

# STRAUS MONUMENT AND PARK DEDICATED

## City Pays Tribute in Bronze and Stone to Heroes of Titanic Disaster.

### GLORIFIES SPIRIT OF PEACE

#### Love That Seeks Death, Rather Than Be Separated from Its Object, Topic of Addresses.

The monument erected to Isidor Straus and his wife, Mrs. Ida Straus, in the triangle at the junction of West End Avenue and Broadway and West 106th Street, was dedicated yesterday with ceremonies in which Mayor Mitchel, Seth Low, Supreme Court Justice Greenbaum and Park Commissioner Ward participated.

Tributes to the beautiful spirit in which Mrs. Straus perished beside her husband in the Titanic disaster, rather than take a place in a boat, were so tenderly expressed by Seth Low and Mayor Mitchel that members of the Straus family, who were present as special guests, wept aloud.

The service, which continued for two hours, included brief addresses and music by an orchestra of members of the Beethoven Society. Included with the monument dedication were ceremonies by which the land where it stands was christened Straus Park. Both the park and the monument will be under the care of the Park Department.

The monument because of its departure from the usual type provoked much favorable comment. Evert Tracy, the architect who designed it, explained briefly the motive governing his work.

"There has been no aim here," he said, "to build in stone a pillar that would command the notice of the passerby as he sped along his way. We have tried rather to make a spot that would hold out a spirit of welcome to the person willing to remain a few minutes; to rest in a peaceful spot.

"We have sought to make the peaceful spirit of the monument and the tiny pool in front of it the one dominating note—an eternal peace that runs through the spirit of the world deeper than its turmoil. Therefore the leading bronze figure of the monument is in a reclining, not a militant pose. And there is a large granite bench banking the monument on which passersby may rest. The pool, making up the foreground, is not to be a pool of sparkling water in which fountains gush up, but a pool at rest, in which water lilies grow and overspread the banks."

The pool itself, during the dedication, and the bronze figure of a reclining woman at its head, which was executed by Augustus Lukeman, who shared with Mr. Tracy the honor of winning the competition, were all but hidden with flowers.

Three hundred children from the Educational Alliance, which was founded by Isidor Straus, attended the service and sang in praise of their benefactor.

Justice Samuel Greenbaum, who presided, spoke briefly of the universal love for Isidor and Ida Straus, and Mayor Mitchel told of his pride to be Mayor of the city that he could dedicate such a monument.

"This occasion," the Mayor said, "recalls fittingly the awful Titanic disaster and the thrill of horror that it sent around the world. The splendid courage and love in which Mr. and Mrs. Straus perished has sanctified to us the sorrow of that catastrophe. Those whose death this monument commemorates stand out in our memories in a pride and reverence that the whole world felt.

"Our nation honors the steadfast love of the man and woman who valued fidelity and loyalty above everything else even when it led to the discontinuance of life itself. Those qualities were great in life and supreme in death. Living and in their death they have ennobled their lives, and we can be grateful to them always in the knowledge that they typified those qualities on which the progress of the world must rest—fidelity, simplicity, courage.

"Let this monument stand as a symbol of those high qualities of American citizenship and personal character which those two people so splendidly exemplified."

Seth Low sketched the scene aboard the Titanic as Mrs. Straus refused to leave her husband's side when the lifeboats put out.

"Under the rule of chivalry, 'Ladies first.' Ida Straus should have gone in safety," he said; "but she preferred to face death rather than be separated from her husband. 'All mankind loves a lover,' but that old saying is most often quoted of people who are in the Springtime of life. Her husband died because he preferred death to the dishonor of breaking a chivalrous rule. Mrs. Straus died because she preferred death to avoiding a risk she knew her husband must take. In this both triumphed over death and gained a life that will live forever in the hearts of those who know their story."

Park Commissioner Ward said the dedication of a monument to Isidor Straus was a vindication of New York against the charge that New York's successful men were grasping and lacked a spirit of sympathy and social service that would cause them to make sacrifices for the common good.

"The force of example of Isidor Straus," he said, "will make it hard for even those so inclined to live for the fleshpots, to seek their personal aggrandizement with no thought of the city's welfare.

"From men like him and among whom he was a pioneer the city is constantly receiving and is constantly asking more and more service. I happen to know, and I may say it since this monument is erected to Ida as well as Isidor Straus, that in his private life as in his death Isidor Straus was always stimulated and helped and encouraged by his wife. She always stood by his side in life as in death, and so it is beautiful and appropriate that they should be remembered always together."

Among the members of the Straus family present were Mr. and Mrs. Oscar S. Straus, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Straus, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Straus, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Isaac Straus, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Scheftel, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert M. Straus, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Weil, Mr. and Mrs. Percy S. Straus, Ralph, Isidor, Robert K., Elizabeth, Edward K., and Evelyn Straus, Mrs. L. Kohus, a sister of Isidor Straus, and Nathan Straus, Jr.

The Permanent Fund Memorial Committee, through whose efforts the monument was erected, was composed of Dr. Cyrus Adler, E. C. Benedict, Dr. Joseph D. Bryant, Louis J. Chamansky, John Claflin, Benjamin Conroy, Robert W. de Forest, Dr. John H. Finley, Philip J. Goodhart, Samuel Greenbaum, Henry Hentz, A. Augustus Healy, A. Barton Hepburn, Mrs. E. D. Jones, Francis L. Leland, Adolph Lewisohn, Seth Low, Wallace McFarlane, Louis Marshall, William McAdoo, John J. Miller, Nathaniel Myers, George Foster Peabody, Leopold Plaut, Jacob H. Schiff, Isaac N. Seligman, Herman Siegel, Herman Sielcken, William A. Simonson, Louis Stern, Mayer Sulzberger, Felix M. Warburg, William Woodward, C. E. Webster.