

“As a result of the historic catastrophe in which Titus of Rome destroyed Jerusalem and Israel was exiled from its land, I was born in one of the cities of the Exile. But always I regarded myself as one who was born in Jerusalem.”

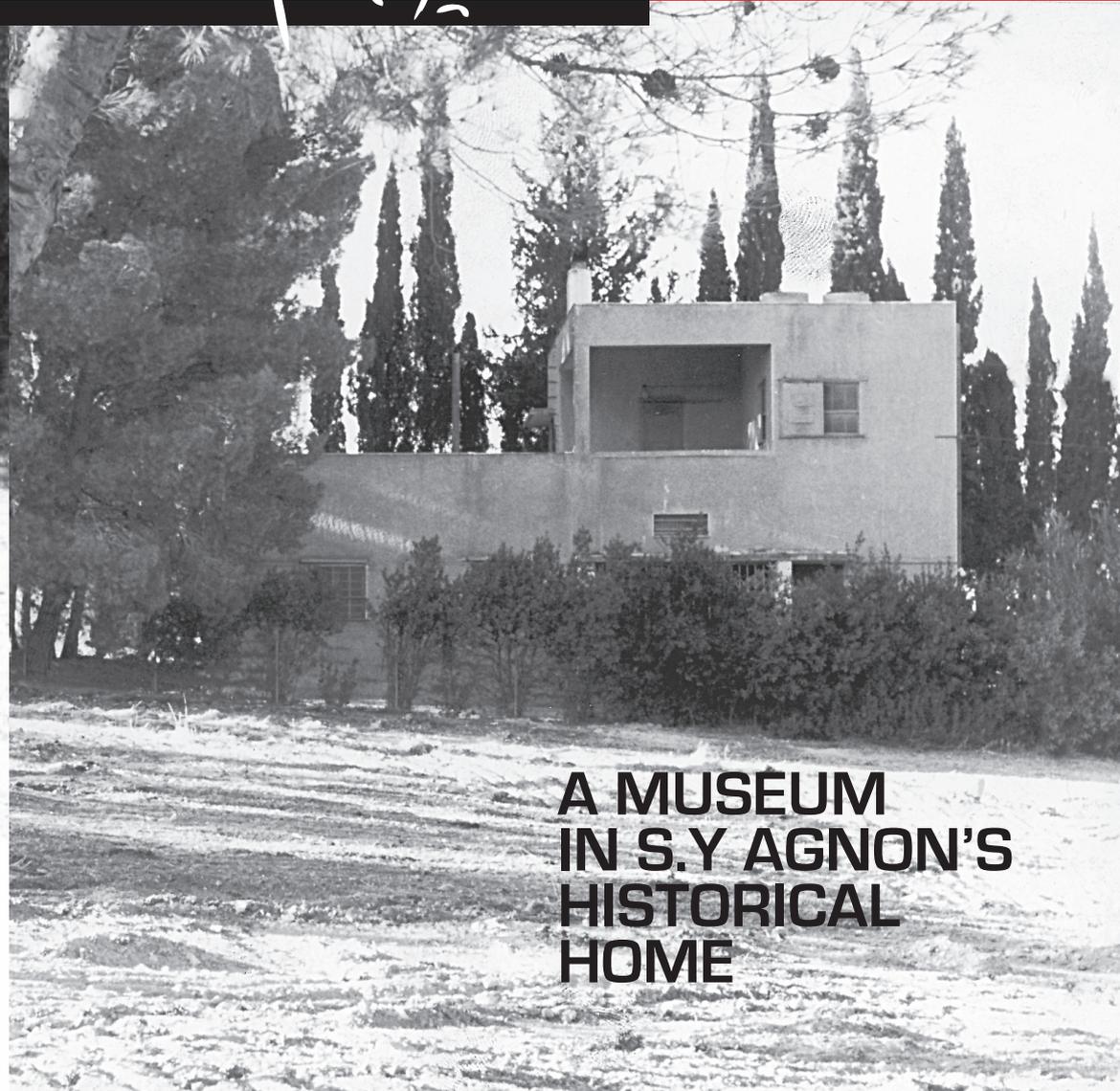
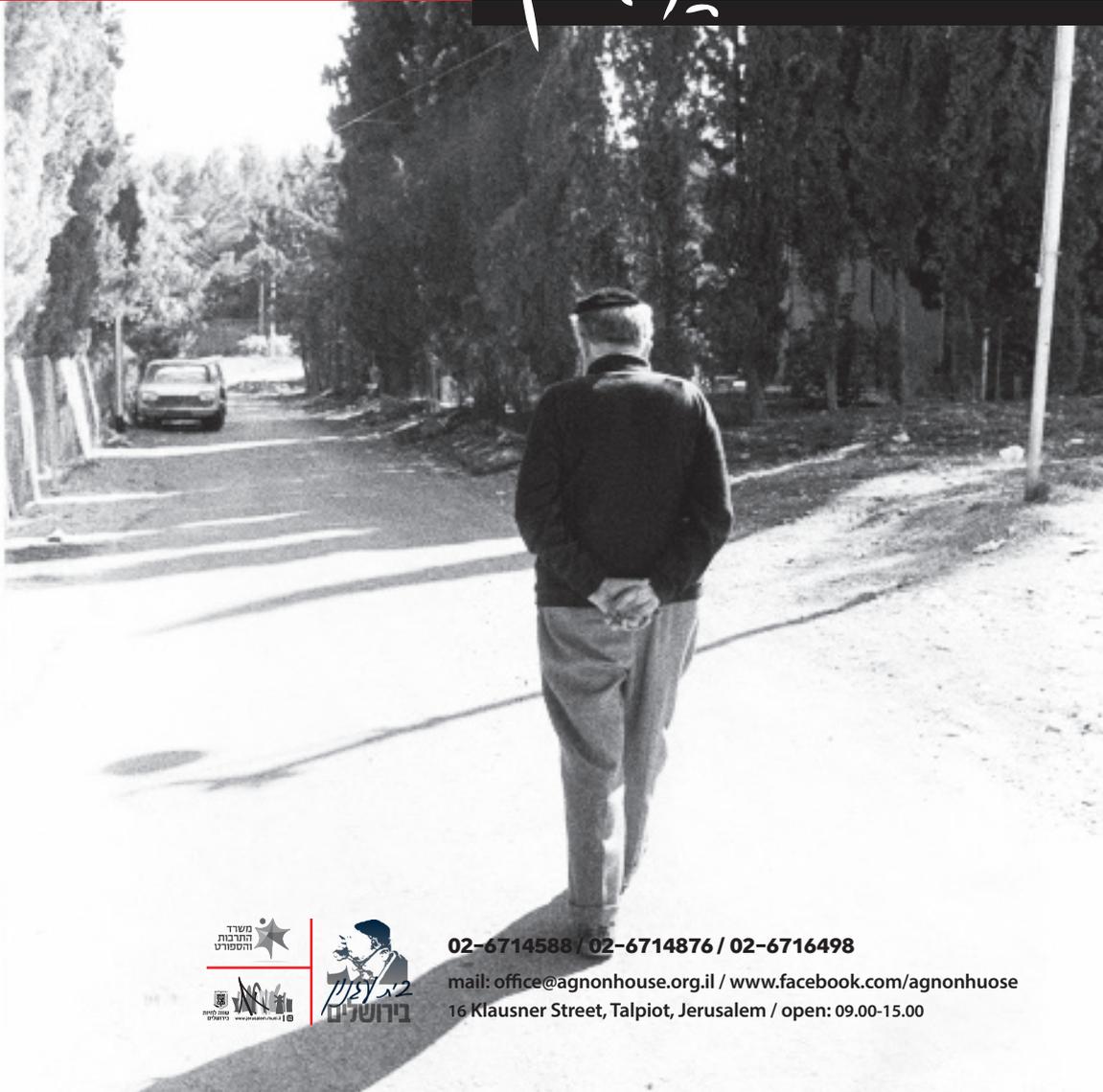
— Nobel Prize Speech, 1966



AGNON HOUSE
JERUSALEM

בֵּית אֶגְנוֹן

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A MUSEUM
IN S.Y. AGNON'S
HISTORICAL
HOME



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16 Klausner Street, Talpiot, Jerusalem / open: 09.00-15.00



The Agnon House in Jerusalem is a National Heritage Site, dedicated to the work of the writer Shmuel Yosef (S.Y.) Agnon, the 1966 Nobel Prize in Literature laureate. Agnon and his wife Esther built this house in 1931, and he lived here until his death in 1970. The house is now a literature museum and a venue for tours, lectures, performances, and workshops.



“I will not praise my home, as it is small, and I will not be ashamed of it for there are bigger and better than it. My home is small, but there is space in my home for a man like me who does not seek grandeur.”

—“From Foe to Friend”

The Agnon House is surrounded by cypress trees and immersed in greenery, a magical island in amidst the tumult of the big city. It is located in Talpiot, in the Arnona neighborhood, on Yosef Klausner St. (named after the famous author, who lived down the block). The house of Eliezer Ben Yehuda, reviver of the Hebrew language, is on one of the nearby streets.

A short walk leads the visitors down a path to the Governor House promenade, from which a breathtaking view of both the old and the new city of Jerusalem appears. The house guests are welcome to visit the writer’s abode; to tour his house, to get to know his and his family’s life, to get a taste of his enormous body of work, to capture a glimpse of his study and to appreciate his unique contribution to contemporary Hebrew culture.

The study on the second floor, where many of his best known and most beloved works were written, including *A Simple Story*, *A Guest for the Night*, *Only Yesterday* and *Shira*, contains his enormous library of Biblical, Rabbinic, and modern literature. At the end of the tour, one can rest in the lavish garden or dive into a book in one of the quiet halls. At the museum shop, one may purchase all of Agnon’s writings, a wide selection of scholarly works, translations and souvenirs.

S.Y. Agnon (1887–1970) was the central figure of modern Hebrew literature, and the 1966 Nobel Prize laureate for his body of writing. Born in the Galician town of Buczacz (in today’s western Ukraine), as Shmuel Yosef Czaczkes, he arrived in 1908 in Jaffa, Ottoman Palestine, where he adopted the penname Agnon and began a meteoric rise as a young writer. Between the years 1912 and 1924 he spent an extended sojourn in Germany, where he married and had two children, and came under the patronage of Shlomo Zalman Schocken and his publishing house, allowing Agnon to dedicate himself completely to his craft. After a house fire in 1924 destroyed his library and the manuscripts of unpublished writings, he returned to Jerusalem where he lived for the remainder of his life. His works deal with the conflict between traditional Jewish life and language and the modern world, and constitute a distillation of millennia of Jewish writing – from the Bible through the Rabbinic codes to Hasidic storytelling – recast into the mold of modern literature.