

Madame Maria Bartha (1885 – 1973)

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January 12 or 13, 1885- Alice Maria Blau (later Maria Bartha) born in Nagykanizsa, Nagykanizsai, Zala County, Hungary to Lajos (Louis) Blau (1847 – 1926), Chamber of Commerce Councilor, and Frederike (Fritzi) Blau (1860 – 1948)(1940 US Census, [1907 Austrian Jewish Record of Births, Marriages, and Deaths](#), Certificate of Death)

August 1, 1907- Bartha marries Czech-born Maxmilian (Max) Mark Stein in Vienna, Austria in a Jewish ceremony ([1907 Austrian Jewish Record of Births, Marriages, and Deaths](#)). Max's father, Leopold Stein, was a "major industrialist, senior partner of the metal factory, and member of the board of directors of the Austrian Fez Factories Corporation" ([Leopold Stein newspaper death announcement](#), August 15, 1917)

May 24, 1908- Maria Bartha gives birth to a son, Herbert Hans Stein (1908 – 1965) in Vienna, Austria ([Austrian Jewish Record of Births, Marriages, and Deaths](#))

October 8, 1910- Bartha gives birth to a second son, Robert Josef Philipp Ernst Stein (1910 – 2011) in Vienna, Austria ([Austrian Jewish Record of Births, Marriages, and Death](#))

[No date] – Bartha receives her degrees from the Art Academy, Paris, and Sorbonne; studied under Morino in Italy, and at the Academy Julien, Paris; studied under Philip Laszlo at the Vienna Academy (or in Budapest?) and Paris; taught at Mme. de Renassons' Chateau de Grossley in France (New York Times 2/16/1941; IWC Logos 10/12/1942; Duluth News Tribune 12/29/1946; The Daily Iberian 2/19/1959)

[No date]- Bartha's paintings exhibited at the Salon in Paris, the Kuenstlerhaus in Vienna, Austria, and in Nemzeti Salon in Budapest (Minneapolis Morning Tribune 6/30/1950)

[No date]- Bartha paints portraits of Princess Orloff (Russian), Prince Obelensky (Russian), Archduchess Franz Josef of Austria (Duluth News Tribune 9/29/1946)

1935- Maria Bartha living in Hungary (1940 US Census)

February 27, 1938- Bartha's husband, Maximilian Mark Stein (1875 – 1938) dies in Vienna at age 62 ([Austrian newspaper announcement](#))

April 26, 1939- Bartha sails to the United States on the S.S. Normandie from Le Havre, France. Her last permanent residence is listed on the ship manifest as Budapest, Hungary (S.S. Normandie Manifest)

May 1, 1939- Bartha arrives in the United States and is held for special inquiry, likely due to her Jewish ethnicity (US Record of Aliens). She planned to stay in the US for 6 months for a visit with friends but ended up staying due to WWII breaking out in Europe (Minnesota Morning Tribune 1950).

1940- Bartha lives in New York City (1940 US Census)

January 14, 1940- Bartha's paintings on view at the Bonestell Gallery- her first New York exhibition (New York Times)

February 16, 1941- Exhibition at Alma Reed Gallery, New York City (New York Times)

1942- US Department of War commissions Bartha to paint a portrait of General Douglas MacArthur for the Texas Military Institute, San Antonio— MacArthur's alma mater (IWC Logos 10/12/1942, Minneapolis Morning Tribune 6/30/1950)

October 12, 1942- Bartha joins the teaching staff of the Incarnate Word College Art Department (IWC Logos)

1943- Completion of 7 paintings of General Superiors and Bishop Dubuis for the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio

1945- Bartha becomes a US citizen (The Daily Iberian 2/19/1959)

October 6, 1946- Bartha joins teaching staff of The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota (St. Scholastica Scriptorium 10/9/1946)

March 1947- Bartha paints a portrait of Duluth, MN Mayor George W. Johnson, which she donates to the city (Duluth News Tribune 3/16/1947)

April 14, 1948- Bartha begins work on a mural for St. Scholastica's library depicting "the varied activities of the Benedictine sisters of Duluth" (St. Scholastica Scriptorium 4/14/1948 and 12/10/1958)

December 1949- Bartha completes mural for St. Scholastica library (St. Scholastica Scriptorium)

February 23, 1949- Bartha travels to Memphis, Tennessee to paint portraits for the second time since Fall 1948 (St. Scholastica Scriptorium 2/23/1949; Memphis Press Scimitar 1/25/1949)

March 8, 1950- Bartha returns to Duluth following a three week visit to West Indies and St. Croix, Virgin Islands (St. Scholastica Scriptorium 3/8/1950)

1951- Bartha moves to Houston, Texas, where she resides at the Parker Edwards Apartments on 3424 Louisiana (Houston Chronicle 5/3/1959 and 1/17/1969)

February 10, 1952- Bartha described as a "newcomer to the local scene" who is "active in the art colony at 3424 Louisiana and making new contacts" alongside Countess Helena Sierakowska, daughter of portraitist Boleslaw Jan Czedekowski (Houston Chronicle)

November 22-25, 1952- Bartha's paintings, *Baroness* and *Mr. Clovett*, exhibited at the 5th Annual Art Fair and Exhibit of the Art League of Houston at the Shamrock Hotel Hall of Exhibits (Art League program)

February 1953- Bartha's work is exhibited at the Junior League of Houston (Houston Post 1/25/1953; Houston Chronicle 03/01/1953)

March 1953- Bartha begins hosting Tuesday teas at her 3414 Louisiana studio, inviting friends and those interested in portraiture for discussion (Houston Post 3/1/1953)

February 28 – March 14, 2025- Bartha's oil painting, *Head of a Woman*, is shown at the 29th Annual Exhibit of Works by Houston Artist at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH program)

December 1954- Bartha completes a portrait of Alley Theatre Director Nina Vance, which is hung in the Theatre lobby (Houston Chronicle 12/5/1954)

March 5-27, 1955- Bartha's oil painting, *The Young Rider*, exhibited at the 30th Annual Houston Artists Exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH Program)

July 1955- Bartha goes to San Antonio to paint portraits of Dorothy White, concert pianist, and William Clegg, Jr. before departing on a six-week vacation to Los Angeles and San Francisco (Houston Chronicle 7/28/1955)

July 1956- Bartha spends the summer in Europe and has lunch with portraitist Boleslaw Jan Czedekowski in Vienna (Houston Post 7/29/1956)

April 1957- Bartha completes a commissioned painting of the late Bishop Clinton S. Quin, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas from 1928 to 1955 (Houston Chronicle 4/28/1957)

Summer 1957- Bartha spends three months in Europe, visiting the Salzburg festival in Austria, Switzerland, and Paris (Houston Chronicle 10/2/1957)

November 20 – December 11, 1957- Bartha's oil painting, *Study of Hedy Lamarr as Joan of Arc* is shown at the 32nd Annual Houston Artists Exhibition at the Art League of Houston Building (MFAH Program)

February 19, 1959- Bartha conducts a week-long workshop for L'Acadian Art Guild in New Iberia, Louisiana (The Daily Iberian)

March 12, 1964- Bartha's portrait of Houston Theatre Center Playhouse director Marietta Marich is hung in the lobby of the theatre (Houston Post)

Summer 1964- Bartha spends the summer in Europe, visiting one of her sons in Vienna, working on her landscape paintings in France, and attending a family reunion on the Italian Riviera (Houston Chronicle 7/23/1964 and 9/2/1964)

April 27, 1965- Bartha moves to another apartment in the Parker Edwards complex on 3416 Louisiana. Her former apartment "fell under the wheels of freeway progress" (Houston Chronicle)

May 21, 1965- Bartha's first-born son, Herbert, dies at age 56 in Vienna, Austria ([Austrian Jewish Record of Births, Marriages, and Deaths](#))

Summer 1966- Bartha spends summer in Europe, including Switzerland and Spain (Houston Chronicle 08/26/1966 and 09/08/1966)

May-June 1967- Bartha travels to Honolulu, Bangkok, Tokyo, Kyoto, and Formosa with the educational group of Women in Radio and TV (Houston Chronicle 05/31/1967 and 06/20/1967)

January 17, 1969- Bartha moves to a new studio/home at 4801 Montrose, as her residence on Louisiana "fell under the wheels of freeway progress" (Houston Chronicle)

Summer 1970- Bartha spends the summer in Europe and Delbert (Houston Chronicle 06/26/1970)

Summer 1971- Bartha spends the summer in Mallorca (Houston Chronicle 08/27/1971)

May 1972- Bartha suffers a stroke (Certificate of Death)

February 23, 1973- Madame Maria Bartha dies at Rosewood General Hospital in Houston due to complications from pneumonia. Services were held the following Sunday at Settegast-Kopf Co. (Houston Chronicle 02/24/1973, US Social Security Death Index)