



Leo Feit (1896-1982)

Flat 49 (1970s)

A Polish Jew, chemical engineer Leo Feit came out to South Africa in 1927. From his arrival, he was active in communal and overseas Jewish affairs.

During World War 2, he served as national chairman and honorary treasurer of the South African Jewish Appeal. He helped to form a partnership between the Jewish Appeal and the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Palestine in relief work during the post-war period in Europe and overseas.

As an executive member of the South African Board of Deputies and the Federation of Synagogues, he raised funds to establish the Witwatersrand Jewish Aged Home and Chronic Sick Hospital. Located in Sandringham, Johannesburg, it provided accommodation for 500 people. In recognition of his efforts, Feit was awarded the title of honorary life president of this organisation.

His daughter **Gertrude Agranat** also lived at Daventry Court from 1963 to 1989, the year she passed away. An avid collector of paintings, African craft and books on art, despite her very limited available funds, she adorned her flat with work by local and international artists. She bequeathed her entire collection to The Haenggi Foundation, of which she had been a member over a number of years. Many of these items were donated by the foundation to various institutions in South Africa (such as the Johannesburg Art Gallery, the Pretoria Art Museum, the Oliewenhuis Art Museum and the Johannesburg Public Library), including works by Lionel Abrahams, Walter Battiss or Lucas Sithole.

References: South African Jewry 1965, p 248; Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office: Patents, Volume 907, Issues 1-4, 1973, p 180; www.ajcarchives.org/ajc_data/files/1957_14_southafrica.pdf

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