

apcc news

Cremated Remains interred after 74 years.

Submitted by Warriston Crematorium in Edinburgh

It is not uncommon for a family to take their time in deciding on a fitting end for the cremated remains of a loved one. However the 74 years between the cremation of the late Alfred Adler and the interment of his ashes is a very long time by anyone's standards.

Adler was born in Austria in 1870 into a Jewish family. He grew up to become one of the leading psychoanalysts of his time. He was a member of the Vienna Psychoanalytic Society with, amongst others Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung, before breaking ranks and founding the Society of Individual Psychology.

1930's Vienna was not the ideal place to live for someone with a Jewish background, so the Adlers emigrated to New York. In 1937 Alfred was in Aberdeen giving a series of lectures when he suffered a heart attack and died. After a funeral service in Aberdeen, he was cremated at Warriston Crematorium in Edinburgh. His wife then returned to New York leaving the casket containing his ashes in a niche at Warriston.

As the decades rolled by the family lost the link with Warriston Crematorium. Towards the end of the 20th century, the Austrian Society for Individual Psychology along with Alfred's granddaughter decided that his remains should be tracked down and re-interred in his home city of Vienna. John Clifford, the Austrian Consul for Scotland, traced the ashes to Warriston Crematorium.

On 19th April 2011 the casket containing the ashes were handed over to Margot Maschiner-Zollner, President of the Austrian Society for Individual Psychology, at a ceremony in the niche room at Warriston Crematorium. Alfred Adler's remains will finally be laid to rest in Vienna's Central Cemetery on 12th July 2011.