk of Chernivtsi magistrate and during a long time as a secretary of Chernivtsi Jewish religious society. As a clerk he was a role model for responsibility, always pedantically correct and available for communication. As a secretary of Jewish society he paid a lot of attention to the requests of people in need, did charity work. He left his three children in a good welfare: his daughter Maria married a military colonel Rudner and lived in Lviv, his son Emil was a senior counsellor in magistrate and his son Friedrich was an architect in New York.

In the article “Zum Tode d-r Julius Kiesler” a newspaper “Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung” pointed out “He lived only for his family and his ideals. The war and the following political alterations did not change his lifestyle. He kept serving to the community and being even at a senior age he continued to help people. He did not strive for money or possessions, he was satisfied with everything what fulfilled his life. A kind star was also shining above his children who were respected in the society. He was in good health till the last days of his life, got satisfaction from everything it gave him. He was an absolutely happy person. He could not understand the madness which gripped people after the world war and had a firm faith and hope in rescue of human soul” [5].

This is how this same newspaper described the funeral of Dr. Julius Kiesler. A lot of people gathered in front of a mourning house at 5, Avram Ianko Street in order to give the last honor to a retired magistrate counsellor Dr. Julius Kiesler. The farewell ceremony in the flat No. 4 was conducted by a senior chanter Feldman together with a Synagogue choir. Then the procession moved from Karolinenhasse to the building of Chernivtsi Jewish religious society, then it passed Alexandri square in the direction of a council and then to the cemetery. A senior rabbi Mark delivered a speech where he talked about Kiesler’s contribution into the council and Jewish community activity. After that the community secretary Gottlieb spoke. Julius’s friends – a headmaster of the Jewish school Karl Dubenski and a pharmacist Fuhlmann – were present at the funeral.

4. Conclusions

That is a short story of one famous Chernivtsi family.

References

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[2] DACHO. F. R-3. Op. 5. Spr. 307. Ark. 1–118.

[3] F. 39. op. 3 spr. 285. Vul. Karolinengasse.

[4] Hazeta “Czernowitzer Zeitung” No. 222 – 29 veresnya 1891, 4

[5] Hazeta “Chernovittser” Allgemeine Zeitung 20 serpnya 1932 No. 8230 c.

Марія Никурса

ВУЛИЦЯ КАРОЛІНИ І РОДИНА РАДНИКА МАГІСТРАТУ ЮЛІУСА КІЗЛЕРА

Анотація. *Висвітлено подробиці родинного побуту і біографії батька відомого теоретика архітектури Фрідріха Кізлера.*

Ключові слова: *біографія, родина, будівництво Темплю.*