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Several of Rappy's works, owned by Bojan and Vida Ribnikar burned in the 1991 Oakland Firestorm.

Stanislav Ivan Rapotec

Gabor Gergely, GCSJ

Stanislav Ivan Rapotec was born in Trieste in 1911 when it was still part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and moved with his family in 1918 to Ljubljana, capital of Slovenia, part of the newly created Yugoslavia. After eight years of university studies and involvement in university politics and military training as a reserve officer, he began his career with the National Bank of Yugoslavia in Split where he continued to develop his skill as an artist and to explore galleries, museums and cathedrals. He was a keen student of ritual in all its forms.

In 1941 he was called to serve in the army and soon, after its collapse, he was taken prisoner but immediately escaped and joined a resistance group. In June of that year he was entrusted with establishing a link between the Resistance and the Royal Yugoslav government-in-exile in Jerusalem and Cairo.

After several adventures and due to his skill at "bluffing his way out of difficulties", by travelling on the Orient Express to Istanbul even though he had no visa, he reached Jerusalem in December 1941. He returned to Yugoslavia to establish contact with trusted members of the Resistance including General Mihailovic and Archbishop Stepinac, who arranged for money to reach the Red Cross in Belgrade to help refugees.

In the summer of 1942 he again made the dangerous journey via the Orient Express without a visa and after many further adventures, reached Cairo in August with reports on the Resistance activities and bringing seven codes which allowed continued contact with the Resistance. Although called a British agent by Yugoslav historians for many Yugoslavs in exile he was "the James Bond of the British S.I.S". If he had been captured he would certainly have been shot as a spy.

Rapotec fell in love with Sydney, Australia, after a holiday there and made it his home in 1955. With his wife Andree he continued to visit and paint in Europe. He has said *"In order to create you must have had experience. You must have quite a few dramas; you must have suffered; when you have balanced on the razor's edge between life and death, only then are you capable of true creation. To become an artist you must have a life rich in experience, a strong desire to express yourself, a will strong enough to carry out this desire and on top of all that - talent."*

After his travels he always returned to his home where his friends loved to drop in, sip tea and talk, surrounded by "all that is solid and beautiful in and unadorned way."

<http://www.prah.net/slovenia/slovenians/rapotec/images.htm>

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<http://www.charlesnodrumgallery.com.au/index.htm?http://www.charlesnodrumgallery.com.au/ArtistsRapotec.htm~mainFrame>