



### *Motelle Meisel*

Motelle Meisel was born in Russia in 1892, and received his education in Europe. He came to America in 1912, and settled in Chicago, Illinois. He became interested in the arts and crafts of the Yiddish stage, and after joining the Chicago Literary Dramatic Society, he was elected to the office of secretary, and held this position for several years. Mr. Meisel is still a member in good standing of this organization.

Mr. Meisel participated in a number of fine plays under the direction of Peretz Hirsblein, Marx Arnstein and Abraham Titelbaum, and played a prominent part in the great production "The Dead Warrior" by Sholom Asch. Later under the direction of Joseph Boulov, Mr. Meisel participated prominently in H. Levik's "The Shop," and in Sholom Asch's "Shaḥsai Zevie." The work of Mr. Meisel in these parts was highly commended by the critics.

Upon his arrival in Memphis, it was only natural that Mr. Meisel would continue his work. He assembled all of the talent in the city of Memphis. He was assisted in his work by Mr. and Mrs. Leon Berger, Mrs. Ruth Petrovsky, Mrs. Max Schechtman, and the collaboration of Mr. Haar and Mr. Chesson, there came into being an organization known as "Midkov," an abbreviated name for Memphis Dramatishe Kultur Vinkel. Under the direction of Mottelle Meisel, Memphis saw the birth of real Yiddish Art Theatre produced on the stage of the Farband's Little Theatre at 638 Alabama. The above group made its first appearance in Jane Rose's "Behind the Curtain." Then followed several plays of Sholom Aleichem, Scholom Asch, and even a four act play by David Pinsky entitled "Every One With His Own God."

Because of the depression, activities have ceased for the present, but Mr. Meisel has hopes to reestablish the Yiddish Theatre in Memphis at an early date.