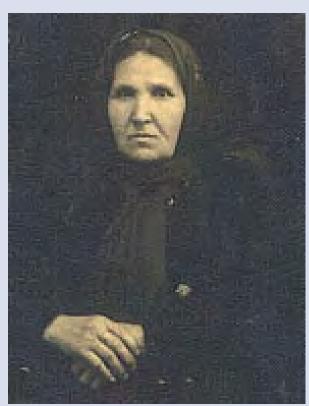
"KE HABER?"

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FEBRUARY 2022

FEATURED STORY "ISTORIKOS"



Portrait of Perla Menashe Benoun

EMBROIDERIES OF PERLA MENASHE BENOUN BY ARON HASSON

Perla Menashe Benoun was my great-grandmother. My mother, Pearle Benoun Hasson, was named after her. Perla was born in 1861 on the island of Rhodes and was married to Samuel Bohor Benoun. They had eight children: Rahamin (Moshe), Caden, Reina, Matilde, Jamila, Aron (my grandfather, who I was named after), Esther, and Isaac.

In the early twentieth century, "Rhodes embroidery" was popular in northwestern Europe. (TRC, Leiden). The Rhodesli women excelled in fine needlework, and Perla became a skilled embroiderer.

In 1922, then a widow, she traveled to Argentina and brought two handmade embroideries to her daughter, Estrea.

In 2002, Perla's granddaughter Raquel Bivas Alculumbre of Buenos Aires, donated the artifacts to the Rhodes Jewish Historical Foundation. These artifacts are currently on display at the Jewish Museum of Rhodes.



Perla with Masud Dudaie's family

TWO HANDMADE EMBROIDERIES FROM RHODES



Velvet pillowcase designed with embroidered gold-metal thread. Handmade in Rhodes by Perla Menashe Benoun in the early 1900s. She gave the pillowcase to her daughter, Estrea "as a gift, to remember me by."



Runner embroidery decorated repeatedly with the word "Yerushalayim" (Jerusalem). Handmade in Rhodes by Perla Menashe Benoun in the early 1900s, later gifted to her daughter. The embroidery was featured in the 2019-2020 Rhodesli Jewish Calendar for June 2020.

FEATURED STORY "ISTORIKOS"

EMBROIDERIES OF PERLA MENASHE BENOUN (CONT.)



Setting up the display for the embroidery with the late Nikos Stavroulakis taking the photo in 2005





Looking at the framed velvet pillowcase on display during my visit in April 2019



Jerome Shapiro of London looking at his great-great-grandmother's embroidery

After traveling to Argentina, Perla visited the United States to see her children and returned to Rhodes to live for several years. With her affinity to the Holy Land, she moved to Jerusalem in the mid-1930s. She passed away in 1946 and chose Mt. Olives as her final resting place.



Perla Benun tombstone inscribed in Judeo-Spanish.
The lower part was later added as a memorial for her daughter, Reina, and grandson Yakov, who both perished in Auschwitz.



My great-grandmother's tombstone at Mt. Olives, next to the Old City of Jerusalem.



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