

## FLORENCE LOUISE JOSEPHINE ZERFFI

Florence Louise Josephine Zerffi (**Image 1**) was born in London, England. Her details were registered in Kensington Birth Register, July 1883 (**Image 2**). Mother: Louise Agnes Louise Emilie Agnes Zerffi née Beÿer, Father: William Douglas Zerffi, married in Berlin.



575			BIRTHS registered in July, August, and September 1883.			[YOU—UNK]		
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YOUNGERS, Florence Maud.....	St. Saviour	1 d. 166	YULL, Nellie Edith.....	Pancras	1 b. 114	ZIMLER, Myer.....	St. Geo. East	1 c. 364
— John.....	Sunderland	10 a. 661	YULL, Mary Ann.....	Sunderland	10 a. 686	ZIMMER, Alfred Henry.....	Shoreditch	1 c. 162
— John William.....	Sunderland	10 a. 683	— Robert Harold.....	Newcastle T.	10 b. 103	— William.....	Chorley	8 c. 634
YOUNGSHAND, Joseph H.....	Cockermouth	10 b. 533	YULL, Elizer.....	Miford	4 b. 273	ZIMMERMAN, Frances.....	Kensington	1 s. 79
— Laura.....	Cockermouth	10 b. 538				— Hermine Maud.....	Islington	1 b. 213
— William.....	Gateshead	10 a. 850				— John Fraus A.....	Lancaster	8 a. 729
YOUNGSONS, Elizabeth Leah.....	Kidderminster	6 c. 233				— Louise Elizabeth W.....	Lambeth	1 d. 303
— Herbert Nutting.....	Kidderminster	6 c. 239				ZIMMER, Dorothea Margarete.....	Kingston	2 a. 324
YOUNGMAN, Alfred.....	Castle W.	10 b. 268				— Frederick Walker.....	Chorlton	8 c. 658
— Arthur Frederick O.....	Holborn	1 b. 753				ZINBER, Harris.....	St. Geo. East	1 c. 362
— Elizabeth Anna.....	Plomesgate	4 a. 771				ZINGES, Henry August.....	Birkenhead	8 a. 475
— George Henry.....	Scarbro'	8 d. 371				ZINZAN, Blanche Eliza.....	Pancras	1 b. 100
— Harry.....	Plomesgate	4 a. 767				ZIRFAS, Florence Alice.....	Westminster	1 a. 500
— Mary.....	St. Geo. East	1 c. 376				ZISSLER, Male.....	Darlington	10 a. 21
— Maud Marion.....	Loddon	4 b. 207				ZOLTSOW, Selma Clara.....	Whitcheapel	1 c. 331
— May.....	Plomesgate	4 a. 765				ZOLI, Orsacio.....	Westminster	1 a. 512
— Robert Henry.....	Castle W.	10 b. 264				ZOLLER, Arthur.....	Croydon	2 a. 333
— Walter Ernest.....	Bromley	2 a. 415				ZUBER, Sophie.....	W. Ham	4 a. 61
YOUNG, Arthur Edward.....	Walsby	3 b. 585				ZUCKER, Flora Marie.....	Islington	1 b. 226
— Arthur William.....	Ely	3 b. 538				ZUCKER, Gertrude Ethel.....	St. Saviour	1 d. 179
— Edith Blanche D.....	Chelsea	1 a. 369				ZUGG, Minnie Elizabeth.....	Pancras	1 b. 186
— Frederick James.....	Whitney	3 b. 567				ZUGGER, Alice Filder.....	Poplar	1 c. 562
— Frederick John.....	Woolwich	1 d. 1157				ZUSSEN, Frank Dirk.....	Cardiff	11 a. 325
— Lily Kathleen.....	Greenwich	1 d. 931						
— Mark.....	W. Derby	8 b. 562						
— Percy Edmund.....	Croydon	3 a. 236						
— Rebecca.....	Islington	1 b. 193						
— Selma Florence.....	Flegg	4 b. 38						
YOUNG, Alexander.....	Sunderland	10 a. 640						
YOUNIS, David Thomas.....	Middleb'ro'	9 d. 641						
YOUSSEMAN, Eliza.....	N. Aylesford	2 a. 510						
YOKAL, Edward Luxford.....	Shoreditch	1 c. 83						
— Frederick.....	Northwich	8 a. 268						
— Frederick George.....	Nantwich	8 a. 323						
— Thomas.....	Holborn	1 b. 761						
— Walter Thomas.....	Bristol	6 a. 28						
— William James.....	Wigan	8 c. 105						
YOKON, George.....	W. Derby	8 b. 394						
YPRE, Lily.....	Sunderland	10 a. 638						

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*Zucconi, Stefania Holborn 586*

### Art Education

Florence Zerffi studied art in London and at the Konigliche Kunstgewerbeschule, Berlin under Professor Emil Doepler.

### Short Artist Biography (Ref: 3)

- 1916 She came to South Africa, settled in Cape Town; was elected a member of South African Society of Artists (SASA). She exhibited in various group exhibitions, including those of the SASA. Having been involved in art circles, she was a colleague of such well-known artists as Nita Spilhaus, Gregoire Boonzaier, Freida Lock, Terence McCaw, Hugo Naude, Lippy Lipshitz and Walter Battiss.

- 1921 to 1924 She was appointed Keeper of Michaelis Art Collection in the Old Town House. Following this appointment, her participation in SASA exhibitions came to an end. She then held various exhibitions with Ruth Prowse.

- 1924 (26 May) Zerffi married artist Harry Stratford Caldecott (**Ref: 4, 5 & 6**). Over the years the couple exhibited together on a regular basis, with their first joint exhibition being in 1925. Caldecott became one of Zerffi's favourite subjects for her paintings. Their styles were complete opposites, Zerffi's the result of her German training, whilst Caldecott showed influences of the French school.

- 1929 Her husband died 12 December 1929, following which she taught painting privately at various Cape Town High Schools. She preferred to work in the subdued light of her studio as she found the intense African light detracted from the true nature of the colours she chose to represent. Her style was always considered individualistic and disciplined in expression. Johannes Meintjes, one of her students, became famous as an artist in South Africa.

- 1938 As a foundation member of the *New Group* (Founder members: Gregoire Boonzaier, Freida Lock, Terence McCaw, Lippy Lipshitz and Walter Battiss) in 1938, she exhibited regularly with the group as well as on her own. In 1953 she also took part in the Rhodes Century Exhibition in Bulawayo.

- 1956 When Florence Zerffi's son, Oliver (**Ref: 7**) an anti-apartheid campaigner, married Moyra in England she left South Africa and settled in London.

- 1962 She died in Kilgetty, Pembrokeshire, Wales, date unknown to author.

#### **Art Exhibitions**

- 1916 onwards: Group exhibitions of South African Society of Artists.

- 1926 First joint-exhibition with Staf Caldecott, several other one-person exhibitions.

- 1953 Rhodes Centenary Exhibition.

- 1979 "South African Printmakers" South African National Art Gallery.

#### **Public Art Collections**

South African National Art Gallery; Johannesburg Art Gallery; Pretoria Art Museum; Durban Art Gallery; Rembrandt Art Foundation; William Humphreys Art Gallery.

#### **Pricing**

Over years, art works such as that which you own appear to have attracted sales prices of R900.00-2000.00 (**Ref: 1**), the rather subdued 'n doer nature of the works proving unappealing. Her oils attracted better more robust prices ranging between NO SALE - R22000.00. (**Ref: 2**)

## References

1. <https://www.straussart.co.za/auctions/artist/6-feb-2017/florence-louise-josphine-zerffi> (Lot 188) ; <https://www.straussart.co.za/auctions/artist/20-apr-2015/florence-zerffi-and-strat-caldecott> (Lot 275, 276) ; <http://www.5thaveauctions.co.za/Aug11/art7.html> (Lot 204) (realised UNSOLD) ; <http://www.5thaveauctions.co.za/Feb11/art7.html> (Lot 208) (realised R 2860.00) ;
2. <https://www.straussart.co.za/auctions/artist/8-oct-2012/florence-louise-josphine-zerffi> ; <https://www.straussart.co.za/artists/view/florence-louise-josphine-zerffi/live> ; <http://www.5thaveauctions.co.za/May10/art4.html> (Lot 131) (realised R 7700.00) ; <http://omni.co.za/lot/florence-louise-josphine-zerffi-2> (SOLD realised unknown) ; <http://omni.co.za/lot/florence-louise-josphine-zerffi/>
3. Esme Berman <http://arttimes.co.za/esme-berman-pioneering-historian-sa-art-artists-1929-2017> ; Berman, E. 1994. Art & Artists of South Africa . Southern Book Publishers; [http://www.bidorbuy.co.za/item/288756501/Art\\_Artists\\_of\\_South\\_Africa\\_New\\_Enlarged\\_Version\\_By\\_Esme\\_Berman.html](http://www.bidorbuy.co.za/item/288756501/Art_Artists_of_South_Africa_New_Enlarged_Version_By_Esme_Berman.html)
4. Harry Stratford Caldecott, b. 27 Mar 1886, Kimberley, Northern Cape d. cause unknown 12 Dec 1929, Wynberg, Cape (Age 43 years) ; [https://af.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry\\_Stratford\\_Caldecott](https://af.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Stratford_Caldecott)
5. Estate reference KAB MOOC 6/9/3669. 25441 ; Archival Collection with good biographical note KAB Ref. A848 HS Caldecott Collection. 1918-1930 Donors: Mrs. FZ Caldecott and Mr. H Stevenson-Hamilton, 1971, 7 volumes
6. H S Caldecott Contrast with Zerffi: <https://www.bonhams.com/auctions/18788/lot/17> (realised R 983,954); [http://www.5thaveauctions.co.za/sphider\\_pro/results.php?query=Caldecott](http://www.5thaveauctions.co.za/sphider_pro/results.php?query=Caldecott) (not analysed)
7. Oliver Caldecott (fascinating biographical note) <http://moyracaldecott.co.uk/2009/01/oliver-caldecott-1925-1989/>

## Images

1. [http://search.ancestry.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?uidh=000&rank=1&new=1&so=3&msT=1&gsln=Zerffi&gss=angs-d&MS\\_AdvCB=1&MSAV=2&gsfn\\_x=XO&gsln\\_x=XO&cp=0&cpxt=0&catBucket=rstp&gl=ROO\\_T\\_CATEGORY&noredir=true](http://search.ancestry.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?uidh=000&rank=1&new=1&so=3&msT=1&gsln=Zerffi&gss=angs-d&MS_AdvCB=1&MSAV=2&gsfn_x=XO&gsln_x=XO&cp=0&cpxt=0&catBucket=rstp&gl=ROO_T_CATEGORY&noredir=true) (195 records)
2. Kensington Birth Register 1883 : <https://www.freecen.org.uk/>

R M Pelteret      16 June 2017    for Mrs. Judith Elizabeth URQUHART