

Abstract

Yizhak Lamdan (b. Mlynov, Ukraine, 1897, d. Tel-Aviv, Israel, 1954) was one of the most important poets of the Third Aliya (immigration wave), alongside Uri Zvi Greenberg, Avraham Shlonsky, Sh. Shalom, Alexander Penn and Avigdor ha-Meiri. He began keeping a diary when he was sixteen years old, in the summer of 1914. The diary, written in Hebrew, documents his wanderings in the Ukraine after World War I, as well as the revolution and civil war which followed it in Mlynov, Hubin, Lutsk and Berestechko. Its second part is dedicated to his days as a pioneer in Eretz-Israel between 1921 and 1924 in Sejera, Sarona and Tel-Aviv; thus documenting five years of his youth and his first five years in Eretz-Israel. This 550 page (in printed format) detailed diary was kept in 15 notebooks assembled by the author and presented by him to the 'Genazim' Institute. Since then, the diary has only been reviewed briefly and relegated to the margins of the literary criticism consciousness. Large sections of the manuscript have blurred and were difficult to interpret. Moreover its unique orthography, typical to the period, made it difficult to understand. The historical details demanded further clarification.

This autobiographical manuscript ('Genazim', Yizhak Lamdan diary: 13456/196) is one of the most prominent documents of the Third Aliya with respect to the language used at the time, the cultural mindset, the sociology of the Third Aliya pioneers and a display of the poet's personal background information. The diary bears witness to the internal conflicts which were "hidden" in writings "kept secret" from the social supervision of the hegemonic collective ideology. Thus the diary complements the poet's portrait, and presents a secret written exposition of material that was never publicly printed.

With this volume Lamdan's published literary work is concluded; A collection of his poems was printed in 1973 by the Bialik Institute (*Kol Shirey Yizhak Lamdan*) and his collected letters with an introduction was published by 'Genazim' and the Israel Metz Foundation in 1998 (*Yizhak Lamdan: Collected Letters With Introduction and Notes by Avidov Lipsker*).